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Pragmatics for scholars and students

Betty J. Birner. 2013. *Introduction to Pragmatics*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell

Introduction to Pragmatics, by Betty J. Birner, meets all the requirements of a university textbook dedicated to this branch of linguistics, not only in terms of its content but also its structure and style.

The book addresses the main areas of concern of the field of pragmatics by devoting either a full chapter to them (“Gricean Implicature”, “Later Approaches to Implicature”, “Presupposition”, “Speech Acts”, and “Inferential Relations”) or at least a section of a chapter (for example, “Deixis” and “Anaphora” in the chapter “Reference”; “Face and Politeness” in the chapter “Speech Acts”). The author successfully combines “classical” with more innovative approaches and tackles topics that are not frequently found in textbooks of this kind. I refer specifically to the chapter entitled “Information Structure”, an area of pragmatics that even Stephen Levinson opted to omit in the first comprehensive textbook in the field (Levinson 1983). Birner, however, deals with the subject in a thought-provoking fashion, outlining some of the main structures with which utterances are marked at the sentence level in English, enabling the reader to appreciate the vastness and complexity of this topic. This particular chapter also opens up interesting avenues of research involving comparisons with other languages, typologically close or distant.

In the first chapter, “Defining Pragmatics”, but in other chapters too, including “Dynamic Semantics and the Representation of Discourse”, the book explores the challenging questions at the boundary between semantics and pragmatics. And, less explicitly, it also explores relationships at the interface between pragmatics and grammar. The author raises these questions in the chapter I discussed above, “Information Structure”, as well as in the chapter entitled “Reference”, where she tackles the subjects of deixis, anaphora, and the distinction between definite and indefinite noun phrases.

The manner in which the author presents these subjects is, as said, especially adequate for a textbook. Particular mention should be made of the extraordinary clarity of exposition that characterizes Birner’s prose. At times, the reader has the impression of sitting in one of her lectures, in a perfectly organised presentation entirely appropriate for teaching. Students assigned this textbook will unquestionably be grateful for this, especially those who do not have English as their first language.

A further feature that makes this book particularly suitable for students, and one that cannot always be taken for granted in university textbooks, is the richness and generosity of the author's examples (all drawn from authentic sources). The numerous fragments of discourse are always of sufficient length to provide adequate context for interpretation.

There are two final features I would like to stress that ensure that *Introduction to Pragmatics* is a particularly good textbook. First, the Summary sections placed at the end of each chapter, combined with the insightful introductory comments, give the reader a very useful overview of the ideas discussed in each. And, second, the exercises (which range in number between six and fifteen) included with each chapter help the readers (and especially students) to further their understanding of the topic, apply the ideas raised to other areas, and to explore additional perspectives on the ideas discussed without the author having to resort to footnotes. For example, Birner introduces the concept of left- and right-dislocation in the exercises included in the chapter devoted to "Information Structure".

In any textbook, it is almost inevitable that some aspects could have been dealt with in greater depth or from a different angle: the author has made her choices, and they will not always coincide with ours. For example, given its importance among pragmatic phenomena, I would have liked to have seen a whole chapter dedicated to deixis. And the same might be said of politeness.

These imbalances between the subjects addressed might have been partially offset if, at the end of each chapter, a selection of basic references had been offered ("Further readings" or "To learn more"). This would have helped the interested readers broaden their knowledge.

In short, Birner's textbook is a very useful, interesting, up-to-date, and in some aspects innovative contribution for those studying pragmatics or taking their first steps in research in the field.

Neus NOGUÉ-SERRANO

Research interests: Deixis, especially person deixis and text deixis. Linguistic consultancy in Catalan (oral and written texts) and editing and revising criteria. Prescriptive syntax.

Neus Nogué-Serrano: Review on *Introduction to Pragmatics*. 2013. In
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A Comprehensive Introduction to Conversation Analysis

Anthony J. Liddicoat. 2011. *An Introduction to Conversation Analysis (2nd ed.)*. London/New York: Continuum.

The monograph *An Introduction to Conversation Analysis (2nd ed.)* by Anthony J. Liddicoat is designed to provide an overview of Conversation Analysis (CA). CA, originating in the ethnomethodological tradition in sociology (Garfinkel, Goffman), is one of the key methodological approaches to the study of interaction. Rather than studying language as a decontextualized object, it explores how language is used in social action by people to achieve certain aims.

This revised and updated edition includes 13 chapters. Chapter 1 serves as an introduction, in which the origins and the core assumptions of CA as a research approach are outlined. The main methodological considerations of CA are discussed in this chapter as well. Chapters 2 to 4 take up the issues of methodology in more depth. These three chapters examine some of the issues that relate to the process of doing CA, covering three main areas in the process respectively: data collection, transcription and analysis. In Chapter 2, the author starts with discussing the nature of naturalistic data for studying interaction in CA, and then briefly introduces the ways of recording data and technical issues in recording, before he finishes this chapter with the issues concerning the ethics in data collecting. Chapter 3 follows with an extensive introduction to the transcribing conventions of CA. It is rightly pointed out that transcripts are not neutral but rather subjective representations of talk. In addition to the well-adopted transcription system in CA developed by Jefferson (1985, 2004), Liddicoat also describes transcription systems adopted by scholars such as Atkinson (1984) and Goodwin (1981, 1984) for representing non-verbal elements of talk (e.g., eye gaze, nods, and hand and body movements), as well as issues of translation data. Chapter 4 deals with how conversational data are analyzed in CA. It provides an overview of the specimen perspective adopted by CA in analyzing data and documents the process of data analysis. In addition, the chapter discusses how theory can be incorporated into a CA account.

The five subsequent chapters, mainly following the works by Sacks, Schegloff, Jefferson and other conversation analysts, examine the 'basic machinery of talk': the sets of procedures which participants follow and employ in order to communicate effectively in interaction. This 'machinery of talk' covers three broad areas of conversational organization: the first is how turns at talk are structured and managed by participants (Chapters 5 and 6); the second is

the ways in which turns at talk are organized into conversation as sequences and how sequences can be expanded (Chapters 7 and 8); the third is the repair system which deals with breakdowns in conversation (Chapter 9).

To be specific, Chapter 5 starts with the turn-taking mechanism, which is locally organized and interactionally managed. The discussion of the turn constructional units (TCUs) is supplemented with the notion of completeness (possible and actual). TCUs, transition relevance places (TRPs) and turn allocation component are described in connection with the rules linking turn construction and turn allocation and in connection with those features of turn-taking in conversation and some mechanisms participants employ to repair turn-taking errors and violations in conversation. The chapter then finishes with an introduction of multi-TCU turns and multi-turn TCUs. Chapter 6 extends the discussion to the role and management of gaps and overlaps in turn-taking, starting with the notion of the transition space and the ways it can be modified by participants for interactional purposes. The manipulation of the transition place is likely to result in the occurrence of gaps and overlaps. While an increased transition space may lead to a silence in the talk, reduced transition space leads to latching and overlap. The interactional significances of gaps and overlaps are further discussed in this chapter, as well as how overlaps are managed by participants in interaction.

Chapter 7 introduces the notions of adjacency pairs and preference organization, which are crucial for understanding conversation as a rule-governed activity. The concept of sequence organization is based on the notion of social action. Speakers cluster turns together in order to develop a course of action (cf. the speech act theory). Minimal sequences, consisting of first part and second pair parts (FPPs and SPPs) as well as types of SPPs are outlined. The organization of sequences is analyzed in terms of preferred and dispreferred actions. The effect of preference organization on turn shape is observed. Particular actions, such as invitations and assessments are discussed, as are the dispreferred first pair parts such as criticism of co-participants. Chapter 8 considers the ways in which sequences can be expanded. Relative to the position of the expansion with respect to FPPs and SPPs, three types of expansion sequences are distinguished: pre-expansion (prior to the articulation of the base FPP), insert expansion (between the base FPP and the base SPP) and post-expansion (following the base SPP). Forms of the three types of expansions and their interactional purposes are elaborated in this chapter as well.

Chapter 9 provides a detailed overview of various types and sequential positions of repair, based on a model proposed by Schegloff et al. (1977): self-initiated self-repair, self-initiated

other repair, other-initiated self-repair, and other-initiated other repair. Liddicoat also mentions repair in a more complex way, considering gaze in conversation. The book offers ample examples of various repair initiators and thorough discussions on the realizations of repair in relation to sequential position. The issue of preference in repair is also discussed: self-repair is preferred whilst other-repair is typically mitigated.

Following the discussion of the three sets of the procedure, the book turns to investigate three areas of conversational difficulty: opening a conversation, closing a conversation and telling a story (Chapter 10 through Chapter 12). Chapter 10 concerns how the opening of a conversation is achieved. The sequential organization and the interactional achievement of conversational openings are discussed. Although openings in face-to-face interaction are briefly analyzed in the end of the chapter, discussions in this chapter are almost exclusively based on openings of telephone conversations. This might be a weak point for this book as it considers conversation in general. Chapter 11 explores how participants negotiate to end conversations. The chapter starts with discussions on terminal sequences and pre-closing sequences which are designed to verify if all relevant mentionables have been uttered. It continues to elaborate various closing implicative environments, i.e., sets of actions after which closing may be a relevant next activity. However, after the closing implicative environments, closure is a common but not an inevitable activity. Not all closing implicative environments move to closing and not all closings succeed in bringing a closing to completion. Moving out of closing is then illustrated in relation to locations for moving out and typical sequences found in moving out. Chapter 12 investigates storytelling in conversation. Noting that the basic organization of conversation produces an interactional problem for the completion of some actions in a single TCU such as telling stories and jokes, the author describes how telling of stories is achieved collaboratively by interlocutors. Conversational practices for introducing stories into interaction are elaborated. It is shown how the legitimacy of a story for a current conversation is established and how stories are constructed. Interesting interactional work also occurs in second stories and in stories of shared experience.

In the last chapter (Chapter 13), the author introduces applying methods and ideas from conversation analysis in three contexts: institutional talk, computer-mediated interactions, and second language acquisition. The chapter shows how institutional settings modify everyday interaction in terms of turn-taking, turn-allocation, and the structures of instructional practices. The chapter also gives some indications of how CA has been used to understand computer-mediated interactions and how CA can be employed in second language acquisition which allows the language learners to be investigated as participants in

interaction. All these three contexts are fascinating areas but yet under-researched to some extent.

Overall, Liddicoat's book provides a thorough and systematic overview of CA. The chapters introduce every aspect of conversation analysis in a logical and step-by-step examination, and how it can be applied in the real world. Despite the necessarily technical vocabulary, it is highly accessible. Each chapter in this revised and expanded edition has a section of Exercises (except for Chapter 1) and a section of Further Reading. In addition, the volume has an accompanying Companion Website, including materials for students, lecturers and practitioners. Thus the book is useful for self-study as well as for the classroom. I would highly recommend it to beginners of conversation analysis, at undergraduate or master level, and their instructors as to anyone in pragmatics, sociolinguistics, sociology and discourse analysis interested in the analysis of conversational data.

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Wei REN

Research Interests: Applied Linguistics: L2 pragmatics; (im)politeness theories; cognitive processes in SLA

Wei Ren: Review on *An Introduction to Conversation Analysis (2nd ed.)*. 2011. In
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An onomasiological approach to linguistic approximators in Romance languages

Wiltrud Mihatsch. 2010. „Wird man von hustensaft wie so ne art bekiff?“

Approximationsmarker in romanischen Sprachen. Frankfurt am Main: Vittorio Klostermann.

The main goal of Wiltrud Mihatsch's book (briefly stated in the introduction) is a systematic and comparative synchronic as well as diachronic analysis of the semantics, pragmatics and syntax of linguistic *approximation markers* in French, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. *Approximation* is understood as the use of an expression for an entity to which it usually does not apply. In this sense, linguistic *approximators* modify the semantics of a proposition, such as the English *kind of* in (1), which signals that the mastodon is somehow similar to an elephant, but it is not actually an elephant.

(1) *A mastodon is kind of an elephant.* (cf. Mihatsch 2010: 176)

The analysis is based on corpus data of mainly modern spoken language that are complemented by corpus data of written language and of older language stages. As will be shown in the following paragraphs, the appeal of this book goes far beyond its self-evident interest for Romance linguistics, given that its theoretical and empirical results might, in principle, constitute an interesting starting point for further (typological) research in the field.

In chapter 1, the author defines the category of *linguistic approximation marker* or *approximator* and its different subtypes, especially the subcategories *rounder* (e.g. English *around, about*) and *adaptors* (e.g. English *sort of, kind of*), primarily by critically discussing the relevant literature and distinguishing the notion from related phenomena, such as *pragmatic weakening*. By the end of the chapter the reader has a full understanding of the notional and terminological complexity of the field. While all relevant categories are clearly defined and well exemplified in their respective subsections, the definition of *approximator* itself might, however, have deserved a more prominent place in the chapter than just at the beginning of section 1.3 (cf. Mihatsch 2010: 23), where it risks going unnoticed. At the end of the chapter, a brief summary of those notions that play a key role in the following chapters might have been very helpful to the reader and should be considered for future editions of the book.

Chapter 2 presents the data sources (i.e. the text corpora) in more detail and clearly states the object of the analysis, its necessity and the criteria used for the interpretation of the data.

Citing Hopper, the author clarifies that “structure can only be seen as emergent if forms are examined in their naturally occurring contexts” (Hopper 1998: 151, cf. Mihatsch 2010: 59). This is the reason for her looking at corpus data of different language stages. The author convincingly shows the importance of analyzing natural data not only with respect to recurrent constructions, but also – and especially – with respect to the polysemy and the co(n)text of the constructions under inspection. The criteria she uses to determine the (degree of) approximation function of certain constructions therefore are most naturally the following: (i) semantic information from the cotext, (ii) metadiscursive comments in the context, (iii) peculiar syntactic uses of the analyzed constructions, as well as (iv) speech pauses, interruptions and co-occurrence with other approximation markers. If none of these criteria is sufficient on its own, their combination is rightly taken as a strong argument for the approximation function of a given construction. The author concludes that the exact stage of pragmaticalization or grammaticalization of a construction can only be determined by a comparative approach. The criteria and goals stated in this chapter are consistently used and pursued throughout the rest of the book.

Chapter 3 is one of the strongest parts of the book, as it provides insight into the typological relevance of Wiltrud Mihatsch’s work: The author commits herself to an onomasiological perspective – an approach that is, to my understanding, quite original and innovative in the studied field. This perspective most naturally allows for a parallel analysis and comparison of formally quite heterogeneous approximators, such as approximation suffixes and adverbs. Against this background, the author individuates seven types of cognitively grounded approximation techniques that manifest themselves in different linguistic approximation strategies. While the author herself comes up with a considerable number of non-Romance examples (e.g. from German, Dutch and English), these types of approximation techniques constitute in themselves an interesting starting point for further and even more typologically oriented research in the area.

Chapters 4, 5 and 6 contain, in turn, an in-depth synchronic and diachronic semasiological analysis of a series of formally diverging linguistic approximation strategies in Romance languages. These case studies corroborate the idea presented in chapter 3: Whereas formally different types of approximators may emerge from formally different sources, such as taxonomic nouns (e.g. French *un(e) espèce de / genre* ‘sort of’, cf. chapter 4), comparison markers (e.g. Spanish *como*, Italian *come* and French *comme* ‘like’, cf. chapter 5), and spatial prepositions (French *autour de / dans les* ‘about’), the underlying cognitively-founded techniques are always the same. Language-specific differences within Romance languages are argued to be (partly) due to diverging language contact situations and normalization

policies. It is also in these chapters that the contribution of the book to general pragmaticalization and grammaticalization research is most prominently perceptible: The fine-grained analyses of the linguistic approximation strategies under inspection render visible the stages and principles of language change that are well-known from other exhaustively studied pragmaticalization and grammaticalization processes. To give just one example: All studied phenomena undergo *deategorialization*, i.e. the gradual loss of the original (in our cases lexical as well as non-lexical) part of speech membership and the acquisition of a novel (non-lexical) part of speech. Seen this way, apart from pragmaticalization and grammaticalization researchers, the respective data analyses are also interesting for morphologists focusing on word-formation (especially conversion). However, as is generally the case with every detailed qualitative empirical study that openly gives insight into the discussed data, the reader might not agree with the author's interpretation of every single piece of data. The emergent approximation function of Italian *una forma di* 'sort of / a form of', for instance, is not always unambiguously proven, as shown in the following.

(2) *Io vedo il cinema come **una forma d'arte***

I see the cinema as a form of art

'I conceive of the cinema as a form of art'

(Mihatsch 2010: 140)

(3) *Non ho mai pensato alle canzoni come **una forma di** confessione,*

Not have (1st. per. sg.) ever thought at the songs as a form of confession

'I have never thought of the songs as a form of confession'

Piuttosto assomigliano a sogni.

Rather resemble (3rd. ps. pl.) to dreams.

'they rather resemble dreams'

(Mihatsch 2010: 149)

The Italian *una forma di* in (2) is not characterized as having an approximation function, but the author rightly interprets it in its original taxonomic function (cf. Mihatsch 2010: 138-140). The author herself does not explicitly discuss the cotext in this case, but she could have supported her interpretation by adding that it is triggered by the Italian expression *vedere x come y* ‘to conceive of x as y, to see / perceive x as y’, which is a linguistic instrument to actually categorize x as y. If a speaker classifies x as y, the only reasonable (or at least most natural) interpretation of *una forma di* in *vedere x come una forma di y* is the literal one, i.e. that y is actually identified as one equal form of x among others and therefore a full member of category x. In (3), in contrast, the author explicitly attributes an approximation value to *una forma di*, without, however, going into the details of her choice. In view of the cotext, which in this case contains the Italian expression *pensare a x come y* ‘to think of x as y’ (again a linguistic instrument to actually classify x as y), one might wonder what the difference between (2) and (3) actually is. Of course, the cotext in (3) is negative (cf. Italian *non +maì*), clarifying that the songs the speaker talks about cannot be characterized as confessions. Still, the non-attribution of the songs to this category is a clear one; there is no ambiguity of classification and therefore no approximation whatsoever. The only approximation technique that can be singled out in (2) is the approximative similarity-based attribution of the songs to the category of dreams that is linguistically expressed by Italian *piuttosto* ‘rather’ and *assomigliano* ‘they resemble’. This is far from being a critique of the general line of argumentation and the more than plausible data discussion in the book, but only underlines the importance of the role of the context pointed out by Wiltrud Mihatsch herself. Still, for future editions of the book, the author as well as researchers applying Mihatsch’s approach to other languages might want to take these remarks seriously and help the reader apprehend the intended meaning by providing even larger pieces of cotext or more explicit explanations in cases such as (3).

All in all, this book is nevertheless and foremost an empirically extremely well-founded overview of the most important Romance techniques of linguistic approximation, which are, in addition, carefully defined and distinguished from related phenomena. As its onomasiological and comparative perspective also provides an in-depth insight into cross-linguistic patterns of approximation techniques, the book is also an important contribution to general typological research on approximation markers. Moreover, its synchronic as well as diachronic perspective allows for a fine-grained analysis of language-specific developments in single Romance languages. Last but not least, the thorough diachronic analysis of the above-mentioned case studies represents an indispensable contribution to pragmaticalization and grammaticalization research. In view of the undeniable general interest of this book, it is definitely a pity that the targeted public seems to be restricted to

German-speaking Romance philologists: The book is written in German and the Romance examples are neither accompanied by translations nor by word-by-word glosses – even language tags are missing. This revision would certainly make future editions of the book more reader-friendly and thus ultimately more easily accessible to a larger public.

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Daniela MARZO

Daniela Marzo: Review for „*Wird man von hustensaft wie so ne art bekifft?*“
Approximationsmarker in romanischen Sprachen. 2010. In PRAGMATICS.REVIEWS

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A framework for the study of ideology in written language: How to lower ideology's immunity to experience and observation

Jef Verschueren. 2012. *Ideology in Language Use: Pragmatic Guidelines for Empirical Research*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Ideology is usually defined as “blindness to the fact that our concepts are mediated through their relations to other concepts” (Hawkes 2003: 99) or as “a particular perspective [...] to maintain and perpetuate the values of dominant groups” (Amouzadeh 2008: 58). Nevertheless, a serious problem confronting any discussion of the nature of ideology is the scarcity of guidelines about how to research ideology.

To fill this gap, Jef Verschueren's *Ideology in Language Use: Pragmatic Guidelines for Empirical Research* takes ideology research' as seriously as possible. More importantly, the author's use of the term 'ideology' bears on much more mundane and everyday processes that the grand political strands of thought it is usually associated with (such as liberalism, conservatism . . .)” (pp. 3-4).

Verschueren's argument is that its 'power' and its 'changeability' turn ideology into a necessary object of systematic scrutiny in the social sciences. The purpose of the volume is to provide a 'research tool' for the investigation of discursively generated meaning. For, besides the excerpts the author draws on in his analyses, there is a rather extensive appendix (circa 150 pages) which is sufficiently rich to allow further practice of all angles of approach reviewed throughout the book. The main purpose of the volume, as explicitly mentioned in the introduction, is to reflect on methodological requirements for empirical ideology research and to offer procedures for engaging with ideology in practice.

Chapter one starts with the assumption that ideology is no longer an academic discipline, but rather an object of investigation. Accordingly, Verschueren presents a definition of ideology in the form of the following theses:

Thesis 1: We can define as ideological any basic pattern of meaning or frame of interpretation bearing on or involved in (an) aspect(s) of social 'reality' (in particular in the realm of social relations in the public sphere), felt to be commonsensical, and often functioning in a normative way. (p. 10)

Thesis 2: Ideology, because of its normative and common-sense nature, maybe highly immune to experience and observation. (p. 14)

Thesis 3: (One of) the most invisible manifestation(s) of ideology is LANGUAGE USE or DISCOURSE, which may reflect, construct, and/or maintain ideological patterns. (p. 17)

Thesis 4: Discursively reflected, constructed, and/or supported ideological meanings may serve the purposes of framing, validating, explaining, or legitimating attitudes, states of affairs, and actions in the domains to which they are applicable. (p. 19)

As discussed by Verschueren, the enumeration *industry, trade, colonization of the world* under the general label *works of peace* is likely to make most of us frown today. Even so, the early twentieth-century perspective was sufficiently different. Having analyzed a passage from a famous history textbook (Lavissee 1902), he provides us with the following conclusion, which is not unconvincing:

None of the information [...] seems capable of undermining the categorization of colonial activity as peaceful. The reason is simply that colonial activity *was categorized as peaceful*, as a result of hegemonic legitimations in terms of good intentions which turned forms of violence not only into a right but even into a duty. (pp. 14-15, emphasis in the original)

Consequently, Verschueren argues, the peacefulness of colonization was part of people's common sense.

Chapter two is the author's attempt at introducing some pragmatics-based rules for engaging with language use and ideology. As Verschueren claims, these rules are related to the formation of research questions and the collection of data. One of the most important tasks the author undertakes is aimed at conveying the idea that intuitions have to be shaped into researchable questions. Of paramount importance in any ideology-oriented investigation, the author argues, are the following two 'rules of engagement':

Rule 1: Formulate researchable questions, i.e., questions to which answers can be given, supported with empirical evidence and susceptible to counter screening. (p. 22)

Rule 2: Before an aspect of meaning can be seen as an ingredient ideology, it should emerge coherently from the data, both in terms of conceptual connectedness with other aspects of meaning and of patterns of recurrence or of absence. (p. 23)

As the author recommends, however, rule 2 "should be read literally" (p. 25):

Coherence [...] refers to *systematically observable conceptual connections between aspects of meaning* [...] as well as to *systematic patterns of recurrence* [...] or of absence . . . (p. 25, emphasis in the original)

In order to establish such coherent emergence of aspects of meaning, Verschueren argues, the corpus under investigation must meet certain standards. To put it differently, rule 2 has the following sub-rules:

Rule 2.1: Types of data must be varied horizontally (genre differences) and vertically (structural levels of analysis). (p. 26)

Rule 2.2: An appropriate amount of data is required. (p. 28)

Rule 2.3: Whatever is found throughout a wide corpus should also be recoverable in (at least a number of) individual instances of discourse. (p. 28)

Rule 2.4: The quality of the data must be carefully evaluated in view of the precise research goal. (p. 29)

The rest of the chapter is devoted to introducing the sources/texts the author will systematically refer to throughout chapter 3. Of the various sources introduced, one source, namely Lavisse (1902), is in French and all the others, such as McCarthy (1908) and Ransome (1910), are in English:

It was clear from the beginning that if we were aiming for representations of colonization beyond a strictly French point of view, at least one point of comparison would have to be taken. Britain was an obvious choice, as it was definitely the most successful of the European colonial powers at the time, and because traditional British-French rivalry [...] could be expected to produce differences of perspective . . . (p. 31)

Accordingly, all colonization-related passages from Lavisse (1902) are selected and the Indian Mutiny of 1857 is chosen as the point of comparison. The choice of this incident is a wise one in that the Indian Mutiny of 1857 is an appropriate case to look at from the point of view of the tension legitimizations and the violence involved.

In chapter 3, the author presents general guidelines and practical procedures to be followed in the actual process of investigation. These guidelines are interspersed with a number of caveats. In point of fact, what Verschueren hopes to provide is “*a package of methods grounded in a clear methodological perspective inspired by a general theory of linguistic pragmatics, viewed as the interdisciplinary science of language use*” (p. 51, emphasis in the

original). In this respect, Verschueren views interpretation as an integral part of the research process and his recipe-like admonitions not just as guidelines and procedures but “as ingredients and building blocks of an overall act of interpretation” (p. 51). The four guidelines the author puts forward in chapter 3 are as follows:

1. Get to know your data thoroughly. (p. 54)
2. Get to know the context of your data. (p. 56)
3. The core task consists in tracing the dynamics of meaning generation in relation to issues pertaining to social structures, processes, and relations. (p. 117)
4. For an overall interpretation, ask yourself whether the assembled observations can be seen to represent an identifiable pattern of meaning in relation to issues pertaining to social structures, processes, and relations. (p. 191)

Apart from the last guideline, the other three guidelines are explained in view of a set of procedures. Guideline number 2, for example, is discussed with respect to the following three procedures:

2. 1. Investigate the wider (social, historical, geographical, etc.) context, to the extent that it is accessible. (p. 63)
2. 2. Investigate the immediate context of situation that presents itself, i.e., the way in which the discourse carves out lines of vision into its own physical, social, mental world. (p. 82)
2. 3. Investigate the linguistic context. (p. 106)

It is also worthwhile to note that some roots of the theory of pragmatics that underlies Verschueren’s approach in chapter 3 can also be found in an earlier publication under the term Linguistic Adaptation Theory (Verschueren 1999). The starting point in this approach is that using language is essentially an activity that generates meaning and that “using language must consist of the continuous making of linguistic choices, consciously or unconsciously” (Verschueren 1999: 56). In the present volume, these arguments have been further developed to lower ideology’s immunity to experience and observation.

The main conclusion from the pragmatic discussions provided in the volume under review is that “details of a story matter less than the way in which it is told and the overall message it carries” (p. 195). Therefore, Verschueren’s approach enables readers to identify ideological overtones in the most systematic way possible. Further to this, Verschueren’s approach

enables researchers to avoid the grave error of viewing the systems or phenomena to be compared as stable.

While I praise the author for providing us with such an amazing volume, I have, however, one reservation for its future editions. As Verschueren states, the target audience of the book “includes *students* in all fields of inquiry to which the societal construction of frames of reference or ways of viewing actions and events, as mediated through discourse, is relevant” (p. xii, emphasis is mine). Yet, the book has been printed on ‘glossy’ pages. This has increased the price and can dissuade some potential readers from purchasing the book. If that happens, it can be seen to exist in an opposition to the principle of knowledge justice that most academics share.

All in all, the leading role Jef Verschueren has played in furthering the discipline known as ‘pragmatics’ is beyond question (see Meeuwis and Östman 2012). *Ideology in Language Use: Pragmatic Guidelines for Empirical Research* is another successful endeavor made by Verschueren to offer guidelines and procedures for scientific research. The volume is a very useful tool not only for senior undergraduate and graduate students of language but also for anthropologists, political scientists and even historians. For, Verschueren does not provide readers with a full-scale analysis. Rather, he defines some key concepts and illustrates some key issues for analytical attention, which can personally be pursued by readers in the volume’s comprehensive 150-page appendix. This approach allows readers to focus only on the issues that they deem more relevant to their own knowledge and expertise. No doubt, this book is a welcome addition to the field and those who ignore it will do so at their own peril.

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Discourse analysis of politeness: from the perspective of contrastive and intercultural pragmatics

Ronald Geluykens. 2011. *Politeness in Institutional Discourse: Face-Threatening Acts in Native and Nonnative English Business Letters*. München: Lincom.

Politeness theory and face analysis have long enjoyed a privileged position on the forefront of pragmatics research. Politeness theory and related areas, such as discourse and conversation analysis and studies of interethnic communication, have primarily drawn on observations from empirical studies of spoken language and have mostly focused on face-to-face interaction, and where politeness has been studied in professional settings the focus has mainly focused on oral interaction (Pilegaard, 1997). The thought-provoking book being reviewed is a very timely resource for those interested in analyzing institutional discourse, and business letters in particular, and last but not least of interest to everyone involved in cross-cultural and interlanguage pragmatics.

This ground-breaking book is the 20th of the LINCOS studies in Pragmatics (totally 23 monographs in the series until now). Based on a substantial corpus of 600 (200*3) native English (NE), interlanguage (Dutch-English) (DE) and native Dutch (ND) business letters, this monograph investigates a variety of face-threatening acts (FTAs) in authentic institutional discourse. This book comprises six chapters and two appendixes, mainly covering 9 FTA types, which deserve the attention of anyone who is interested in pragmatics, especially politeness research.

Chapter 1 serves as the theoretical framework: institutional discourse analysis, politeness research and cross-cultural pragmatics. Based on these, Geluykens foregrounds four dimensions: a systematic analysis of politeness phenomena in business letters; an extensive quantitative study of 600 business letters; thorough research of varied degrees of face-threatening acts; a comprehensive consideration of both the sentential level and cross-clausal level of the database. Aiming to develop a corpus in which every major clause is coded in terms of structural as well as functional information, non-FTAs and FTAs are separated, the latter are then clarified into nine types, which are subject of chapter 2-5 which correspond naturally to indirectness.

The FTA types analyzed in Chapter 2 and Chapter 3 mainly threaten negative face. Chapter 2 is concerned with “requests”, the most frequent FTA type in the data. During the analysis,

sections 2.2-2.4 are on the sentential level, while sections 2.5-2.7 treat the interclausal one. On the sentential level, performative expressions and imperatives are syntactic marking of directness. Interrogatives, depersonalizing constructions, modal auxiliaries, combination of modals and performatives are syntactic marking of indirectness. ND writers do not often attempt to lower the degree of face threat involved, and tend to be relatively direct. On the interclausal level, Geluykens examines requests from the perspective of supportive move and grounders are fairly frequent for requests. After explaining the different frequencies of grounders used in three data sets and the different relative sequencing of grounder and request, Geluykens examines three formal types of grounder encountered in the database: combinations of two independent sentences (2.6.2), combinations of two coordinate clauses (2.6.3), and combinations of a main clause and a subordinate clause (2.6.4). Apart from these, conditional clause, factual precondition, apologies and compliments could be considered as the mitigating moves; explicit threats and milder warnings are by far the most frequent aggravating supportive moves with requests.

In Chapter 3, Geluykens emphasizes the role of commissives in FTAs and introduces three different types of commissives: promises (3.2), offers (3.3) and invitations (3.4). For promising, performative verbs are relatively rare used; declarative-active is by far the most frequent sentence type, and it occurs mainly in the first person; modal auxiliaries are quite frequent in both the NE and the DE data; downgraders are almost totally absent. With offering, the performative expressions are equally infrequent. The proportion of imperatives (NE>DE>ND) and the active declaratives (ND>DE>NE) in the three data sets are inversely correlated; the use of modal auxiliaries is quite similar to that in promises, and “can/could”, “may/might” frequently appear. The role of upgrading and downgrading is also the same for promising. Invitations are more direct than the other two commissive FTAs. For one thing, performative expressions are used highly frequently; for another, they are mostly in declarative-active mood.

Geluykens then interprets two FTAs that threaten positive face: warnings and apologies in Chapter 4. After a brief review of the former research of warnings, mainly by Brown and Levinson (1987) as well as Searle (1969), the author proposes a broader, more eclectic view of warnings, by categorizing threat as a subcategory of warnings. Performative expressions are completely absent from warnings. Some representatives such as “advise” “remind” and “inform” appear in the data sets, making the warnings less bald-on-record. With regard to person, the second person is rarely used, and depersonalizing strategies are frequently employed. Turning to modality, modal auxiliaries are in strikingly high frequency, especially “will” and “would”. There are three types of lexical downgrading but upgrading strategies are

unsurprisingly rare. Apart from the above intra-clausal strategies, grounders and conditional clause are particularly frequent with warnings. As for apologies, Geluykens mainly refers to Blum-Kulka et al's (1989) influential study and compares his findings to theirs. Apologies tend to be marked explicitly through some kind of performative expressions such as "apologize", "apologies", "sorry" and "regret". With regard to the mood and voice type, the active declarative clause, often with a first-person subject, is the most frequent type. Modal auxiliaries and lexical downgrading are equally infrequent. In addition, providing reasons and offering (partial) repair are also discussed as two important supportive moves accompanying apologies. Lastly, the author moves to a distinguished idea that apologies "are a form of face-redress rather than face-threat." (p.138).

Geluykens then introduces three "peripheral" kinds of FTA types in Chapter 5, namely thanks, wishes and confirmations. These three FTA types share lots of similarities. They mainly occur in initial or final position in the business letter and are all realized quite directly. The FTA thanking involves frequently used performative expressions; minimal use of depersonalizing strategies, modal auxiliaries, passive voice, downgraders and frequently used upgraders. Similarly, wishing is frequently performed on-record, due to the low level of face threat involved. When turning to the performative expressions, upgraders and intensifiers, there are similar frequencies to the ones used in thanks. However, unlike thanks, wishes occur mostly in the end of the letter. Confirmations are equally low-level FTAs, but differ slightly from wishes and thanks in that they only commit the writer to the truth of a particular proposition, and thus can be labeled as representatives.

Chapter 6 concludes the previous analysis by pointing out current limitations and future perspectives. Based on Gelukens' meticulous analysis, we could note several strengths in this monograph. Firstly, Geluykens keeps a scientific attitude that helps him both to develop the creativeness and to realize the limitations; secondly, although based on a very thorough analysis of over 2,000 FTA examples, the argumentation is lucid and reader-friendly; finally, as the first investigation ever undertaken on this scale, both in terms of corpus size and in terms of the range of FTAs examined, the current study has promising theoretical and practical implications. Theoretically, the study bridges the gap between three fields: politeness research, institutional discourse studies, and cross-cultural pragmatics; practically, the analysis could be helpful in writing business letters. However, there are a few trivial flaws, either grammatically or structurally. For example, the labels "4.3.4, 4.3.4.1, 4.3.4.2, 4.3.4.3, 4.3.4.4, 4.3.5" in the content list on p.iii are not consistent with those in the analysis from p.138 to p.146; on p.152, "Table 2" in the first line of the last paragraph should be "Table 1";

on p.180, in the third line from the bottom of the second paragraph, “a” in “apologies” should be capitalized; on p.182, in the fourth line of the second paragraph, “NE” should be “ND”.

All in all, *Politeness in Institutional Discourse: Face -Threatening Acts in Native and Nonnative English Business Letters* presents valuable research that increases our understanding of discourse analysis of politeness from the perspective of contrastive and intercultural pragmatics. This is an excellent book with refreshing points and logical analysis. I expect this book will stimulate research in more in-depth exploration into politeness phenomena.

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Alternative approaches to face analysis

Francesca Bargiela-Chiappini, Michael Haugh (eds.). 2009. *Face, Communication and Social Interaction*. Sheffield: Equinox.

This book concentrates on three main themes, Face in interaction, Face, identity and self, and Face, norms and society, respectively. Such themes, in themselves, present an alternative way in which face is analyzed as being “constituted in and constitutive of social interaction and its relationship to self, identity and broader sociocultural expectations” (p. 16). It offers a multi-perspective, innovative and insightful view of face in communication and social interaction.

Goffman’s notion of face and facework (1955, 1967) is reexamined, discussed, and even criticized throughout the book. “Face for Goffman was a personal, individual possession” (p. 38), and facework, then, involves different processes by which an actor seeks to prevent threats to face, or to save face when face is threatened (p. 35) in the performance of a certain action. It is pointed out that the problem in Goffman’s conceptualization of face in line with his social psychological account of facework lies in the fact that “face is not an individual phenomenon, but rather a *relational* phenomenon in that face arises in the dialectic interplay between what is individual and what is social” (p. 43) if taken from an alternative approach within the framework of a social constructionist theory of interpersonal communication.

Brown and Levinson’s approach (1987) to face is reexamined and criticized for its obviously Western perspective on interaction and therefore ultimately for ethnocentrism as well as for its overly individualistic account of face needs (positive face and negative face) (p. 2). It is pinpointed that face goes beyond “Brown and Levinson’s individualistic and cognitively oriented conceptualization of face” (p. 33) as the self-image that fails to capture the multi-dimensional nature of face (the individual level, the interactional level, and the sociocultural level, 16) and different face concerns (self-face concern, other-face concern, mutual-face concern, pp. 3 and 228) in social interaction and communication. Therefore, face analysis will be expected to “move beyond some of the dichotomies that have plagued the field to date, such as the ever-popular emic/etic, east/west, individualism/collectivism distinctions, and thereby push the field forward in new directions” (pp. 23-24).

On the basis of reconceptualizations of Goffman’s and Brown and Levinson’s notions of face and facework, it is claimed that “face is fundamentally interactional” (p. 5). This social constructionist position is proposed in an attempt to avoid divergence between the analyst’s interpretation and that of participants, to reconcile etic or cross-culturally applicable

frameworks (second-order) with emic or culture-specific perspectives (first-order) on face, and to bridge the gap between an epistemology grounded in social constructionism and an ontology grounded in interpretivism in the analysis of face as both co-constituted in and constitutive of interaction (pp. 15-16).

In Part I, *Face in interaction*, from chapters 2 to 6, the authors show how face arises in various kinds of social interactions under the assumption that face analysis goes beyond the individual level. Chapter 2 argues for an alternative account of face and facework within the author's own framework of *Face Constituting Theory* (Arundale, 1999, 2006) by challenging Goffman's conceptualizations of face and facework. Thus, it reframes face as emergent, non-summative achievement in interpersonal communication through an insightful, dialectic explanation of coexistence and interdependence of the individual and the social in dynamic interactions (pp. 33-54). Chapter 3 examines how face and facework are manifested in an intercultural service call in Spanish-speaking contexts. The author shows that face and facework emerge as contingent upon interactions attributed to contextual factors and therefore as co-constructed, echoing the preferable analysis of face as co-constituted in and constitutive of interaction (pp. 55-77). Chapter 4 presents an analysis of how face arises in an intercultural business meeting involving Japanese and non-Japanese members of a Japanese firm based in Australia. The analysis favours the idea that face is relational and interactional as proposed in *Face Constituting Theory*, but meanwhile calls for a balance between first-order socio-cultural notions of face and a second-order universal notion of face in research (pp. 78-95). Chapter 5 illustrates how linguistic avoidance is employed as a political face-saving strategy in broadcast interviews. It is intended to inform us that face emerges in interactional dynamics such as in the case of broadcast of political interviews and such political face-saving goes beyond the face demands of individuals to encompass their "political face" (pp. 96-114). The last chapter of this part demonstrates how the notion of face is encoded in interactions among Persian speakers. It concludes that Persian face is collectivist in nature, thus making a striking contrast with Brown and Levinson's individualistic construct of face (pp. 115-133).

In Part II, *Face, identity and self*, five chapters (from chapters 7 to 11) are linked together by focusing on how face is interrelated with identity and self in interpersonal communication, thus shifting to explore how face is constitutive of interaction. Chapter 7 aims to demonstrate that the effective study of face needs to take an action-oriented identity perspective instead of an *a priori* approach to face sensitivity as adopted in face and politeness theory formulated by Brown and Levinson. Therefore, it introduces two recently-developed theories of identity: self-aspect/attribute approaches to identity by Simon (2004) and impression management

and self-presentation by Schlenker and Pontari (2000), with an additional recapitulation of the author's own account of face and identity (Spencer-Oatey 2007). Drawing from research on identity and self in social psychology, Spencer-Oatey makes an in-depth analysis of the composite data (recordings, field notes and interviews) of the Chinese-British business interactions and comments by concluding that in much of the politeness literature so far the face needs of others have been stressed more than the face needs of self so that an identity perspective should be taken in order to move towards redressing that imbalance in research on face (pp. 137-154).

Chapter 8, drawing on insights from self-presentation theory, aims to explore the interrelationship between face and self-presentation by analyzing face idioms occurring in spoken discourse in Turkish. The analysis indicates that evoking face, which is sensitive to a range of attributes of self in self- and other-presentation in interactions, involves how self or other is projected or evaluated in the context of behavioural norms and expectations regarding role relationships and interactional goals (pp. 155-174). Chapter 9 presents a survey data-based analysis of face defined as both *mianzi* and *lian* in Chinese. Its findings reveal that *mianzi*, defined generally as the self-concept such as self-respect, self-esteem, self-love, etc., represents both the social self (that is, prestige, reputation, image, dignity, etc.) and the relational self (that is, goodwill, affection, friendship, etc.), in contrast to *lian* internalized in self which is found to be different in several dimensions in use (pp. 175-191).

Chapter 10, holding that face is a public display of a subset of one's identity and facework is a mechanism for understanding interpersonal communication, explicates the role of face and facework in language production and comprehension through the influence of interpersonal variables such as power and distance as recognized in Brown and Levinson's theory of politeness. (pp. 192-207). The last chapter of Part II investigates the self-oriented and the other-motivated conceptualizations of face derived respectively from Goffman and Levinas. It argues against the former's defining face as a matter of care for the self with others occupying a secondary position in favour of the latter's defining face as a specific human face and as a relation to the social world represented by and in the other. The author thus opens up a new realm for research on face by offering an alternative theory of what is termed *traumatic face*, which suggests that face also extends to a moral or ethical dimension (pp. 208-224).

In Part III, *Face, norms and society*, from chapters 12 to 15, the authors explore face in a broader historical and socio-cultural context. Chapter 12 offers insightful observations on

how facework collision occurs in intercultural communication through an analysis of a Japanese-US social interaction episode, by using two frames, one being conflict face-negotiation theory (Ting-Toomey 1988) and the other being corporate values' cultural grid theory (Ting-Toomey and Oetzel 2001). The analysis shows that intercultural facework collision results from different cultural expectations or norms underlying intercultural social interaction (pp. 227-249). Chapter 13 argues, based on two empirical studies of Korean face, that face and facework differ between individualism-oriented Western societies and collectivism-oriented Eastern societies, It claims that perceptions of self and other are different in a holistic and relativistic society like Korea in the way that one's face, public in nature, is given relative to one's respective position and complementary to each other's relationship, and facework is considered to be global and long-term in a broader social network (250-268). Chapter 14 attempts to seek for a possible principled way to mediate between the emic or first-order notion of face, namely, situated conceptualizations of Face 1 and the etic or second-order notion of face, that is, a universalizing notion of Face 2 by using data from contemporary Greek society. The final chapter of this part illustrates how politeness involves maintaining one's face in Thai society through an analysis of a large number of face idioms widely used in the Thai language. It concludes that the notion of face is very often equated with ego and maintaining one's face is the basic rule to observe in social interaction in the Thai culture (pp. 289-305).

Chapter 16, the last chapter of the collection, contributed by the coeditor Francesca Bargiela-Chiappini, presents some reflections on the concept of face in future studies. Regarding directions for future research, the author calls for reexamining and redefining *culture* as a determinant of face because different ontologies of culture will offer different perspectives that affect our conceptualizations of face in analytic interpretations. By highlighting the emic notion of face, she also points out that an understanding of the "other" rather than the perception of self is more crucial to intercultural communication, thus offering a methodological thinking on the understanding of the "other" face in human interaction (pp. 306-326).

The whole volume in general offers a variety of perspectives on face as well as a multi-disciplinary approach to face analysis on communication and social interaction. The book, needless to say, represents recent achievements in research on face and new trends to develop as well. It will certainly stimulate considerable interest in exploring the notion of face and thereby produce new insights into face and facework that we have to deal with in cultural and intercultural communication. One thing should be pointed out, however, that the data

used in this collection for analysis does not seem to cover a wide range of interactional situations in various socio-cultural settings.

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Prosody in the context of an English language classroom: An interdisciplinary exploration.

Jesús Romero-Trillo (ed.). 2012. *Pragmatics and Prosody in English Language Teaching*. Heidelberg: Springer.

1. INTRODUCTION

“Pragmatics and Prosody in English Language Teaching” is a valuable contribution to the growing movement of integrating prosody into the theory and practice of pragmatics. The collection edited by Jesús Romero-Trillo is an interdisciplinary work, which promotes the idea of prosody being an integral and indispensable part of pragmatics. Through its varied contributions the volume offers an extensive overview of theory, as well as examples of successful integration of prosody and pragmatics into an empirical framework (e.g. Pickering et al. 2012, Riesco Bernier 2012). The collection combines state-of-the-art research on prosody with venerable traditions of pragmatics in a very dynamic and satisfying way. Although it focuses on English language pedagogy to a large extent, it is recommended to those interested in the subject of the pragmatics of prosody in general.

The volume is one out of 16 in Springer’s Educational Linguistics series (edited by Francis M. Holt and Leo van Lier). It contains 12 independent articles organized thematically into three sections, and it includes introductory and concluding remarks from the editor of the volume which serve to integrate the articles into a coherent whole. As each contribution to the volume is quite unique, each will be reviewed separately, while particular attention will be given to their pragmatic aspects.

2. PART I: Theoretical Approaches to the Teaching of Prosody

In Part I of the collection emphasis is put on the theoretical considerations regarding the acquisition of various aspects of L2 prosody, wherein pragmatics should be considered the guiding principle of the process. Pragmatic perspective given to the studies of prosodic issues of rhythm (Deterding) and differentiating sentence types (Xu), as well as to pedagogical issues of L2 prosody acquisition (Piske) and overcoming foreign accent (Lengeris), and finally prosody is redefined as an indispensable aspect of pragmatic competence (Nilsenová and Swerts).

David Deterding's "Issues in the acoustic measurement of rhythm" illustrates the inadequacy of the fundamental division between stress- and syllable-timed languages through an empirical study comparing rhythmic patterns in the Brunei and British varieties of English (p. 18). The author then considers the role rhythm plays in the intelligibility of speech and in (mis)communication in situations where English is used by native and non-native users, especially the context of language learning (p. 21). The study provides a practical improvement to the Pairwise Variability Index (PVI) formula, which is a tool for the acoustic measurement of rhythm (Low et al. 2000), and presents a number of interesting problems for future pragmatically-oriented studies of prosody (p. 21).

In "Prosody and Second Language Teaching: Lessons from L2 Speech Perception and Production Research", Angelos Lengeris turns his attention to the issue of gaining native-like proficiency in pronunciation and prosody (p. 25). Following a broad meta-analysis of literature on the subject he proposes that difficulties in gaining native-like pronunciation for learners without early exposure to L2 are the effect of persistent negative transfer from L1. Challenging the idea of gradual loss of neural plasticity as an insurmountable obstacle (p. 26), Langeris enumerates documented means of overcoming foreign accent from strong motivation (p. 29) to visually-assisted techniques using contour visualization software (p. 33).

In "Factors Affecting the Perception and Production of L2 Prosody: Research Results and Their Implications for the Teaching of Foreign Languages" Thorston Piske offers a systematic analysis of the existing research on the subject of broadly understood "foreign accent." The author presents the role of attitudes towards foreign accents in gaining native-like proficiency (p. 42), and establishes the segmental, suprasegmental, and fluency parameters as major contributors to the perception of foreign accent (p. 45). This is followed by a critical review of research methods on the subject, wherein problems and inconsistencies in the methodology are identified and useful guidelines for future research are drawn (pp. 47-53). The author concludes with some suggestion for future research concerning the development of pragmatic competencies of L2 learners.

"Function vs. Form in Speech Prosody – Lessons from Experimental Research and Potential Implications for Teaching" is an interesting attempt by Yi Xu, to extrapolate the results and implications of research on tone languages to non-tone languages. The article stresses the significance of parallel encoding of many aspects of meaning in the prosodic signal (pp. 66-72), but the pragmatic and pedagogical implications are somewhat unsystematic. The pragmatic aspect could be greatly improved by the inclusion of Speech Act Theory into the

analysis (cf. Searle 1969), and the pedagogical aspect by referring to the analysis of teaching materials for prosody provided by Piske et al. 2012.

“Prosodic Adaptation in Language Learning” by Marie Nilssonová and Marc Swerts provides a very useful insight into prosodic adaptation as a significant aspect of L2 pragmatic competence. The authors show the potential for communication breakdowns in the absence of prosody. The paper furthermore offers judicious observations on the nature of the universal biological foundation (the nature) and the culture-dependent variability (the nurture) of prosody as a phenomenon (pp. 78-84). The authors also propose the use of pitch contour visualization software as a useful tool in the teaching of L2 prosody (p. 90).

3. PART II: Pragmatics, Prosody, and Communication

Part II of the collection focuses on establishing links between the prosodic form and pragmatic function and meaning, and gives an overview of some of the problems involved in the nascent field of L2 prosody acquisition. The issues concerning prosodic expression of emotions are discussed from theoretical (Wharton) and practical (Romero-Trillo and Newell; Szczepek Reed) standpoints. The practical problems of investigating prosody as an aspect of the pragmatic competence are also illustrated (Balog).

“Prosody and Meaning: Theory and Practice” by Tim Wharton proposes a new notion of encoding meaning in communicative contexts based on the Relevance Theory. The author distinguishes between *conceptual encoding* of meaning whereby words encode concepts in the context of a sentence, and procedural encoding, whereby words or other linguistic expressions encode cues to guide listener inferences (p. 109). The author concludes, uniquely among the contributors for this collection, with a bold suggestion that pedagogical concerns regarding L2 prosody will be made redundant by the peak of the globalization of English as “the *last* Lingua Franca” (p. 114).

“Prosody and Feedback in Native and Non-native Speakers of English” by Jesús Romero-Trillo and Jessica Newell delves into the usage and acoustic patterns of back-channeling cues in native and non-native English speakers. Marked quantitative and qualitative differences are duly reported and the authors stress the pragmatic potential of the (mis)application of cues in communicative contexts (p. 129). The study’s external validity, however, could be greatly improved by adding a prosodic meaning perception study with the inclusion of gender as a factor in the analysis of back-channeling practices (cf. Cameron 2007). This would solidify the direct links between function and form of prosody implied by the authors.

In “Early Prosodic Production: Pragmatic and Acoustic Analyses for L2 Language Learners” Heather L. Balog takes a pragmatic approach to the acquisition of prosody in L1 and in L2 by children at the earliest stages of cognitive development. The author provides a thoughtful and balanced critical overview of literature on the subject (pp. 134-141), and identifies the analytical difficulties posed by the methodological inconsistencies of the existing literature (pp. 139-140). She then proposes practical guidelines for future studies, advising theory-driven empirical work, careful analyses and description of adult prosodic pattern, as well as encouraging the use of advanced freeware for the acoustic analyses of prosody (p. 144).

“Prosody in Conversation: Implications for Teaching English Pronunciation” Beatrice Szczepek-Reed puts particular emphasis on the interactional character of prosodic phenomena. She puts forward the idea of prosody playing a subsidiary role to pragmatic demands of any social interaction involving a verbal exchange (p. 148). She gives illustrative examples of the multiplicity of meanings conveyed by prosody in the context of a conversation, giving special attention to the issues of turn-taking (pp. 149-155) and prosodic alignment (pp. 156-159). With respect to language teaching, the author proposes that prosody should be taught implicitly, through teaching social interaction in which the collaborative nature of prosody is best revealed (p. 162).

4. PART III: Pedagogical Implications for English Language Teaching

Part III is the most practically oriented to language pedagogy. It presents two informative examples of how empirical studies of prosody guided by pragmatic considerations can be conducted. One study is concerned with teachers’ prosodic proficiency and pragmatic competence (Riesco-Bernier), the other compares the prosodic cueing of (dis)agreement between native and non-native speakers (Pickering, Hu, and Baker). One example of how theory may usefully inform and guide research is also presented (Gutiérrez Díez).

“Same but Different: The Pragmatic Potential of Native vs. Non-native Teachers’ Intonation in the EFL Classroom” by Silvia Riesco-Bernier is a solid illustration of an empirical study connecting prosodic and pragmatic considerations in the context of EFL research. In it the authors conducted a detailed analysis, first defining pragmatically various aspects of Child-Directed Speech (CDS) in native and non-native teachers of English, and then investigating the prosodic patterns in thus defined fragments of discourse (pp. 180-181). The quantitative and qualitative differences in the prosodic patterns of both groups of teachers are methodically reported, but there is no report of potential differences students’ levels of performance in relation to the performance of the teachers. This matter could provide a very useful and informative perspective on language pedagogy.

Another example of an empirical study involving both prosody and pragmatics is “The Pragmatic Function of Intonation: Cueing Agreement and Disagreement in Spoken English Discourse and Implications for ELT” by Lucy Pickering, Guiling (Gloria) Hu, and Amanda Baker. Their experiment compared native and non-native speakers of English formulating (dis)agreement in interaction, and found intriguing pattern of high tonal variability in the non-native expressions of disagreement (p. 212). This study is exemplary in presenting links between function and form of prosody as well as in the implementation of acoustic measurements to the investigation of the pragmatics of prosody.

“Trouble Spots in the Learning of English Intonation by Spanish Speakers, Tonality and Tonicity” by Francisco Gutiérrez Díez is a practical pedagogical sketch on issues of negative transfer from Spanish L1 to English L2 which hinders the acquisition of English intonation. The main focus is on the negative transfer in tonicity stemming from the learners’ poor understanding of the fine differences in the language-dependent coding of what Halliday (1967) called the new and the given information. The author stresses the need for intonation teaching programs in which this pragmatic function of correct application of tonicity would be at the center (p. 228).

5. CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, the volume “Pragmatics and Prosody in English Language Teaching” is a rich source of information, both theoretical and practical, for anyone interested in the issue of integrating prosody into the study of pragmatics. The volume is an edited collection of articles, which does not make easy reading, and the picture of prosody as a part of pragmatics emerging from it is consequently somewhat fragmented and unsystematic. Several of the empirical or empirically-based studies suffer from slight deficiencies, mainly related to the levels of their external validity. Phoneticians and phonologists investigating prosody will find useful advice and guidance regarding pragmatics, and pragmaticians will find a number of tools, means and methods of investigating prosody. For those interested in pedagogy this volume will provide strong arguments for the systematic introduction of prosody teaching into the English language classroom, as well as a generous list of freely available software to aid the process. This volume is by no means a definitive work, but may be an excellent starting point for the theoretical and empirical investigation of prosody as an aspect of pragmatics both within and outside the context of English Language Teaching.

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