19CSC:

A Corpus of Nineteenth-century Scottish Correspondence

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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


2010a, Dialect and Vernacular Features in Late Modern English Correspondence: Beginnings of a Quest. *Brno Studies in English* 36/1, 5-27.


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, 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.


2006b, 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.


Dury, Richard
