Experience Day
English language and culture
23 November 2018

Lecture:

Title: Her Ladyship and the Queen’s English

Lecturer: Prof. Ingrid Tieken-Boon van Ostade

Information lecturer:
Professor Ingrid Tieken-Boon van Ostade teaches courses on the history of the English language in the BA programme English Language and Culture. She is particularly interested in the final stages of the English standardisation process, that is from before English developed into a world language. In this context, she supervised a large research project on usage guides and usage problems, called Bridging the Unbridgeable: Linguists, Prescriptivists and the General Public. Her lecture this afternoon and the classes that follow deal with the work done in this project.

Abstract:
Her Ladyship’s Guide to the Queen’s English by Caroline Taggart (2010) is a so-called usage guide, a language advice manual that guides readers in questions about correct language use. Should it be it is I or it is me? Can we use a split infinitive (as in to boldly go where no man has been before) these days? Is it wrong to say five items or less, and if so, why, and what should we say instead? In giving usage advice, Caroline Taggart adopts the role of a lady in order to explain what is considered correct English today and what is not. In this lecture, we will see how she does this and why, and to what extent her approach to correct language use relates to the age-old British class system.

Tutorial 1:

Title: English usage problems: what do the usage guides advise and why?

Lecturer: Prof. Ingrid Tieken-Boon van Ostade

Abstract:
In this class we will look at how usage problems like those discussed by Ian McEwan in his short story ‘Mother Tongue’, by Stephen Fry in ‘Kinetic Typography – Language’ and by Hielke Vriesendorp in his article in English Today are dealt with by modern usage guides such as Her Ladyship’s Guide to the Queen’s English and Fowler’s Modern English Usage as well as several others.

Tutorial 2:

Title: Interactive workshop with the Study Association Albion
Preparation:

- **Read**: Mother Tongue, Ian McEwan ([http://ianmcewan.com/resources/articles/mother-tongue.html](http://ianmcewan.com/resources/articles/mother-tongue.html))

- **Watch**: Kinetic Typography – Language, Stephen Fry ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7E-aoXLZGY&feature=share](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7E-aoXLZGY&feature=share))

- **Study**: Caroline Taggart’s website ([https://www.carolinetaggart.co.uk/](https://www.carolinetaggart.co.uk/))
