

Report on my participation in the 18th Manchester Phonology Meeting, May 20th-22th, 2010.

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The Manchester Phonology Meeting is undoubtedly the most important annual colloquium on phonology on this side of the Atlantic. This year, there was a particularly stiff competition for participation, which made that half of the submissions had to be rejected. Therefore, I was more than pleased to have been selected to give a poster presentation.

As always, it was good to listen to the contributions by many scholars, like Wililam Labov and Andries Coetzee (the full programm of the colloquium can be seen on <http://www.englang.ed.ac.uk/mfm/18mfm-fullprog.pdf>). By doing so, and by discussions with many of the colleagues present, I can keep in touch with present research in phonology.

Regarding my own contribution (“Contrast Preservation Theory and the Germanic Sound Laws”), I was pleasantly surprised by the reactions to my poster. Having little experience with poster presentations, I did not expect very much. However, it turned out that the discussions I had were most useful. I remember especially my conversation with Janet Watson (professor of Arabic linguistics at the University of Salford), who explained to me that ejectives are not at all stable in phonological systems, contrary to the received idea which one finds repeated everywhere. This had very important bearings on my research, because Janet’s remark lends strong support to my idea that the Glottalic Theory regarding the Proto-Indo-European consonant inventory is the key to the understanding of the interaction between the (supposedly) independent Germanic Sound shifts (i.e. Grimm’s and Verner’s Law).

In all, my participation to the colloquium was very useful.