Introducing Historical Orthography

Historical orthography – the study of how writing systems have changed over time – is a rapidly growing area of historical linguistics. This book provides the first comprehensive introduction to this exciting focus of research. Written in an engaging and accessible way, it surveys the purposes and methods of this field and how it has developed as a discipline over time. The volume also discusses the various levels of analysis that historical orthography can carry out, as well as key historical orthographic processes such as standardisation and language change. It covers a range of non-western and western languages, including English, in order to discuss the breadth of typological issues that can arise in the documentation of writing systems. The book also establishes links between orthography and a range of other related disciplines, a quality which makes it an essential resource for advanced students of orthography, writing systems and historical linguistics.

Marco Condorelli has written Standardising English Spelling (Cambridge University Press), edited Advances in Historical Orthography, c. 1500–1800 (Cambridge University Press) and co-edited The Cambridge Handbook of Historical Orthography (Cambridge University Press, with Rutkowska). He has also written articles for research journals, including English Language and Linguistics, English Studies and Neuphilologische Mitteilungen.
Introducing Historical Orthography

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## Contents

*List of Figures page viii*

1 **Introduction**
   1.1 What Is Historical Orthography? 1
   1.2 Contents of the Book 10

### Part I Origins and Sources

2 **A Short History of Writing**
   2.1 Origins of Writing 19
   2.2 Rise and Development of Alphabetic Writing 25
   2.3 The Rise of Modern Technology 31
      2.3.1 The Printing Revolution 31
      2.3.2 The Industrial Revolution 34
      2.3.3 The Digital Revolution 37

3 **Witnesses to Historical Writing**
   3.1 Early Writing Material 39
      3.1.1 Early Perishables, Stone and Metal 39
      3.1.2 Papyrus, Parchment and Vellum 41
   3.2 The Age of Paper 47
      3.2.1 Development of Papermaking 47
      3.2.2 Details about Paper 49
   3.3 The Age of Modern Technology 52
      3.3.1 Development of Typographic Style 52
      3.3.2 History of Typemaking 55

### Part II Elements of Orthography

4 **Orthographic Components**
   4.1 Types of Writing Systems 61
   4.2 Orthographic Units and Elements 65
      4.2.1 Graphemes and Allographs 65
      4.2.2 Letters, Graphs, Characters and Glyphs 72
vi Contents
4.2.3 Punctuation 75
4.2.4 Capitalisation 79

5 Structure and Presentation 82
5.1 Orthography as a System 82
5.1.1 Segmental and Morphological Structures 84
5.1.2 Suprasegmental Structures 89
5.2 Display and Layout 91
5.2.1 Mise-en-Page 92
5.3 Orthographic Elements of Visualisation 97
5.3.1 Spacing, Justification and Abbreviation 98

Part III Analysing Orthography 103
6 Investigative Approaches 105
6.1 Traditional Methods 105
6.1.1 Philology and Pragmaphilology 105
6.1.2 Intratextual, Intertextual and Cross textual Analyses 110
6.2 Synergic Perspectives 113
6.2.1 A Short Note about Terminology 113
6.2.2 Insights from Romance and Germanic Frameworks 115
6.2.3 Insights from Slavic Frameworks 120

7 Representation and Interpretation 126
7.1 Orthography as a Historical Construct 126
7.1.1 Regularity of Linguistic Representation 126
7.2 Making Sense of Diachronic Complexity 129
7.3 Logographic Developments 133
7.3.1 Chinese Script 133
7.3.2 Japanese Script 137
7.4 Disappearance of Writing Systems 140
7.4.1 Deciphering Unknown Scripts 140
7.4.2 Cracking the Code 142

Part IV Understanding Orthography 149
8 Orthography and Standardisation 151
8.1 Understanding Standardisation 151
8.2 A Standardising Variety of English 156
8.2.1 The Linguistic Pool of London 156
8.3 Developments towards Standardisation 158
8.4 Agents of Standardisation 163
8.4.1 Language Theoreticians 163
8.4.2 The Author, the Patron and the Reader 165

9 Orthography and Language Change 172
9.1 Inevitability of Change 172
9.2 Types of Linguistic Change 176
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>vii</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.3 Transmission</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.3.1 Instruction and Metalinguistic Practices</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.3.2 Networks and Communities</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.4 Diffusion</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.4.1 Regional Diffusion</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.4.2 Social and Genre Diffusion</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Conclusion</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.1 Looking Ahead</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Bibliography* 198

*Index* 213
Figures

2.1 Steatite seal, from the Indus Valley (Source: DI DEA /G. NIMATALLAH/Contributor/Getty Images)  
2.2 Charlemagne’s Testament, 811, from Vita Karoli Magni (Österreichische Nationalbibliothek) Cod. 529 (Source: ZU_09/Contributor/Getty Images)  
2.3 Antique illustration of a touch-typing typewriter (Source: Nastasic/Contributor/Getty Images)  
3.1 Papyrus fragment of a letter, Coptic, c. 600 AD (Source: Heritage Images/Contributor/Getty Images)  
3.2 Grape watermarks, c. 1633–4. Bodleian Library, Oxford, Rawlinson Poetry MS 31, ff. 8 and 11  
3.3 Book of Genesis, Chap. 1. Comparative passage from the Holy Bible in blackletter (1611) and roman (1609–10)  
4.1 Example of Egyptian hieroglyphs in the context of a pictorial representation (Source: benoitb/Contributor/Getty Images)  
4.2 Hierarchical graphemic system (after Berg et al., 2016: 351)  
4.3 Stroke order for ‘you’ (after Berkenbusch, 1997: 6)  
4.4 [+/- empty] and [+/- vertical] features (from Bredel, 2005)  
5.1 Position of diacritics to write Sanskrit vowels (from Rogers, 2005: 12)  
5.2 Non-ligatured and ligatured <fi> and <fl> (from Rogers, 2005: 12)  
5.3 Paris, BnF, lat. 10848, fol. 5 v (Severus, 2nd quarter of the ninth century; from Tesnière, 2020: 625)  
6.1 Portrait of Jacob Grimm (Source: ZU_09/Contributor/Getty Images)  
6.2 A map of early modern Europe in the eighteenth century (Source: www.loc.gov/item/98687161, Contributor: Frederico de Wit)  
7.1 Ancient Chinese calligraphy rubbings, with more than a thousand years of history (Source: hudiemm/Contributor/Getty Images)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List of Figures</th>
<th>ix</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>Major undeciphered scripts (from Robinson, 2009: 54)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>The so-called Mayan ‘alphabet’ decoded (from Robinson, 2009: 59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>Percentage of orthographic forms per year coming into widespread use (from Basu, 2016: 194)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>Percentage of orthographic forms undergoing a rapid decline in usage per year (from Basu, 2016: 194)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>