DiPVaC open business meeting (hybrid: in-person/Microsoft Teams)
13 June 2024 – Minutes (by Marisa Brook)

Meeting start: 9.07 AM Budapest time

Present: Chloé Diskin-Holdaway (chair, in person), Claire Childs (via MS Teams), Marisa Brook (via MS Teams), Stephen Levey, Péter Furkó, Csilla Der, Ben Gibb-Reid, Jana Pflaeging, Erik Schleef (in person)

1. What is DiPVaC?

Introduction to the research network. We are "a research network for scholars investigating variation and change in what are broadly termed 'discourse-pragmatic features'". As a group we "provide a platform for the dissemination and discussion of new research findings, the formation of new research collaborations, and the promotion of the field within and beyond linguistics". The website lists 115 members.

2. Approval of minutes from last open business meeting (the one at DiPVaC 5)

Approved by Chloé and Marisa.

3. Steering Committee membership

Chloé has been chairing the Steering Committee for the last six years. Thanks to Chloé for all her hard work! Welcome to new chair Claire Childs for a six-year term.

Thanks to Péter Furkó and Joseph Kern for sitting on the Steering Committee for six years, and to Péter for organising the present DiPVaC 6 conference. Welcome to new committee members Mel Evans and Erik Schleef. There are still two vacancies on the Steering Committee. Service is not very onerous; anyone is welcome. We try to have a broad geographical representation, so that is one consideration. Different career stages is also desirable. We are a research network, not a society as such (no treasury), which makes things more straightforward. It's also not a large organisation.

4. Announcement of DiPVaC 7 (Erik Schleef)

The University of Salzburg will be hosting DiPVaC 7 in 2026. Tentative date is September, but this has not been pinned down yet. Logistics for themes, plenary speakers, etc. are underway. Website and list of plenary speakers should be up by the end of 2024. Also on the conference organising committee: Jana Pflaeging and probably Matthew Hadodo.

If anyone is publishing a book in 2026 and wants to do a book-launch/reception at DiPVaC 7, they should let Erik know.

5. Publication opportunities arising out of DiPVaC6

Péter: upcoming edited volume related to discourse analysis – anyone at DiPVaC is welcome to contribute (it does not have to be specifically a talk given for DiPVaC; it can be anything relevant). Watch for an announcement to be circulated via the mailing list. This sort of follow-up step might be something to consider for DiPVaC 7 as well.

6. Discussion about future DiPVaC activities

Conferences since 2012, approximately every two years. Mailing list is quiet – discussions behind the scenes about whether the mailing list could be a *bit* livelier. Smaller events could be organised? Semi-regular notes and/or newsletters assembled by the Steering Committee to keep DiPVaC more active in everyone's thoughts? (No funding available but it could be a volunteer effort.) Additionally: online talks/seminars on DiPVaC-related topics.

7. Any other business

Péter: Thanks to Chloé for all her service!

Ben Gibb-Reid: Encouragement of more student-focused events? Student drinks? Work-in-progress session? This might especially suit people in adjacent fields doing research that is DiPVaC-y but for which they might not have thought of DiPVaC as a venue.

Group discussion: There are groups of people working on things such as filled pauses but coming from another perspective (phonetics, forensics, etc.). They might not consider themselves discourse-pragmatics people but a more work-in-progress kind of space might help them feel welcome and/or spark some new collaborations! Maybe people within their own institutions could organise internal events and get people joining the network that way?

A lot of people have approached Chloé saying 'oh, I'm keenly interested in discourse-pragmatics but I don't do anything quantitative'. Indeed, there are only so many people who do quantitative analysis of discourse-pragmatic features. This (as a side-effect) aligns DiPVaC with variationist spaces, which is natural for some people and less so to others. There are advantages to being a small network, but we also want to keep in mind longevity. Does anyone have any thoughts about whether we should modify/revisit this?

'Mixed methods' is a bit of a buzzword right now. What currently happens when someone submits a qualitative discourse-pragmatics abstract? It tends to be ranked lower. Some presentations in previous years have been not strictly quantitative. We can proceed largely in the same way given the original *raison d'être* and the fact that people doing qualitative investigations have other places they can take those. The website is not super explicit about the quantitative part but the Steering Committee can discuss whether to change this, especially if people are confused about what DiPVaC is intended to be about. Slight risk of veering too far away, but we could do more in terms of putting the word out.

Meeting finish: 9.57 AM Budapest time