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13th ICGL
Workshop proposal

Discourses of Aggression and Violence in Greek Digital Communication

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This workshop aims at exploring the multifaceted relationship between language and aggression/violence, with a special focus on the discourse of Greek users of social media and other means of computer-mediated communication (CMC).

Aggressive and even violent language abounds in digital communication, notably in the social media. Crucial affordances making the online environment conducive to verbal aggression are (perceived) anonymity, physical distance, invisibility, (relative) lack of accountability, amplification by viraling, guilt free exploitation of people's voluntary self-exposure etc. Such features render online environments fertile breeding ground for the phenomenon of toxic disinhibition (Suler 2004), resulting in a multitude of forms of (often excessive) verbal aggression.

Research areas for proposed contributions can include but are not limited to:

- cyberhate (political, racist, sports- and gender-/LGBT-related etc. hate speech)
- violent/insurgent speech of (potentially) politically radicalized individuals or extremist groups
- online slang, swearing and blasphemy
- cyberbullying, cyberthreatening, flaming, trolling, verbal dueling
- indirect or covert linguistic violence (via irony, humour and sarcasm, or via metaphor and euphemism)
- cyberbanter (using aggressive/violent language for entertainment, bonding, agreeing/approving, supporting etc.)
- correlation between linguistic violence and non-linguistic/demographic variables (e.g. gender, political ideology etc.; CMC type; and so on)
- formal (morphosyntactic, lexicophraseological, lexicosemantic etc.) issues of violent CMC speech (e.g. neologisms, ad hoc coinages, types of argot – e.g. sports fans')

This workshop welcomes multidisciplinary analyses, i.e. combining a variety of methodologies (critical discourse analysis, conversation analysis, corpus/quantitative linguistics, multimodal analysis, social science analysis, ethnographic research etc.). However, proposals should have a clear and substantial linguistic component. Especially welcome, given the availability of massive quantities of social media language in digital form, are analyses (quantitative and qualitative) of large datasets (collected, for instance, by means of a web crawler).

Bibliography

Suler, John. 2004. The online disinhibition effect. *CyberPsychology & Behavior* 7(3), 321-326.