

Life Linguistics and a Faith Journey

A review of discourse and its
effects on Pamela

Early thoughts

- New Australian
- New ideas
- New fears
- New lingo
- Wrong accent
- Wrong religion
- Wrong lunch



School and lingo

- First words
- "Barrack for Torrens" (I thought it meant Hello and Good Morning)
- Aboriginal Girl at Houghton Primary helps with learning
- Teacher Mr Cropley changes my mind about Australia
- Cruelty with words emerges

Learning Idioms and Maxims

- "Sticks and Stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me" NOT TRUE!!!
- Say it like it is
- Many a true word spoken in jest (you are not wrong) "I was only joking"
- "Smart Alec" means being unloved
- Enid Blyton "hot tea and buttered toast"

Getting into life and part of community

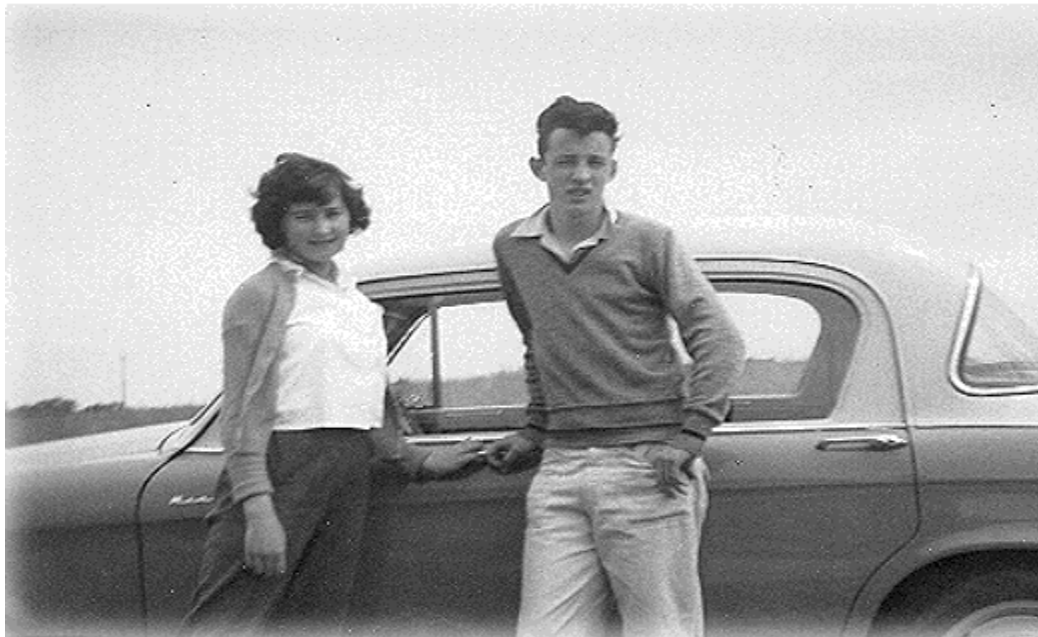
Pliés
Jétes
Glissard
Assemblé
Developé
Batements
Pas de Chat
Port de bras



Dancing and learning
ballet and new words

Language gets me into trouble

- The word "infallible" is questioned at convent school as a teen but my excellent French accent and good Latin scholarship saves me this once



Language constructions to help save my soul

- Lord knows how one girl can be so much trouble to persuade (Mother Emerentia Loreto nun c. 1961 religious studies)
- Girls are responsible young men and their behaviours
- The Lord helps those who help themselves
- All your sins are written down and noted (uh oh!)

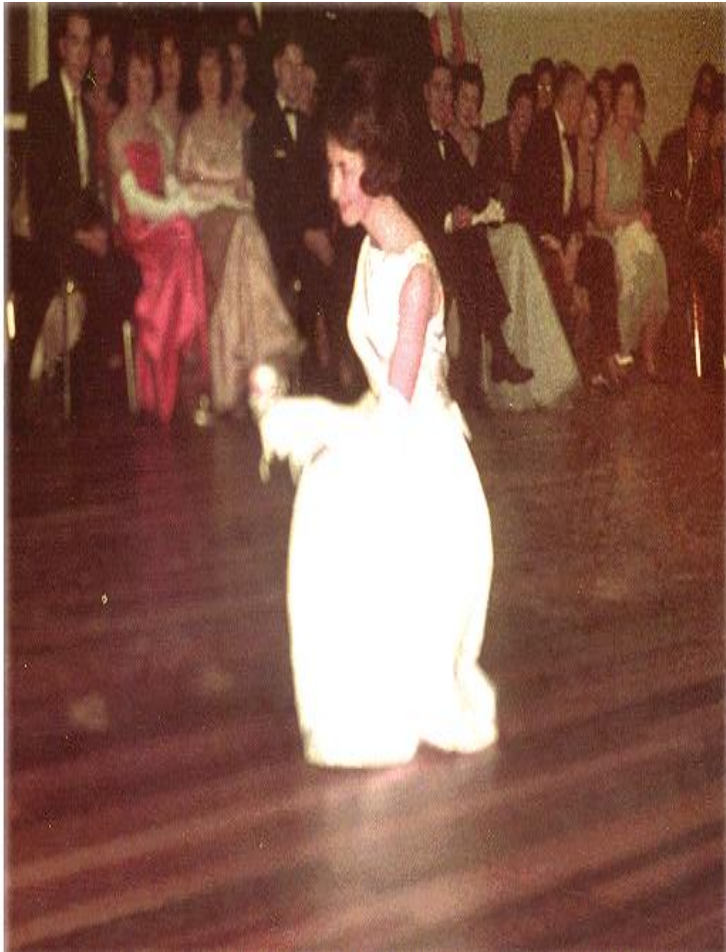


Guilt as a linguistic discourse

- *Confiteor Deo* (I confess to almighty God)
- *Mea Culpa Mea Culpa Mea Maxima Culpa* (my fault my most grievous fault)
- *Domine, non sum dignus* (I am not worthy)
- A successions of Saints who died defending honour (How would I ever be good enough) ???



Ready to join society or not!



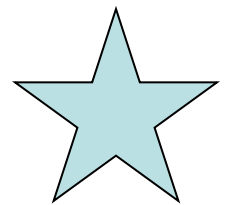
Life presented as a simple choice

Speaking nicely
(your mouth gets you into trouble)

Being a lady

Being pretty

Getting a bloke



Marriage and family life



Life choices and learning

- University learning and daring to debate
- Journalism
- Social Work
- Teaching
- Religion takes a back seat
- Motherhood and life challenges new words to learn 'my baby is already.....'



Discourses at work

- Women's rights
- Equal pay for equal work (really?)
- Change of laws relating to women (bank loans, travelling with children abroad)
- My work takes me direct to the discourse of the people as talk show presenter first at 5 DN and later in the country

On air early years a great part time job for a young mum



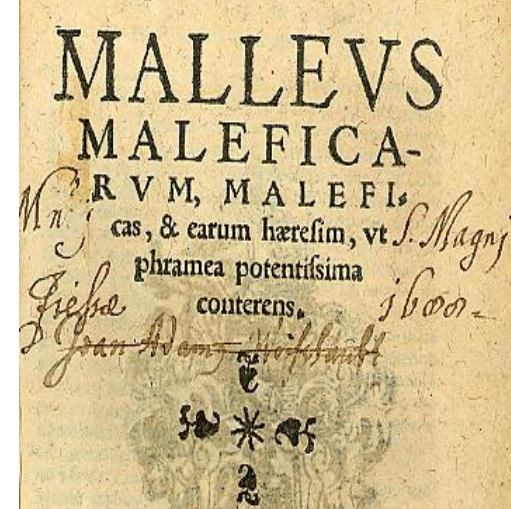
Budding Journalist

With Alan Catmuir - 5MU



Radio Announcer 1974 - 1978

Graduate Studies Discussions abound



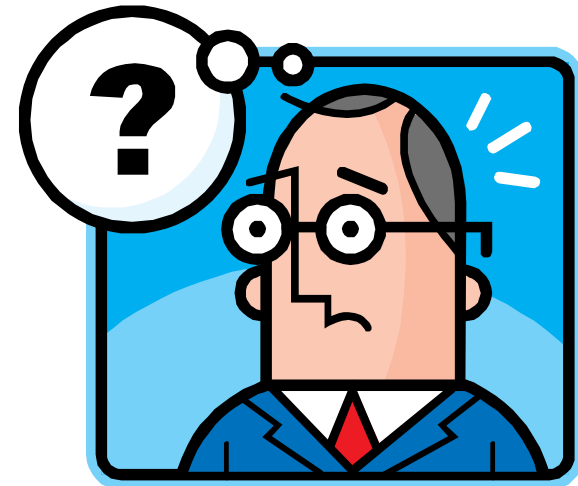
- **Women and theology:** Critical theory Mary Daly "Deliver us from Eve" leadership and female silence
- "Women have had the power of naming stolen from us" (Daly 1981)
- "A thing does not exist until it is named" Spender (1979)
- "The language of faith is male" (Fiorenza 1982)
- "When a woman thinks it is evil" Sprenger and Kramer c 1486 in the [Malleus Maleficarum](#)
- Clothes and religion and God Forbid women as priests!

Religion rears its head and sinks again

- I begin to read and read and learn a language with which to express and question within academic life
- Work priorities intervene but language again begins to bite
- Pamela writes a mini thesis on Positive Dynamics and presents workshops and lectures on the subject of language and its effects on children and relationships

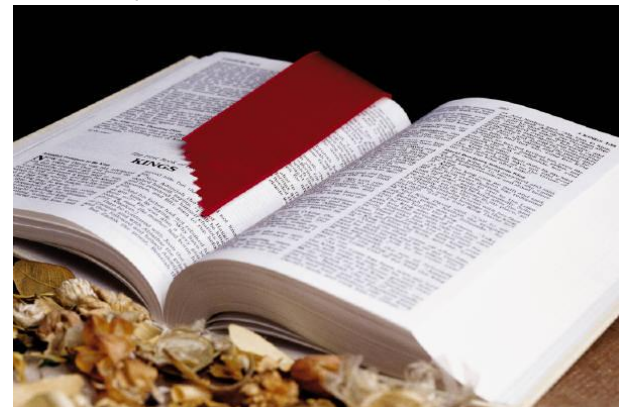
Discourses Analysed along the career path

- Business interventions
- Joined up government
- 360 ° Feedback
- Key Performance Indicators
- Hierarchies of Outcomes
- Personnel Developments
- Community engagements



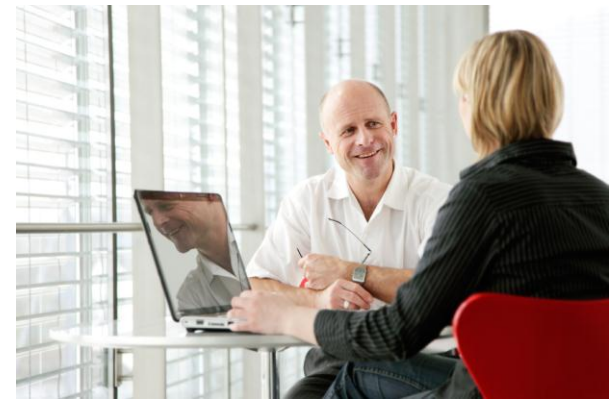
Linguistics analysed at post graduate level

- An overview of emerging discourses and how they effect human beings at risk
- How children are affected
- Why some people need linguistic refreshment and support
- Another look at religions and their impact +ve and -ve



Negative Dynamics Research

- identifies power of discourse in self esteem
- Words identified: **just**; only; if; couldn't; wouldn't; cant; haven't; wish; sorry but..; not much; hopeless; no good; bad; think; Uhm; never; not; won't; didn't... all these found from content analysis at interviews
- How "just" can affect health



Analysis brief of the Tower of Babel as a linguistic text

- The Tower of Babel story
From *Genesis 11:1-9*
- And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.
- And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.
- And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.
- And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.
- And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.
- And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.
- Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.
- So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.
- Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth; and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth

Basic Babel discourse study

- **Narrative** that suggests punishment for hubris and mono-lingualism promotes early version of globalisation.
- **Anaphora**: repetitions "same" "One" "language(s)" "from there"
- **Theme**: language as connection; language as disconnection; language as punishment;
- **Collocations**: words connected with themes
- (face of the) Earth; words; people; understand; scattered; speech; confused; over
- **Binary opposites**: building to prevent scattering then God Scatters them post building!
- **Reasoning**: fulfil the mandate be outward focused

St Andrews beckons



"May the Lord light your way forward" heard at a wedding attended there.. Drives by each day and wonders what is it like in there?

Doctorate studies

- Language of the Justice System analysed and scrutinised
- Language of judges scrutinised
- Language of the media analysed and scrutinised
- Analysis of media outrage

Victims slam sentence

■ From Page One

**SORRY
ISN'T
GOOD
ENOUGH**

"I said 'no,' Mr Williams told The
vertiser yesterday.
and me but I had to say no
the ruling."

Theoretical framework for the focus on justice

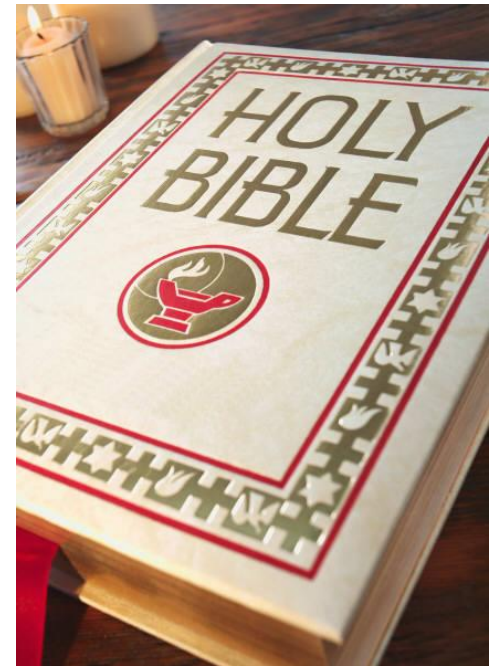
- *Fear Discourse* as prevailing 'infotainment' (Altheide and Michalowski 1999; Gross and Aday 2001)
- *Crime* "anxiety", *Law* reform on political agendas (Fox 1995), symbolic politics, (O'Shaughnessy 2005)
- *Media Agenda* Setting (McCombs 2004)
- *The "Moral Compass"* (Lule 2001; Eliot 1990)
- *Public Opinion*, (Rottman 2003), *Risk Society* (Rose 2000; Bauman 2001; Beck 2005) *Sentencing* issues
(Roberts 2002; Roberts and Hough 2002) *Media Construction* of Issues (Indemaur and Roberts 2005; Tomaino 2001)

Why the focus on Language?

- “ Most of the legal disputes in the world arise from **words**” Lord Mansfield (1773)
- “..Chief functions of our courts is to act as an animated and authoritative **dictionary**” Lord McMillan (1937)
- “**Words** are our basic tools of trade”
- “**Words** are the vehicle by which the law must necessarily be conveyed” Chief Justice JJ Spigelman 16/3/07 Sydney NSW
- Media **hunt in packs** like **feral** beasts..... tearing down reputations..... and **institutions**... using words (Tony Blair June 12 2007)
- Debates over wording in political communiqués eg **global warming** v **climate change**!

Faith also Analysed

- The Ministry of the Word
- The power of the Word
- The comfort of the Word
- Review some texts
- Renew some faith



Language lights the way

..For these commands are a **lamp** and this teaching is a **light** (Proverbs 6:23)

And we have the **word** of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a **light shining** in a dark place ...(2 Peter :19)



Leaders in faith attract and recruit

- *Jesus as leader ahead of his time*
- *Acts of the Apostles reveals strong female discourse*
- *...God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy (Acts 2: 17)*
- *I commend to you our sister Phoebe deacon of the church.... So that you may welcome her (Romans 16:1)*
- *Greet Mary who has worked very hard among you Romans 16:6)*
- *Anglican women in the priesthood !*

My faith gives me power to try



BRAD CROUCH

JUDGES should read their verdicts live on a court-supplied internet site, then post them on community web outlets such as YouTube, a provocative new analysis of the court system suggests.

Other proposals include appointment of a "media judge" - a retired judge available to give the public detailed explanations of complex judgments, to help restore public confidence in the judiciary.

The recommendations in the book, *Courts and Judges on Trial*, have sparked interest from judges as far afield as Europe and the US, ahead of its launch by former High Court judge Michael Kirby at the University of South Australia today.

Adelaide-based author Dr Pamela Schulz used her doctoral thesis as the basis of the book. A former journalist, communications expert and now an academic, she gained a rare insight into the judiciary as SA's first courts public relations manager reporting to chief justices Len King and later John Doyle, and later worked as special adviser to then-Chief Justice of the High Court Sir Anthony Mason.

Her book warns the judiciary faces an erosion of public confidence due to a growing culture of "discourses of disapproval" where the media and politicians relentlessly focus on negative aspects of judgments, suggesting courts are too lenient or out of touch with the community.

She warns this erosion of confidence, and increasing intervention in court decisions by poll-driven politicians keen to curry public favour, puts the independence of the judiciary at risk.

Her work included interviews with judges and a survey of more than 300 news reports of court cases which found a heavy focus on negative language, with TV's favourite phrases in reporting on courts including: "revolving door", "walked free", "escaped jail" and "family outraged". Dr Schulz acknowledged media outlets had limited time or space to give complete coverage of long and complex cases and the full circumstances of judgments, but warned a focus on negative aspects to incite public interest was leading to a loss of respect for the judiciary and increasing intervention by poll-driven politicians.

"Judges need to take control of communication with the community with things like online delivery of their judgments and posting it on YouTube so people can see the full context of their findings," she said.

"It seems we love to hate the judiciary - they are criticised as being out of touch and elite - but the reality is they are highly educated, highly intelligent people, the equivalent of our wise elders, who are being relentlessly bullied. Not many people understand how the court system works, and this is where a media judge could help - it has been tried successfully in Holland where retired judges explain how the law works and why a particular judgment was made."

She said judges were historically reluctant to respond to public criticism, but giving online judgments would allow people to see their findings in full context.

My journey is now complete

- I find a female deacon and a welcoming word from Chris on line
- I re- enter the faith
- Thank you

