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## International Quantitative Linguistics Association

### I. Report on QUALICO 2014 held on 20th anniversary of IQLA and Journal of Quantitative Linguistics (JQL) in Olomouc, Czech Republic (by Martina Benešová)

From 29th May to 1st June 2014 Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic hosted and co-organized the 9th conference of the International Quantitative Linguistic Association QUALICO 2014. The conference was prepared and organized by the IQLA. The local organizers were the members of the Department of General Linguistics, Faculty of Arts, Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic.

The conference brought and presented an overview of the current quantitative linguistics, its status as a boundary discipline, its scope and reach. The status of quantitative linguistics, basic inquiries, and problems of linguistic laws were systemized by Reinhard Köhler in his presentation *Quantitative linguistics: Some characteristics*, which opened the scientific programme of the conference.

In total, there were 49 presentations (selected out of more than 80 submitted abstracts). Many of them (5 of 11 presentations on day one) focused on philosophy,

discussion and various applications of the Menzerath-Altmann law. Many other focused on the nature of further well-known quantitative linguistic laws like Zipf, Krylov etc. Other presentations focused on various frequency analyses, the relationship of word and sentence lengths and its consequences, the synergetic model of linguistics, networks, applying distributional models, discussion on part-of-speech systems, authorship attribution, polyfunctionality and polysemy, opinion target identification and others.

The presentations were supported by 6 conference posters. Their topics were quantitative psycholinguistic analysis, generalization of sociolinguistic distributions, analyses of Chinese written and spoken samples via applying the Menzerath-Altmann law, studying quantitative properties of Russian visual poems and, last but not least, introduction of the quantitative linguistic software QUITA.

The conference participants, presenters and poster authors came from Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, the Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

At the conference business meeting the new IQLA council was elected with Arjuna Tuzzi (University of Padua, Italy) voted to take the position of the IQLA president. It was also agreed that the next conference, QUALICO 2016, will be held in Trier, Germany.

The conference was financed and supported due to the help and financial support of two grants: Innovation of General Linguistics and Communication Theory Studies in Cooperation with Natural Science, reg. no.: CZ.1.07/2.2.00/28.0076, and Linguistic and Lexicostatic Analysis in Cooperation with Linguistics, Mathematics, Biology, Psychology, reg. no. CZ.1.07/2.3.00/20.0161. Both of these projects are financed by the European Social Fund and the national Budget of the Czech Republic..



## II. IQLA Elections

During QUALICO 14, IQLA had its biannual business meeting and elected new administration bodies.

### IQLA Council

President: Arjuna Tuzzi

Vice-President: Emmerich Kelih

Treasurer: Ján Mačutek

Secretary-General: George Mikros

### Council Members at Large

- Radek Čech
- Ramon Ferrer-i-Cancho
- Sven Naumann
- Relja Vulcanović

### International Representatives and Liaisons

- Sheila Embleton (North and South America).

- Haruko Sanada (Asia)

## III. Japanese Quantitative Linguistics Founder, Professor Shizuo Mizutani Passed Away (1926-2014) (by Haruko Sanada)



On July 2nd, 2014, Japanese Linguist, Professor emer. Shizuo Mizutani passed away at the age of 88. Shizuo Mizutani was born and grew up in Asakusa City of Tokyo, which is still one of the oldest parts of Tokyo. In 1948 he graduated from the Faculty of Humanities (Department of Japanese Literature) at the University of Tokyo. After he studied in the graduated course, in 1949 he started his academic career as a researcher of the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics, which was founded two months before his employment. He was also one of the founders of the Mathematical Linguistic Society of Japan, which was established in 1956, and he contributed to the society over 40 years including 8 years as the president of the society. The society is now known as one of the oldest organizations of Quantitative Linguistics in the world. In 1964 he left the national institute and worked as a professor of Tokyo Woman's Christian University until 1991. While his work in the university and research visits to the Harvard-Yenching Insti-

tute in 1966 and to the Harvard-Computation Laboratory in 1967, he was also a member of the Science Council of the Ministry of Education and a member of the local organizer committee of the 8th International Congress of Computational Linguistics (COLING80) in 1980. He widely contributed both to the statistical analysis of Japanese and to the development of the computer systems to be able to treat Japanese data.

He is also known as the editor of Japanese Quantitative Linguistics (Quantitative Linguistics Vol. 39) published in 1989 by Studienverlag Dr. N. Brockmeyer in Bochum, and his paper " Ōno's lexical law: its data adjustment by linear regression" (Ibid. pp. 1-13). On the occasion of his 80th birthday, volume 10 of Glottometrics, Corpus Studies on Japanese Kanji (Tamaoka, K. (ed.)) published by RAM-Verlag (Lüdenscheid, Germany) and Hituzi Shobo (Tokyo, Japan) was devoted to him. Professor Naoko Maruyama of Tokyo Woman's Christian University introduced his work in "Sizuo Mizutani (1926): The Founder of Japanese Quantitative Linguistics" in the above volume (pp. 99-108).

#### IV. New books from RAM-Verlag

1. K.-H. Best, E. Kelih (eds.), *Entlehnungen und Fremdwörter: Quantitative Aspekte*. 2014. VI + 163 pp. [Studies in Quantitative Linguistics 15]. Table of contents: <http://www.ram-verlag.eu/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/studies15contents.pdf>
2. I.-I. Popescu, K.-H. Best, G. Altmann, *Unified modeling of length in language*. 2014, II + 124 pp. [Studies in Quantitative Linguistics 16]. Table of contents: <http://www.ram-verlag.eu/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/studies16contents.pdf>

3. G. Altmann, R. Čech, J. Mačutek, L. Uhlířová (eds.). *Empirical Approaches to Language and Text Analysis*. 2014. VI + 217 pp. [Studies in Quantitative Linguistics 17]. Table of contents: <http://www.ram-verlag.eu/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/studies17contents.pdf>
4. M. Kubát, V. Matlach, R. Čech, *QUITA. Quantitative Index Text Analyzer*. 2014, VII+106. [Studies in Quantitative Linguistics 18]. Table of contents: <http://www.ram-verlag.eu/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/studies18contents.pdf>

#### V. Call for contributions (by Prof. Gabriel Altmann)

We want to publish articles about the life and work of deceased quantitative linguists. The size of the contributions is irrelevant. Individual articles will be published in the journal Glottometrics; after collecting a sufficient number of contributions, we want to publish them also in book forms. The first volume of History of Quantitative Linguistics by K.-H. Best will appear soon in the RAM-Verlag. Please, write the contributions in English and send them to RAM-Verlag@t-online.de or to somebody who may collect them.

#### VI. Announcement – Call for “news”

We kindly ask all IQLA members to inform secretary@iqla.org about recent or new projects, publications, conferences, personal news, etc., in QL and related research fields. It is planned to publish this information on the IQLA web pages and in the next available IQLA newsletter, Vol. 5, No. 2, 2014.

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