REVIEWS

REVIEW OF YEARBOOK OF CORPUS LINGUISTICS AND PRAGMATICS 2014: NEW EMPIRICAL AND THEORETICAL PARADIGMS. Edited by Jesús Romero-Trillo. Published by Springer International Publishing Switzerland, 2014, pp. 341. ISBN: 978-3-319-06006-4

Despite the fact that pragmatics and corpus linguistics were, for a long time, regarded as «parallel but often mutually exclusive» [Romero-Trillo 2008: 2], in recent years, corpus linguists and pragmaticists have begun to actively explore their common ground.

As is witnessed by the contributions in *Yearbook of Corpus Linguistics and Pragmatics 2014: New Empirical and Theoretical Paradigms*, corpus pragmatics has evolved into a burgeoning field in linguistics, demonstrating how pragmatics and corpus linguistics can profit from and inform each other, how the methodologies key to the two fields can be integrated into corpus-pragmatic research.

The aim of this yearbook is to bring together state-of-the-art research on corpus linguistics and pragmatics, especially the less studied topics and issues. In the following, we briefly characterize the contributions individually.

The book is a substantial volume with 12 chapters and an introduction by the editor, plus three book reviews. Each chapter has a different but connected focus, and they all report original case studies.

Part I «New empirical paradigms in corpus pragmatics» consists of four chapters.

The first chapter «How do empirical methods interact with theoretical pragmatics: The conceptual and procedural contents of the English simple past and its translations into French» addresses the distinction between conceptual and procedural contents from both theoretical and empirical perspectives using the work on parallel corpora, contrastive analysis methodology and offline experimentation with natural language processing application.

The authors maintain that while theoretical pragmatics is rooted in philosophy of language and in linguistics, experimental pragmatics has integrated experimental methodologies to test pragmatic theories.

The aim of this chapter is twofold: 1) To show that an investigation of the conceptual and procedural meanings of verb tenses should be done under the aegis of empirical pragmatics, and 2) argue for the benefits of combining two empirical methods: corpus analysis and linguistic experimentation.

The second chapter «Subject realization in Japanese conversation by native and non-native speakers: exemplifying a new paradigm for learner corpus re-

search» works on the intricacies of non-native speakers (NNS). Learner corpus research is a growing sub-field in corpus linguistics. The chapter discusses MUPDAR[1] in learner corpus study and its advantages over traditional corpus analyses. All examples from real data provided in the chapter are analyzed and accompanied by explicit explanations. Readers will find the explanations clear and straightforward.

In addition to outlining fundamental concepts, the authors take a critical stance with regard to the work in the field and promote critical and reflective thinking among readers.

The chapter wraps up with a section that aims to help readers plan and conduct their own research in NNS.

As with the previous chapter, the third chapter of the book «Jesus vs Christ in Australian English: semantics, secondary interjections and corpus analysis» explores the meanings and uses of two closely-related secondary interjections, *Jesus!* and *Christ!*, in Australian English.

The author demonstrates how interaction with a corpus can be used to develop, refine and test fine-grained semantic hypothesis, how linguistics can come to terms with the fact that people use interjections not only orally but also mentally in their «inner speech».

The study also challenges conventional assumptions about the nature and interface between semantics and pragmatics and calls on linguists to focus less on detecting patterns in the data but more on hypothesis testing.

In the fourth chapter «A corpus-based analysis of metaphorical use of the high frequency noun *Time*: challenges to conceptual metaphor theory», the author challenges the validity of the explanatory role of conceptual metaphor theory in language use. She argues that, first, Lakoffian approach of intuitive metaphor analysis fails to mention many frequently occurring linguistic metaphors of time and, second, the conceptual metaphor theory cannot entirely explain or has not accounted for more dynamic and complicated linguistic features.

Part II: «Current approaches to the pragmatics of culture and society» consists of four articles.

Jacob Mey's first article «Horace, colors and pragmatics» sets out to examine the null-hypothesis and finds no evidence to support it from the corpus cited. Echoing pragmatics, he argues that one cannot discuss the use of language in the abstract. Instead, one should place the study in a wider, societal context, where languaculture plays a key determinant role. This hypothesis is clearly borne out by the examination of various instances of color use.

More generally, the so-called «historical pragmatics» should not merely limit itself to recording some obsolete uses of language. The social context of language use is to be included into a diachronic study of language use and human interaction.

In «Self-conscious emotions in collectivistic and individualistic cultures: A contrastive linguistic perspective», the authors tap into linguistic and culture-

[1] MUPDAR: a two-step regression procedure to determine how and why choices made by non-native speakers differ from those made by native speakers.

bound aspects of the properties of individualism and collectivism through the analysis of emotions of shame and guilt on the English-Polish material.

The linguistic patterns they enter illuminate the cross-linguistic similarities and differences between the relevant dimensions and components with regard to the notions of shame and guilt.

This work breaks new ground in cognitive-based language analysis in its pragmatic setting and succeeds in shedding new light on complex issues pertaining to cultural identities.

The following chapter «Translating freedom between cultures and ideologies: a comparative analysis of the translations of keywords in Galatians» presents a comparative analysis of Bible translations focusing on the key concepts of slavery and freedom.

Using an intercultural corpus of authorized translations in German, Spanish, French and English, Sara Buchanan provides a unique cross-cultural examination of Galatians and of sacred translation.

This work draws from the fields of pragmatics, translation studies and theology to examine the translators' choices and the pragmatic implications of these decisions for readers. The study justifies the use of keywords as a tool to examine translations as well as to demonstrate the value of the study of sacred texts within the field of pragmatics.

The chapter concludes that the choices not only rest in linguistics but are often rooted in various ideological and theological positions. It suggests ways in which the corpora can be large enough to assemble sufficient data for significant analysis.

The final chapter in Part II «How to make people feel good when wishing hell: Golden Dawn and National Front discourse, emotions and argumentation» looks closely at how the extreme right parties in France and Greece present their national discourses. Adopting van Dijk's theory of ideology in discourse and drawing on corpus linguistics methodology, it claims that the two involved parties, albeit having the same far-right political aims, are constructing a different ethos.

Focusing on the metaphors and linguistic symbolisms used to embody these emotions (pride vs contempt), and comparing the two parties' different strategies (defensive resentment vs persecuting hatred), it was found that they share a similar nationalist stance.

Part III «Advances in L2 corpus-based pragmatics research» consists of four chapters.

The first chapter «We went to the restroom or something: general extenders and *stuff* in the speech of Dutch learners of English» makes use of comparable native speaker corpus to enhance the fledging status of learner corpus study on general extenders.

The detailed analysis conducted offers a few tentative explanations for the learners' choices of general extenders, most notably L1 transfer, the exposure to the target language, and restricted repertoire of pragmatic devices.

The analysis confirms previous investigations that learners do not elaborately deploy specific pragmalinguistic devices to foster interpersonal relation in conversation, as they only use adjunctive general extenders less often than their native peers and turn significantly more frequently to disadjunctive general extenders.

In terms of pedagogic implication, the study wishes to inform researchers and educationalists on raising pragmatic awareness of both teachers and learners alike.

In «Oral production of discourse markers by intermediate learners of Spanish: A corpus perspective», the authors report the oral production by 40 learners of Spanish and compare it with usage by 40 native speakers.

By analyzing the non-native use of these devices by learners of Spanish at A2 and B1 levels, this work tries to contribute to the research of intercultural pragmatics by looking at the acquisition of discourse markers in spoken L2 Spanish.

Besides offering teaching guidelines for Spanish, the authors also point out the necessity of the analysis of the usage context of each marker and the acquisition of polyfunctional markers as an integral part of the research under scrutiny.

The next contribution «Hope this helps! An analysis of expressive speech acts in online task-oriented interaction by university students» explores the presence of expressive speech acts in a corpus of e-forum history logs from the online collaborative writing activity of three groups of undergraduate and postgraduate students.

This paper uncovers common features and remarkable differences of the three subcorpora. Results show that expressives play a crucial role as rapport building devices in computer-mediated exchanges despite the task-oriented nature of the interaction. Variables of linguistic proficiency, groups size, age, multiculturality, and methods of assessment may have a bearing on the form and use of expressives in online written interaction in blended learning environments.

This work also suggests that access to large electronic corpora gives pragmatic research a broader, more secure basis, leading to new hypotheses and frameworks.

The final chapter «Interaction and codability: A multi-layered approach to discourse markers in teacher's spoken discourse» combines corpus linguistics, conversation analysis and second language classroom modes analysis.

The author calls for an integrated approach to examine both the micro and macro contexts of discourse markers (DMs) in teacher-led classroom interaction and advocates a multi perspective analytical framework involving the pedagogical layer, the quantitative layer, the micro-analytical layer.

Though the framework focuses on the acquisition of DMs in NNS learners, it emphasizes a context-based model to investigate DMs from a functional perspective in L2 classroom discourse, including the study of DMs in teacher talk.

The Yearbook also includes reviews on *Fluency in Native and Non-Native Speech* (2013), *The Linguistics of Speech* (2013), and *Patterns and Meanings in Discourse: Theory and Practice in Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies* (2009), three books which update the present study of corpus pragmatics.

Corpus linguistics, a long-established method which uses authentic language data, stored in extensive computer corpora, as the basis of linguistic research, has led to significant advances in all areas of the field [Aijmer, Rühlemann 2014: 3].

The present book shows how corpora can play an invaluable role in providing evidence for disciplined qualitative analysis. It attempts to offer as compre-

hensive a picture of current interdisciplinary research as possible, covering a number of languages, addressing issues which have hitherto received little systematic attention.

In its entirety, the book strongly argues the positive feedback between empirical and theoretical approaches to linguistics, and sheds light on many benefits of this marriage for researchers and students of pragmatics.

Taken together, these 12 papers offer a useful overview of current research in the area. The topics are relevant and timely. They illustrate the cross-fertilization between more traditional approaches and newer perspectives. Contributions clearly demonstrate the increasing use of large new hypotheses and corpora in pragmatic research generally, and give some indication of the impact corpus driven approaches are having on the field.

The collaboration between theoretical and empirical pragmatics can provide more insight into the use of language. While empirical pragmatics investigates language use from both descriptive-theoretical and empirical perspectives, theoretical pragmatics studies how linguistic properties interact with contextual factors for utterance interpretation.

Empirical pragmatics draws on theoretical pragmatics and corpus linguistics, adopting experimental methods at the same time. Empirical pragmatics aims at having consistent data for supporting or challenging current pragmatic theories, as well as proposing new models for the interpretation of linguistic phenomena.

A first advantage of working on corpora is that they represent an empirical basis for researchers' intuition. Secondly, multilingual corpora help contrastive studies, highlighting language-specific features and establishing the possibility of making semantic and pragmatic equivalences between source language and target language.

Another advantage is that data from corpora can be annotated with semantic and pragmatic information, which allows more complex analysis.

I strongly recommend this book to all scholars in the field of pragmatics, as the authors give clear explanations of complex ideas, raise a host of interesting and important issues, and lead readers to think reflectively through their own empirical work. As such, this volume is a valuable source for both research and pedagogical purposes.

REFERENCES

Aijmer, Rühlemann 2014 – *Aijmer K., Rühlemann C.* Corpus Pragmatics: A Handbook. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Romero-Trillo 2008 − *Romero-Trillo J.* Pragmatics and Corpus Linguistics: A Mutualistic Entente. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter, 2008.

Li Xin
Shanghai International Studies University, China