Gretchen Kern
Curriculum Vitae
2021

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Education

2015. PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
    Concentration: Linguistics
    Dissertation: *Rhyming Grammars and Celtic Phonology*
    Advisor: Donca Steriade
2010. MA, University of Wisconsin-Madison
    Concentration: Linguistics
    Thesis: *On Secondary Stress in Old Irish*
    Advisor: Marlys Macken
2009. MA, Aberystwyth University
    Concentration: Irish
    Thesis: *Ogam Inscriptions of Ireland: A relative chronology based on linguistic evidence*
    Advisor: Patrick Sims-Williams
2003. BA, University of Southern California
    Concentration: East Asian Languages and Cultures
    Study abroad, Jan – Jul 2002: Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan

Dissertation Abstract

        This dissertation broadens our understanding of a typology of poetic rhyme through the analysis of three rhyming traditions that show unconventional patterns in the contents, position, and size of rhyme domains. The rhyme domain (RD) is a string of segments that stand in correspondence with another string of segments in a poetic constituent.
        In Early Irish poetry, strict identity of consonants in RDs is not required, but consonants instead correspond based on membership in defined classes. These classes correlate with sonority levels. Though analysis of VCC and bisyllabic rhymes, which match for sonority, but not featural identity, across the RD, I show that poetic rhyme can be sensitive to the sonority profile of a rhyme, and not just to similarity of segments. Statistical analysis of a rhyming corpus provides further evidence for this.
        Old Norse skaldic rhyme shows an unusual position for RDs. Rather than occurring at the end of two lines in a couplet, both RDs appear in the middle of a single line. One of these RDs will occupy the penultimate syllable of a bisyllabic word, which means that the rhyme will begin and end word-internally. This gives evidence for rhyme being based not on a syllable rime, but on the interval: a metrical constituent that spans from one vowel to the following vowel including all intervening consonants.
        The four types of Welsh cynghanedd I analyze present challenges in terms of the size, position, and contents of the RD. In all four types, the RDs occur with in a single line, like skaldic, but the position, size, and number of the RDs are less predictable. The RDs may span the entire line, or may contain only a single interval or consonant each. My analysis shows that all four types of cynghanedd can be analyzed as separate poetic grammars drawing on the same set of constraints in different rankings. A few constraints maintain a fixed ranking across all four cynghanedd grammars.
        Analysis of these three apparent outliers contributes to the development of a typology of rhyme, showing that even extreme cases draw on familiar concepts to define their RDs.

Professional experience
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Pendleton, OR   May 2019 – present
Tribal Linguist

IPsoft, Inc., New York, NY   Sept 2015 – Aug 2018
Corpus Linguist

Teaching Experience
2021, spring. Teaching Assistant for Umatilla 101, Blue Mountain Community College.
        Instructor: Fred Hill.
2013, autumn. Teaching Assistant for course 24.961 (graduate introduction to phonology), MIT.
        Instructor: Michael Kenstowicz.
2012, autumn. Teaching Assistant for course 24.900 (undergraduate introduction to linguistics), MIT.
        Instructor: David Pesetsky.
2004-2005 school year. Assistant English teacher, Lycée de l'Elorn. Landerneau, France.
2003, spring. Classroom assistant, USC Language Academy. Los Angeles, CA.

Conference presentations & posters
2021. *Developing teaching materials for the Umatilla Sahaptin language: Balancing insights from linguistic theory with learners' communicative needs.* With Jonathan Geary, poster, WCCFL 39. University of Arizona (online).
2015. *Syntactically unjustified morphs and other strategies for hiatus resolution in Irish prepositions.* 12Th Old World Conference in Phonology, Universitat de Barcelona.
2014. *The (Dis)use of the syllable in the rhymes of Dafydd ap Gwilym.* 34Th Harvard Celtic Colloquium. Harvard University.
2013. *Old Irish Pronouns, Agreement and Disagreement.* 33rd Harvard Celtic Colloquium. Harvard University.
2012. *Aspects of Old and Middle Irish Rhyme.* 32nd Harvard Celtic Colloquium. Harvard University.
2012. *Perceptual Similarity in Sonority Contours: Evidence from Early Irish Rhyming Patterns.*
        7th Celtic Linguistics Conference, Université Rennes 2, France.
2012. *Perceptual Similarity in Sonority Contours: Evidence from Early Irish Rhyming Patterns.* Poster,
        20th Manchester Phonology Meeting. University of Manchester, England.
2010. *On Secondary Stress in Old Irish.* 32nd Annual University of California Celtic Studies Conference, UCLA.

Invited talks & workshop presentations
2012. *Rhyme and Meter in Early Irish Verse.* Invited talk, Literary Linguistics Research Group. University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland.
2012. *The Phonetic Basis of Early Irish Rhyme.* Invited talk, Indo-European Workshop, Harvard University.

Languages
Native: English
Advanced: Japanese (JLPT N1), French
Intermediate: Modern Irish, Haitian Creole
Beginning: Welsh, Mandarin Chinese, Farsi, Wolof, Umatilla, Nez Perce
Reading knowledge: Old, Middle & Classical Irish; Middle Welsh; Late Old & Classical Japanese; German
Linguistic knowledge: Continental Celtic languages, Tocharian, Anatolian languages, Iranian languages

Courses and workshops

2019. Africa Consultants International, Centre Baobab, Dakar, Senegal
      40 hours of French and Wolof courses
2019. CELTA (Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)
      120-hour TEFL course at the Durban Language School, Durban, South Africa
2011. Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, Summer School
      Two-week intensive Old and Classical Modern Irish course
2010. Oideas Gael, Gleann Cholm Cille & Gleann Fhinne, Co. Donegal, Ireland
      Six-week intensive Irish language course
2009. University of California, Berkeley
      Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute
2009. University of Arizona, Tucson
      Formal Approaches to Celtic Linguistics Mini-course
2008. Welsh for Adults, Aberystwyth, Wales
      Week-long intensive Welsh course

Technology

Python (nltk, sci-kitlearn, pandas), RegEx, Linux

Certifications

2019. CELTA (Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)
2017. Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) N1

Research Interests

Phonological similarity and constituency in poetic rhyme and alliteration
The Old Irish verbal system and the syntax/phonology/morphology interfaces
Syntactic inversions in poetry
Language revitalization

Awards

2020. NEH CARES Grant for a video project for the CTUIR Language Program.
2012. Conference travel grant from the Association Francophone de la Communication Parlée.
2010. FLAS Summer Fellowship for Modern Irish/Gaelic from the US Department of Education.
2009. Diebold Fellowship in Indo-European Studies for the Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute.

Service

2013. Co-Chair, Graduate Orientation Women's Welcome Lunch, for Graduate Women@MIT.
2012-2013. Student Representative, MIT linguistics department.
2010. Organizing committee, Workshop in General Linguistics 8, UW-Madison.