

Agenda  
Management Committee Meeting

COST Action IS0804

**Language Impairment in a Multilingual Society:  
Linguistic Patterns and the Road to Assessment**

Padua University, Padua, Italy  
21 September, 2012

**Present:** Sharon Armon-Lotem (MC Chair), Jan de Jong (Mc Vice-Chair), Natalia Meir (Action Secretary), Jasmina Vuksanovic (SR), Ewa Haman (PL), Elin Thordadottir (IC), Seyhun Topbas (TR), Arve Asbjornsen (NO), Ineta Dabasinskiene (LT), Daniela Slankova (SK), Svetlana Kapalkova (SK), Frenette Southwood (South Africa), Maria Kambanaros (CY), Jelena Kuvac Krajevic (HR), Melita Kovacevic (HR), Kleanthes Grohmann (CY), Naama Friedmann (IS), Petra Schulz (DE), Daniella Gatt (ML), Tina Hickey (IE), Olga Nenonen (Substitute, FI), Laurie Tuller (FR), Philippe Prevost (FR), Chiara Levorato (IT), Cornelia Hamann (DE), Adrianna Belletti (IT) Natalia Gagarina (DE, WG2 Leader), Kristine Jensen de Lopez (DK), Angela Grimm (DE, WG Member), Esther Ruigendijk (DE, WG member),

0. Welcome to participants
1. Adoption of agenda  
*The Agenda is adopted.*
2. Minutes of last meeting  
*The Minutes are accepted.*
3. Matters arising
4. Report from the COST Office – In the absence of a member of the COST office there is no news from the office.
  - News from the COST Office – change in policy for non-COST non-near-neighbors members
  - Status of Action, including participating countries –
  - Budget status, budget planning and allocation process –

## 5. Action budget planning status

### Budget report 2012 (estimates)

|   |            |     |
|---|------------|-----|
| Berlin meeting  | 49,643.17  | EUR |
| Bangor dissemination event – international workshop for practitioners and ESR | 2,935.40   | EUR |
| Padua meeting   | 47,000.00  | EUR |
| <i>Subtotal Meeting</i>   | 102,578.57 | EUR |
| STSM (21)   | 22,000.00  | EUR |
| Summer/Training School  | 17,012.44  | EUR |
| <i>Subtotal Science Expenditure (estimate)</i>                                | 141,591.01 | EUR |
| Secretarial Support   | 16,500.00  | EUR |
| <i>Total Expenditure</i>  | 158,091.01 | EUR |
| Delta   | 9,909.00   | EUR |

The budget is approved.

Money left from the budget will be reallocated

1. to organize a two-day WG1 workshop on “On-line experiments” – 5000 EUR
2. to support STSMs for publications – 4909 EUR

### Planned budget for 2013

|  |         |                       |
|--|---------|-----------------------|
| Lisbon WG & MC meeting   | 50 000  | EUR                   |
| WG2 publication meeting  | 3,000   | EUR                   |
| WG3 publication meeting  | 3,000   | EUR                   |
| WG4 publication meeting  | 3,000   | EUR                   |
| Final Conference – Krakow<br>(Combined with a WG & MC meeting) | 60 000  | EUR                   |
| <i>Subtotal Meetings</i>                                       | 119 000 | EUR                   |
| STSMs (for publications)                                       | 10 000  | EUR                   |
| Statistics for linguistic analysis training school             | 2,000   | EUR                   |
| Dissemination activities                                       | 5,000   | EUR (website & books) |
| <i>Subtotal Science Expenditure</i>                            | 136 000 | EUR                   |
| Secretarial Support  | 14 000  | EUR                   |
| <i>Total Expenditure</i>                                       | 150 000 | EUR                   |

The budget for 2012 is approved.

The Action has proved to be highly successful. The meeting in Berlin attracted 91 participants: 68 - eligible for reimbursement and the rest (who are WG members) covered the transportation and accommodation at their own expense. Their willingness to pay their own expenses further shows the importance of such meetings in promoting collaborative networking and achieving our aims.

The current meeting, which did not have a poster session, attracted over 70 participants, 34 MC members and MC substitutes were eligible for reimbursement and 22 WG members were eligible as well. The other participants attended the meeting at their own expense showing yet again the importance of such meetings in promoting collaborative networking and achieving our aims. We were very pleased to be able to reimburse so many ESRs.

#### 6. STSMs status, applications

Since the beginning of 2012 13 STSMs have already taken place and 8 more are planned until December 2012. Of the 21 STSMs 13 (62%) were by ESRs. STSMs are a very successful tool. STSM applications should follow the general guidelines of this Action: the cheapest transportation and the cheapest accommodation available.

New STSM deadline: October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012, for STSMs from October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 till December 20<sup>th</sup> 2012.

STSMs can be used for preparing publications.  
Estimated budget: 5,000 EURO.

Next Call for 2013: January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013, for STSMs from January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 till May 25<sup>th</sup> 2013.

The two deadlines for STSMs were approved

## 7. Publications

### 7.1 Operative suggestion

We weighed four issues:

1. reaching a relatively large audience in a short time
2. having a reference for everyone to cite as the tasks are used
3. maintaining good quality of publication in a respectable venue
4. making it possible to present methods without real data in order not to block future publication

We would like to propose the following suggestions:

1. We shall buy the domain of the webpage for the next 20-50 years from the dissemination budget, and use it to make all the materials available for public research.
2. In order to have a clear reference for each task we shall follow propose a methods book in Multilingual Matters (MM), with a chapter for each task/tool, (which will be an extended version of the guidelines). These chapters will be used for future citations. (see appendix II for a draft of the book proposal)
3. This kind of book will be a respectable venue and since paperbacks for MM are rather inexpensive, will be accessible to students, researchers and even health professionals.
4. As a methods book it will not require data and will not block future publications

### 7.2 Long distance planning

In addition we should opt for special issues (SIs) in a variety of journals to showcase our findings. We thought it will be very good if each WG will come with a concrete proposal for a SI and involve ESRs in the editing to make it easier on the WG-leaders. I would like to hear from you more concrete ideas.

Options are:

SSLA - A thematic issue (Vicky already sent a call for papers)

CLRP - will be very happy for a special issue even with pilot data (85 pages per issue)

Biolinguistics - Kleanthes said the the 2013 SI is still not fixed - data with a theoretical implications will be welcomed - maybe correlating EF tasks with language tasks

LIA - which Elin mentioned - pilot date with more applied implications. One MC

member approached Kleanthes during the meeting.

LAB - for 2014

BLC

etc.

7.3 COST would like to see joint publications (at least two different research groups from the Action) as soon as possible. This need not necessarily report new work, and can be limited to a comparative work based on presentations which were done in the past years or any other kind of collaboration (e.g., a paper which was supported by an STSM). Multi-authored writing teams should be encouraged and we need not wait four years to publish the work which emerges from the action. We need to make a clear distinction between Action-related publications (which we had so far) and Action-supported publications (where at least some of the content or the possibility to write it together emerged from the Action's networking). Books and Special Issues of journals are valued by COST more than papers, but they clearly understand that papers often count more for promotion in academia.

7.4 Publications policy: See Minutes of Brussels and Malta. Also see:

Philip Greenland and Phil B. Fontanarosa. 2012. "Ending Honorary Authorship".

*Science* 31, Vol. 337 no. 6098 p. 1019. DOI: 10.1126/science.1224988 (see Minutes from the Berlin Meeting)

## 8. Evaluation

Training school in LOT (July 9-13, 2012, Utrecht, the Netherlands) was very successful. There were over 40 students who attended at least two of the four courses offered. 12 received financial support from the Action.

The dissemination event (Bangor, 21 July 2012) - international workshop for practitioners and ESR – was a success attracting over 70 participants.

## 9. Request for new members

In Turkey we agreed that while we receive requests for new MC members, no new requests are approved due to budget concerns and due to the fact that the action is now in its third year. These people are welcome to join the Action as WG members. This was reapproved in Malta. **The SG suggests keeping this decision and approving no more MC members.**

## List of new WG members:

### WG1

Anila Kananaj (Center for Albanian Studies, Institute of Linguistics and Literature)

### WG2

Dr. Merle Mahon (Developmental Science Research Department, University College London)

### WG3

Dr. Melanie Vitkovitch (University of East London)

### WG4

Dr. Julia Festman (Potsdam Research Institute for Multilingualism, University of Potsdam)

Vishnu Nair (Department of Cognitive Science, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia)

No more new applications in the future. The decision was approved.

## 10. Promotion of gender balance and of Early Stage Researchers (ESR)

- Constant efforts will be made to achieve gender balance in recruitment of early-stage researchers. Gender balance will be considered in approving STSM applications.
- The Action will encourage the involvement of early-stage researchers (MAs, PhDs, postdoctoral fellows)

From Annual Report (p.12):

- "86% of the Action members and 87% of MC members are female, reflecting the nature of the field. Of the MC members 48 are female and 11 are male. Of the WG members and MC substitutes 118 are female and 17 are male. We are striving to recruit more male participants in order to achieve gender balance.
- 59% of the Action members are Early Stage Researchers (ESR). 32% of MC members are ESRs and 74% of WG members and MC substitutes are ESRs.
- ESRs are involved in the Action activities at all levels (as seen from their proportion among the Action's members)."

## 11. Non-COST country participations:

7 non-COST countries (8 institutions) have already joined the action

| <b>Country</b> | <b>Institution</b>                                     | <b>Non-Cost MC member</b>  |
|----------------|--|----------------------------|
| AL             | Center for Albanian Studies                            | Dr Enkeleida Kapia         |
| US             | Arizona State University                               | Dr Maria Adelaida Restrepo |
| US             | University of Minnesota                                | Prof. Kathryn Kohnert      |
| LB             | Saint Joseph University-Speech Therapy Institute (ISO) | Ms Camille Messarra        |

|       |  |                       |
|-------|--|-----------------------|
| RU    | St.Petersburg State Pediatric Medical Institut | Prof. Alexandr Kornev |
| ZA    | Stellenbosch University                        | Frenette Southwood    |
| CA    | University of Alberta                          | Dr Johanne Paradis    |
| India | The Promise Foundation                         | Dr. Sonali Nag        |

Expressed interest:

Dr. Linda Hand, Speech Science Program, Dept of Psychology, The University of Auckland, New Zealand.

## 12. Web news (Kleanthes)

Our website [www.bi-sli.org](http://www.bi-sli.org) is constantly updated with useful information. Kleanthes is doing his best to act as webmaster. The webpage includes information about both past and future activities as well as separate pages with FAQ for parents and clinicians in several of the Action languages:

- Catalan (Clinicians & Educators and Parents)
- French (Clinicians& Educators and Parents)
- Norwegian (Parents only)
- Polish (Clinicians& Educators and Parents)
- Russian (Clinicians and Educators only)
- Slovak (Parents only)
- Hebrew (Clinicians & Educators only).
- Turkish (Clinicians & Educators and Parents)

We thus repeat our previous appeal to everyone and ask for volunteers who are willing to commit themselves to translate the FAQ into other COST languages. This is an important step towards dissemination of the knowledge accumulated by the Action.

- The 'news box' on the homepage now features 'biSLI Activities', so far with links to the training course at the LOT summer school in July and the international workshop in Bangor right after.
- The biSLI Facebook group is up and running (<http://www.facebook.com/groups/bisli>) and, thanks to Jan, very active. ☺
- The Forum is also up and running — but not active.
- Kleanthes is also working with the IT specialists from Slovakia to put the questionnaires online but this will take a bit longer.
- 'Affiliated researchers' category for people involved in Bi-SLI in less definite way including everybody who got STSM. This could be also good for students

who are involved in some work directly related to Bi-SLI but for a limited period of time – WG leaders will make the lists. – Ewa coordinates it

The decision was approved.

13. Progress report of working groups - The WGs have all achieved the goal of approaching a methodological agreement by the end of the second year. Scientific reports of the WG leader will be part of the general discussion on September 21.

14. Long-term planning

14.1 13-15 February 2013 - Lisbon (Joao Costa)

Location: FCSH – Universidade Nova de Lisboa

- Central, close to two subway stations and train station
- 10 min's away from Downtown Lisbon
- 10 min's away from Airport
- Hotel area

Accommodation:

- Several hotels around the University:
  - Zurique (rates around 60€)
  - Other options all nearby:
    - Holliday Inn
    - Barcelona Hotel

14.2 Final conference – Krakow - May 27-29 )organized by Zofia Wodniecka(

We anticipate 100-120 participants from the Action, and 200 practitioners. We want to invite several discussants from within and outside the Action who have contributed significantly to the field.

Title: Child language impairment in multi-lingual contexts

| <b>DAY 1</b>  | <b>DAY2</b>   | <b>DAY 3</b>  |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Action outcomes – dissemination</b>                    | <b>Practical applications</b>                       | <b>Internal Action meetings. Where do we go from there?</b> |
| WG1 – morpho-syntax (9-10.15) + External discussants      | WG3 (lexicon & NWR) 9-10.30<br>External discussants | COST Review panel (9-10.30)                                 |
| WG1 – complex syntax (10.45-12.00) + External discussants | Panel 1 – Assessment & Diagnosis - SR (11-12)       | WG1 (11-12.30)  |
| <b>Poster session I (over</b>                             | <b>Poster session II (over</b>                      | Lunch   |



|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>lunch)<br/>12-14</b>                     | <b>lunch)<br/>12-14</b>   |   |
| WG2 (14-15.15)+<br>External discussants     | Panel 2 – Assessment &<br>Diagnosis - Questionnaires<br>(14-15) | WG2 (13.30-14.30)   |
|   |   | WG3 (14.30-15.30)   |
| WG4 (15.45-17.00) +<br>External discussants | Panel 3 – Policy –<br>Assessment committee<br>(15.30-16.30)     | WG4 (16.00-17.00)   |
| <b>Keynote address<br/>(17.30-18.30)</b>    | <b>Keynote address<br/>(17-18)</b>                              | Where do we go next –<br>webpage, grants, workshops,<br>publications, etc. (17-18:30) |
|   | <b>Reception</b>  |   |
| <b>Conference dinner</b>                    |   | <b>Party</b>  |

Poster sessions will include presentation of materials (video clips)

14.3 The action encourages members to assemble workshops and symposia at relevant conferences and venues presenting some of the Action's findings.

Potential venues for the upcoming years:

- Child language disorders, June 2013
  - CLS, June 2013
  - ISB in Singapore, June 2013
  - 16<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Developmental Psychology, Sep. 3-7, Lousanne, Switzerland, 2013
  - GALA 2013
  - IASCL in Amsterdam 2014
  - Child Language Seminar 2013 (June 2013, University of Manchester)
  - European Conference on Developmental Psychology (September 3-7, 2013)
- European Child Language Disorders Workshop (the Netherlands)

15. Place and date of next meeting Lisbon

February 13-15, 2013

16. AOB

16.1 Status of questionnaires – September 19

16.2 Report of the assessment committee – September 21

## 16.3 Meeting in Lisbon

### A. Organization of the meeting in Lisbon

- 3 full days (4 nights / 6 meals). Save on accommodation.
- Practitioner's event ???
- Poster session ???
- Parallel sessions with WGs splitting into subgroups, following the model of Padua? – additional small rooms for WG subgroups
- Day 3 – shorter presentations for WG1-4 (15min per group) to present their advances to the entire Action.

The schedule was approved

- B. The participants` accommodation will be reimbursed based on the tariff negotiated by the local organizer.

## 17. Closing

## Appendix I

List of STSMs:

| <b>Beneficiary</b>        | <b>Date</b>      | <b>Host institute</b>   | <b>Total</b>   |
|---------------------------|------------------|---|--|
| 1. MS JOANNA KOLAK        | 11-23/03/ 2012   | University of Reading (UK)                                    | Recruiting Bilingual children and Collecting Data  |
| 2. MS CORINNA KOCH        | 13-20/03/2012    | Umea University (SE)  | Investigating exhaustive wh-questions in Swedish: Adaption of Items, and the Coding scheme           |
| 3. DR ENKELEIDA KAPIA     | 18-28/03/2012    | Aristotele University (GR)                                    | Syntax and Narratives in Albanian-Greek Bilinguals   |
| 4. MS ANGELA GRIMM        | 19-24/03/2012    | University of Tours (FR)                                      | Phonological complexity and nonword repetition: A cross-linguistic perspective                       |
| 5. DR BELMA HAZNEDAR      | 25-31/03/2012    | Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University Frankfurt (DE)              | Exhaustive Wh-questions in Turkish   |
| 6. DR LAURICE ANNE TULLER | 27/03-04/04/2012 | Institut Supérieur d`Orthophonie Université Saint Joseph (LB) | Arabic-French bilingual children in France and in Lebanon  |
| 7. DR JASMINA VUKSANOVIC  | 02-13/04/2012    | University of Luxembourg – EMACS (LX)                         | The implementation of executive functions tests for future comparative studies of bilinguals         |
| 8. MS GORDANA HRZICA      | 16-26/04-2012    | University of Reading (UK)                                    | Verbal morphology on line task for morphologically complex language                                  |
| 9. Theodoros Marinis      | 20-27/05/2012    | University of Warsaw (PL)                                     | Polish-English Sentence Repetition   |
| 10. Ms Ágnes Lukács       | 21-25/05/2012    | University of Cyprus (CY)                                     | Methodological and Theoretical Issues in Executive Functions (WG4) and Adaptation of Lexical and Nar |
| 11. Pr Joel Walters       | 12-26/08/2012    | ZAS (DE)  | WG2 Narrative Publications   |
| 12. Kamila Polisenska     | 26/08-02/09/2012 | Institute of Child Language (SK)                              | Nonword repetition: New methodological approaches  |
| 13. Bibi Janssen          | 03/09-12/09/2012 | Bar-Ilan University (IS)                                      | Adapting the SRT and designing a case test for unbalanced preschool Dutch-Russian bilinguals         |

## Appendix II

### **Working title of the book.**

Methods for assessing multilingual children: disentangling bilingualism from Language Impairment

### **Names and details of the editors**

|                            |  |  |  |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>Name</b>                | <b>Sharon Armon-Lotem</b>  | <b>Jan de Jong</b>   | <b>Natalia Meir</b>  |
| <b>present appointment</b> | Chair  | <b>Vice-chair</b>  | PhD student  |
| <b>affiliation</b>         | Department of English  | <b>Amsterdam center for Language and Communication</b>                           | Department of English  |
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### **Purpose, aims and focus of the book.**

The demographic changes in the western world in the last two decades have led to rapid growth in the number of bilingual children, and in many locations they represent a majority of the school population. With this increase in the number of bilingual children, researchers as well as educators and practitioners face a diagnostic dilemma which arises from similarities in the linguistic manifestations of child second language acquisition and of Specific Language Impairment. This dilemma has motivated a new field of research, the study of bilingual

children with Specific Language Impairment, which aims at disentangling effects of bilingualism from those of SLI, making use of both models of bilingualism and models of language impairment.

The purpose of the present book is to present a comprehensive set of tools designed and tested within COST Action IS0804 “Language Impairment in a Multilingual Society: Linguistic Patterns and the Road to Assessment” for assessing the linguistic abilities of bilingual children. These tools have all been piloted and subsequently modified with children who are speakers of a wide variety of language pairs. The present book has two unifying themes:

1 – The linguistic aspects that are relevant for assessment of language impairment in a bilingual population – from syntax and its interfaces, to narratives as well as linguistic and non-linguistic processing.

2 – The practical concerns which arise when developing assessments for bilingual children with typologically different languages.

The tools are presented in this book in a way which makes it possible to extend them to other linguistic communities in which they can be adopted for disentangling bilingualism from SLI. The materials described in this book will be available free of charge on a companion website upon request from the editors of the book.

### **Chapter by chapter breakdown of the contents.**

The book will include an introduction followed by 12 chapters. Each chapter will include the following subsections: Motivation for testing the particular structure, motivation for the particular task design, considerations in using this task with bilingual children, description of the task and guidelines for developing/using it in typologically different languages.

**Introduction** - presenting the topic, the need and organization of the book, and remarks on using these tools for testing in BISLI (Sharon Armon-Lotem & Jan de Jong, Bar Ilan University and the University of Amsterdam)

**Agreement morphology** (Jan de Jong, University of Amsterdam)

**Case marking** (Esther Ruigendijk, University of Oldenburg)

**Clitics** (Philippe Prevost, University of Tours)

**Relative Clauses** (Naama Friedmann, Tel-Aviv University)

**Exhaustivity** (Petra Schultz, Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main)

**Sentence Repetition** (Theo Marinis, University of Reading)

**Narrative – Telling and Re-telling** (Natalia Gagarina, ZAS, and Joel Walters, Bar-Ilan University)

**Non-Word Repetition** (Shula Chiat, City University, London)

**Lexical processing** - production and comprehension (Ewa Haman, University of Warsaw)

**Executive Functions** (Anne Baker, University of Amsterdam & Kristine Jensen de Lopez, Aalborg University.)

**Parental Questionnaires** (Laurie Tuller, University of Tours)

**Guidelines for assessment – revisiting the tasks** (Elin Thordardottir, McGill University)

**Clear indication of the market and intended readership.**

The books' methods oriented focus will make it an essential handbook for practitioners (both clinicians and special education teachers) who look for measures which could be adapted to a variety of languages in diverse communities. It is also intended for academic researchers as well as students who are studying bilingual populations, but it also relevant for the study of specific language impairment in monolingual children in a wide variety of languages. Adoption of the tasks in research can lead to further elaboration and improvement. It can also serve as a text book in graduate courses in clinical linguistics as well as programs for SLPs.

**Other competing titles for this market and why this is different/better.**

While there are recent titles in the market addressing bilingual language development on the one hand (Grosjean 2008, 2010, de Houwer 2009) and assessment of language impairment as part of communication disorders, on the other hand (Ball, Mueller & Howard 2008, Guendouzi, Loncke & Williams 2010), as well as a few titles presenting work on bilingual SLI (Genesee, Paradis, & Crago 2004, Kohnert 2007), none of them offers a comprehensive set of tools developed particularly for assessments in bilingual children with typologically different languages. This will make it highly valuable not only to researchers interested in this field but also to students and practitioners who want to study and work with bilingual children. Moreover it will also be complementary to books on research methods (McDaniel, McKee & Cairns 1996, Blom & Unsworth 2010) as well Gathercole's upcoming book "Bilinguals and assessment: State of the art guide to issues and solutions from around the world".

**Predicted length in number of words.**

The book will include of an introduction by the editors followed by 12 chapters of approximately 7,500 words each (references included), that is around 97500 words

The manuscript will have illustrations of the different tasks but the full testing material will not appear in the book but rather on a companion web site

**Predicted timetable for delivery of the final manuscript.**

Our goal is for the proposed book to be available by the end of 2013. To this end we propose the following timetable:

March 1, 2013 - First drafts of chapters submitted to editors. Manuscripts sent out for peerreview by two experts for each chapter, one being another contributor to the book and another being non-contributor.

June 1, 2013 – reviews returned to authors

September 1, 2013 – revised chapters are due to editors

November 1, 2013 – complete manuscript submitted to Multilingual Matters

We do not intend to send the proposal for consideration to any other publishers.