

INTRODUCTION

RCEI (Revista Canaria de Estudios Ingleses) was born in 1980 under the auspice of the, by then doctors, Pedro J. Marcos, Asunción Alba and Pablo Domínguez. Their efforts to maintain the journal were soon after assisted by other pillars of the so-called “English Department”, among them: Bernd Dietz, Fernando Galván, Justine Tally, John Amador Bedford and also José S. Gómez Soliño.

Our biannual journal has been hosting monographies devoted to linguistics or literature in which many relevant national and international scholars have published their research. This issue, number 80, will be devoted to an academic figure, Prof. José S. Gómez Soliño. His works on Historical Linguistics, Functional (Discourse) Grammar and African Studies are measured by the recognition received outside the limits of the Canarian archipelago.

In these forty years of RCEI, Prof. Gómez Soliño has likewise contributed to the journal's growth in different ways, not only as author but also as a subdirector, secretary, editor, reviewer and as an instigator of young researchers to publish here their first papers. Moreover, he transmitted to his students the pride of having our own Department's journal and always praised the work of the colleagues that sustained it, among others, Manuel Brito Marrero who directed RCEI from 1995 to 2014 and, since then, its present Director J. Ignacio Oliva Cruz.

It seems, therefore, that a monographic issue like “A Philologist World of Words: The Medievalist, the Functionalist, the African Explorer”, is plenty justified. A title with which we intend to reflect his moves in a scholar life full of diverting but interconnected interests. We are certain that many could and would have wanted to participate in this tribute to Prof. Gómez Soliño, but this monographic issue only intends to be a small representation of colleagues and disciples in each of the three main fields Prof. Gómez Soliño has been involved. As mentioned before, many present-day relevant scholars have established academic and friendly links with him, and many colleagues of our generation, like the two of us, had Prof. Gómez Soliño as their thesis director or as a mentor in one or another field of interest. We hope them all to feel represented here and we want to express our gratitude to all the exemplary authors who have actually contributed to this volume.

The Historical Linguistics part holds three works. The first by a renowned international figure, Prof. Jeremy Smith, who became acquainted with Prof. Gómez Soliño through his academic affection for Glasgow University and specially for Prof. Michael Samuels. Prof. Smith's work brings into consideration distinctive forms of handwriting in similar codicological contexts. As it is proposed, these can be interpreted as markers that identify different communities of practice. These *scriptae*

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deserve further study and this can only be possible by bringing together, in a wider linguistic frame, disciplines like palaeography and book history, thus reconsidering the concept of philology.

The second work is by Prof. Francisco Alonso-Almeida. Once a student in Prof. Gómez Soliño's class, he has developed a prolific career in ULPGC without neglecting his relationship with ULL. He has been able to conjoin modern linguistic approaches with medieval and renaissance studies in his historical pragmatics works. Here, back to his origins, Prof. Alonso-Almeida offers a detailed critical edition of a manuscript on bloodletting, but not only that, his study also recalls a wider as well as closer philology, one which requires a more individualized approach to texts as complementary and basic to corpora studies.

This first part is closed by Prof. Juan Camilo Conde-Silvestre, a well-known representative of English historical linguistics in Spain, whose article on "the cline from code-switching to borrowing" is concerned with one of the first historical interests of Prof. Gómez Soliño, the private letter collections from the late fifteenth century, in this case the Cely's letters. Conde-Silvestre's work relates to multilingual contexts, travelling and people's connections, somehow, these aspects are significant on how Prof. Gómez Soliño became involved in the other two fields that complete this volume.

Prof. Gómez Soliño's second field of interest, which has been certainly influential in the research on English Linguistics carried out in our department, is the study of language from a functional perspective, more specifically in the framework of Functional (Discourse) Grammar.

The Functional Discourse Grammar (FDG) section of this issue holds three papers. The first by Prof. Lachlan Mackenzie, a renowned international linguist with whom Prof. Gómez Soliño has held a long-standing relationship of admiration and friendship. Prof. Mackenzie's work explores the role of discourse in Functional (Discourse) Grammar, expounding on the main attempts, among which Prof. Gómez Soliño's work is acknowledged, to integrate the analysis of discourse into FDG. After a detailed presentation of this debate, mainly centred on the relation between conceptualization, a private and individual process, and language, a public manifestation, Prof. Mackenzie concludes that FDG, in order to explain verbal interaction as strategic, should focus on the "publicly available phenomena of language". FDG aims at accounting for the internal properties of Discourse Acts and the relations between them, and not for each individual's conceptualization. Thus, he concludes, FDG could not be a grammar of discourse.

The second FDG contribution is by Prof. Evelien Keizer, professor of English Linguistics at the University of Vienna and an active and prolific researcher on FDG. Prof. Keizer addresses a hitherto neglected topic within FDG, which has always been an outstanding issue for Prof. Gómez Soliño, namely the placement of extra-clausal constituents (EECs). Based on an analysis of authentic data from different corpora of English, the author provides a detailed and thorough account of the interpersonal, contextual and processing factors that determine the placement of EECs. Keizer concludes that these factors can be neatly-integrated into FDG placement rules if an interpolated position, in addition to the now distinguished



preclausal and postclausal positions, is distinguished within the model and if EECs are analysed as separate Discourse Acts.

The FDG section is closed by Dr. Daniel García Velasco, one of the most renowned exponents of FDG in Spain. His study of *-ing* borrowings into peninsular Spanish highlights, in line with Prof. Gómez Soliño's view of language as an instrument of verbal interaction, the importance of integrating the grammar component into the theory of verbal interaction. After analysing the main properties of *-ing* borrowings through language contact, García Velasco concludes that this process shows the impact of sociolinguistic features, such as social prestige, on contact-induced language change. Therefore, to provide an accurate explanation of this linguistic phenomenon, external social factors should be given due importance. Thus, it is argued that the role of the Contextual Component of FDG, feeding the Morpho-syntactic encoder, is essential for accounting for contact-induced language change.

Prof. Gómez Soliño's interest for linguistic typology, so closely connected to FDG, as well as his personal concern to get to know our closest surroundings, promoted his involvement in African Studies.

The first paper in the African Studies part is by Dr. Alioune Badara Thiam, at present teaching at Gaston Berger University (Saint-Louis), he wrote his doctoral thesis under Prof. Gómez Soliño's supervision, with whom he shares the interest in linguistic typology and sociolinguistics. This paper offers an account of loanwords in the Wolof language from a typological perspective. After a thorough analysis of an extensive corpus of borrowings in Wolof, the author concludes that linguistic borrowing in the Wolof language, with little exception, conforms to the general principles set forth by Haspelmath and Tadmor in their Loanword Typology Project.

The African Studies section is closed by Dr. Violetta Jojo Verge, whose paper represents Prof. Gómez Soliño's interest in African cultural and socio-political issues. The author, adopting Arjun Appadurai's concept of gastro-politics as framework, reveals us the post and neo-colonial tensions created during the re-encounter of African peoples coming from different places and cultures.

To close this volume, a more personal portrait was necessary and this is provided by the interview held with Prof. Basilio Valladares Hernández. The union of an internationally renowned figure in the hard sciences field with a linguist is per se notable. Prof. Valladares Hernández delineates a humanist, in the broadest sense of the word, to compose the picture of José Gómez Soliño.



