

CALL FOR PAPERS

Border Linguaging: Multilingual Practices on the Border

Eva Nossem (Saarland University, UniGR-Center for Border Studies)

Since the beginning of Border Studies, we have observed a continuously shifting take on the nature, creation, and work of borders. Moving away from an understanding of the border as a static dividing line, recent approaches have focused on the connecting qualities of borders and placed emphasis on border regions as places of encounter, as contact zones (Pratt), as borderlands (Anzaldúa), as (hybrid) spaces/places of *in-between* as well as *and-both*. In attempts of carving out some characteristics of borders, research has focused on the mobility, multi-locationality, fluidity, dynamics, and transformability of borders. Theorizations have furthermore broadened the scope of research, moving away from the border as a (mere) research object towards new theoretical/epistemological ways of thinking the border and thinking from and through the border (Brambilla (borderscapes); Mezzadra & Neilson (Border as Method); Mignolo (border thinking); Rumford (seeing like a border); Wille, Fellner, and Nossem (bordertextures)).

In a similar vein, as the shift has occurred from a static understanding of the border to dynamic processes and complex interwoven practices (Wille, Fellner, and Nossem), also research on language has experienced a turn, “treat[ing] language as dynamic and emergent rather than as a reified code” (Baynham & Lee 2020: 15). The widespread turn in the humanities to focus on processuality – emblematically phrased in Street’s famous statement “Culture is verb” (1993) – has not only reached border studies, leading to the change from border to bordering, but has also affected the study of language:

The traditional understanding of ‘language(s)’ as monolithic construct(s) existing independently of communicative use has been rejected [...] in favour of conceptualisations of *linguaging* (Becker, 1995) as practical social action that draws on an expansive repertoire of (not only linguistic) semiotic resources [...]. (Moore, Bradley, and Simpson 2020: 2).

Language uses that draw on multilingual resources are of particular interest for this volume. We strive to develop the notion of border linguaging by introducing the contested spatiality of the border to our analysis of multilingual language practices. We aim at focusing on a (critical) analysis of creative (cf. Wei 2011) multilingual practices evolving *at*, *on*, and *around* the border. The work of the border as a productive site of encounter and of the formation of identities and otherness becomes visible through related language use and linguistic performances. In developing a focus on border linguaging, we aim to carve out new understandings of (the use of) communicative resources in relation to the border. Such a situated approach to (multi-

/pluri-) linguistic performances helps us move beyond naturalized categories of and in languages; particular focus is placed on border spaces/places as translanguaging spaces (Wei 2011: 1223), spatial repertoires (Pennycook and Otsuji 2015: 9), and life trajectories (Busch 2012).

In examining the interplay of practices of language and borders, contributions from the field of linguistic Border Studies may prove fruitful on different scales, whether e.g. addressing top-down questions of language policy or bottom-up linguistic practices (from below) of everyday interaction, the construction of language borders/boundaries, linguistic dynamics of demarcation, criticism of nativeness, the discursive (re)production and (de)construction of borders, sociolinguistic (cross-)border analyses, or many other takes on every-day, political, and aesthetic linguistic/semiotic practices.

This volume puts a special emphasis on practices involving (multilingual) communicative repertoires which challenge the (Western) ideologies of monolingualism and separate plurilingualism (cf. García & Wei 2014) and related linguistic-semiotic ordering mechanisms. It focuses on how people make use of the communicative resources available to them in and across border spaces/places. In the analyses, emphasis is placed on how linguistic/semiotic and material signifying resources are brought together in activities developing out of or resulting from the border. We invite submissions focusing on societal multilingualism and/or individual plurilingualism in relation to borders, as e.g. on

- Border Linguaging as a transgressive practice,
- Critical and creative plurilingual performances at and around borders,
- Interlingual, intralingual, intersemiotic, interdiscursive, and embodied translanguaging (Baynham & Lee 2019) on the border,
- Language ideology and dynamics of exclusion,
- Performance of plurilingual repertoires at the border,
- Language policy and power relations,
- Translingualism, translingual activism (Cronin 2003), translingual practice (Canagarajah 2013, 2014), translanguaging (Garcia and Wei 2014), metrolingualism (Pennycook and Otsuji 2015), translanguageance (Aden & Eschenauer), transmodalities (Hawkins), transglossia (Garcia), etc.
- Multilingualism from below (Pennycook & Otsuji 2015, cf. Cuvelier et al. 2010),
- Translating the border.

Proposals (in English) should be sent to e.nossem@mx.uni-saarland.de; full papers will be due by 31 July 2021.

The proposals should contain the following data:

- Abstract (approx. 300-500 words plus references)
- Bio blurb (max 200 words).