

Geoffrey Leech

Two Lectures in Prague

We are pleased to announce that Professor Geoffrey Leech has accepted the invitation of the Institute of the Czech National Corpus and is coming back to Prague to give two lectures at the Faculty of Arts.

Both lectures are open to the public. Due to limited space, please register for the Tuesday lecture by March 28th (lucie.chlumska@ff.cuni.cz).

The past, present and future of English corpus linguistics: a personal perspective

Monday, March 31st 2014, 6 pm

Faculty of Arts, Charles University (room 104), Jana Palacha 2

In the UK, from c.1970 corpus linguistics began in two different ways: the resource-driven approach (associated with the University of Lancaster) and the research-driven approach (associated with the University of Birmingham). This talk will trace the development of the English 'corpus revolution' from that time up to the present, and will consider what challenges loom in the future.



The rise of *cos* and the downfall of *for*: changes in English reason conjunctions over the past 100 years

Tuesday, April 1st 2014, 1 pm

Institute of the Czech National Corpus (room 5), Panská 7

Two notable developments in the use of English reason conjunctions over the past 100 years have been (1) the steep decline in frequency of the reason conjunction *for* and, in contrast, (2) the consistent rise in frequency of the reason conjunction *(be)cause*, increasingly reduced in speech to the monosyllable /kəz/ (often written *cos* in transcription). This presentation will try to explain the relationship between these two trends in terms of such diachronic processes of grammaticalization and colloquialization. The corpora used in this study include the Brown 'family' of corpora and the American English corpora COCA and COHA.