

19CSC:

A Corpus of Nineteenth-century Scottish Correspondence

(page under construction)

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Aim

19CSC is expected to include a proportional quantity of both private and business letters, by male and female encoders. The aim is to have a total of at least 500,000 words: 250,000 from private correspondence and 250,000 from business correspondence. The texts included in the corpus are to be diplomatically transcribed from original manuscripts (or typescripts, in the case of later business letters). Previously edited letters by literary figures are excluded. At this stage, transcription is progressing, accompanied by a process of ‘macro-tagging’; lexico-grammatical tagging is envisaged at a later stage.

Main investigation lines that may be followed in 19CSC:

- themes relating to historical sociolinguistics and historical pragmatics;
- themes relating to the investigation of specialized discourse in a diachronic perspective;
- themes relating to language contact and language change in formerly Gaelic-speaking and Scots-speaking areas.

Main publications

Dossena, Marina

- 2006a, Forms of Self-representation in 19th-century Business Letters. In Dossena, Marina / Taavitsainen, Irma (eds), *Diachronic Perspectives on Domain-Specific English*. Bern: Peter Lang, 173-190.
- 2006b, Doing Business in Nineteenth-century Scotland: Expressing Authority, Conveying Stance. *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication*. Special issue on *Insights from Corpus Linguistics for Professional Communication*; Guest editor: Thomas Orr; 49/3 (Sept. 2006), 246-253.
- 2006c, Stance and Authority in Nineteenth-century Bank Correspondence – A Case Study. In Dossena, Marina / Fitzmaurice, Susan (eds), *Business and Official Correspondence: Historical Investigations*, Bern: Peter Lang, 175-192.
- 2006d, 19CSC, ICAMET and the Diachronic Study of Specialized Discourse in Correspondence. In Mair, Christian / Heuberger, Reinhard (eds), *Corpora and the History of English*. Heidelberg: Winter, 65-77.
- 2007, “As this leaves me at present” – Formulaic Usage, Politeness and Social Proximity in Nineteenth-century Scottish Emigrants’ Letters. In Elspaß, Stephan / Langer, Nils / Scharloth, Joachim / Vandebussche, Wim (eds), *Germanic Language Histories from Below (1700-2000)*. Berlin: De Gruyter, 13-29.
- 2008a, Prescriptivism a Century Ago: Business Correspondence Taught to Emigrants – A Case Study. In Beal, Joan / Nocera, Carmela / Sturiale, Massimo (eds), *Perspectives on Prescriptivism*. Bern: Peter Lang, 41-58.
- 2008b, “We beg leave to refer to your decision”: Pragmatic Traits of Nineteenth-century Business Correspondence. In Dossena, Marina / Tieken-Boon van Ostade, Ingrid (eds), *Studies in Late Modern English Correspondence: Methodology and Data*. Bern: Peter Lang, 235-255.
- 2008c, “Many strange and peculiar affairs”: Description, Narration and Evaluation in Scottish Emigrants’ Letters of the 19th Century. *Scottish Language* 27: 1-18.
- 2010a, “Be pleased to report expressly”: The Development of Public Style English in 19th-century Business and Official Correspondence. In Hickey, Raymond (ed.), *Eighteenth-Century English. Ideology and Change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 293-308.
- 2010b, Building Trust through (Self-)Appraisal in 19th-century Business Correspondence. In Pahta, Päivi / Nevala, Minna / Nurmi, Arja / Palander-Collin, Minna (eds) *Social Roles and Language Practices in Late Modern English*. Amsterdam: Benjamins, 191-209.

- 2010c, Dialect and Vernacular Features in Late Modern English Correspondence: Beginnings of a Quest. *Brno Studies in English* 36/1, 5-27.
- 2011, Handwritten Communication in 19th-century Business Correspondence. In Jucker, Andreas H. / Pahta, Päivi (eds). *Communicating Early English Manuscripts*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 133-146.

Dury, Richard

- 2006, A corpus of nineteenth-century business correspondence: Methodology of transcription. In Dossena, Marina / Fitzmaurice, Susan (eds), *Business and Official Correspondence: Historical Investigations*, Bern: Peter Lang, 193-205.
- 2008, Handwriting and the linguistic study of letters. In Dossena, Marina / Tieken-Boon van Ostade, Ingrid (eds). *Studies in Late Modern English Correspondence: Methodology and Data*. Bern: Peter Lang: 113-135.