

L'ANALISI  
LINGUISTICA E LETTERARIA

FACOLTÀ DI SCIENZE LINGUISTICHE E LETTERATURE STRANIERE  
UNIVERSITÀ CATTOLICA DEL SACRO CUORE

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## RASSEGNA DI LINGUISTICA INGLESE

A CURA DI MARGHERITA ULRYCH E AMANDA MURPHY

G. WALKDEN, *The status of hwæt in Old English*, "English Language and Linguistics", 17, 2013, 3, pp. 465-488

The analysis of Old English *hwæt* and its Old Saxon cognate *huat* in *Heliand*, *Ælfric's Lives of Saints*, and Bede leads the author to question the long-standing theory by which *hwæt* is understood – and translated – as an extra-clausal, extra-metrical interjection. Walkden brings statistical evidence to the fact that *hwæt* affects the word order of the sentence it precedes and – causing the verb to shift into final position – creates a recognisable structure, the *hwæt-clause*, which functions as an exclamative clause. The author concludes that the famous first word of *Beowulf* cannot be considered an extra-clausal interjection but should be translated instead as an underspecified wh-pronoun conveying exclamation.

Chiara Rubagotti

M. DOSSENA – G. DEL LUNGO CAMICIOTTI ed., *Letter Writing in Late Modern Europe*, John Benjamins, Amsterdam/Philadelphia 2012, 254 pp.

Starting from a large-scale research project on epistolary discourse which involves the universities of Bergamo, Modena, Florence, Rome, and Naples, Dossena and Del Lungo Camiciotti present a cross-cultural, diachronic study on letter-writing as literary genre, social practice, and linguistic witness. The reading of correspondence of ordinary people from the past – it is argued – creates a virtual connection between the linguist and a private unknown world which allows for an innovative approach to linguistic investigation 'from below'. This cutting-edge collection of essays focuses on the correspondence among poorly educated or even uneducated people, and offers new insights into

the history of the language, which has otherwise concentrated on standard written usage. The analysis of the letter as a text type (in its several forms) leads the reader into the realm of historical pragmatics, sociolinguistics, and cultural studies, while the diachronic focus on the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century across six different European languages points to the centrality of Late Modern times, with their abundance and diversity of written material, as the Golden Age of letter-writing.

Chiara Rubagotti

S. OGILVIE, *Words of the World. A Global History of the Oxford English Dictionary*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2013, xvii + 241 pp.

This volume represents Ogilvie's latest contribution to the history of *The Oxford English Dictionary*, its makers and text, discussing some hotly-debated issues about its lexicographic policy and practice regarding foreign words. The author challenges the widespread assumption that the dictionary had been a distinctly British product, with a rather conservative and insular approach to loanwords and words outside Britain, until the second half of the twentieth century, when Burchfield opened it up to World Englishes with his *Supplement to the OED* (1972-1986). Such a narrative, the author claims, "does an injustice to the editors of the first edition of the OED (1884-1933) – Murray, Bradley, Craigie and Onions" – who "actively sought words of the world, and included them in the dictionary despite pressures from inside and outside OUP to exclude them" (p. 211).

Combining her inside knowledge and experience as a lexicographer with her scholarly activity, the author compares various versions of the OED from its inception under Murray's

editorial activity until Burchfield's *Supplement*; she also examines a vast amount of unpublished sources from the Oxford University Press archives in the form of letters exchanged between the editors of the OED and their contacts. The results offer an alternative perspective, and introduce the editors of the first edition as the true champions of World Englishes in the OED, thus revealing that it has been a global dictionary from the beginning.

Sonia Piotti

J. CHESHIRE, *Grammaticalisation in Social Context: The Emergence of a New English Pronoun*, "Journal of Sociolinguistics", 17, 2013, 5, pp. 608-633

In this paper Jenny Cheshire tries to uncover the mechanisms at work in the origins of a new personal pronoun by studying the emerging case of the substantive *man*, which is making its way towards the status of first person pronoun in multi-ethnic adolescent peer groups in inner cities in the UK. Through the analysis of four sub-corpora, the author detects a significant use of *man* both as a variable plural form and as a pragmatic marker to convey solidarity and affective meaning. These two factors, it is argued, may justify the rise of *man* as a personal pronoun, and give a substantial contribution to the study of the early stages of grammaticalisation of personal pronouns.

Chiara Rubagotti

F. SCARPA, *Investigating Legal Information in Commercial Websites: the Terms and Conditions of Use in Different Varieties of English*, "Linguistica Antverpiensia, New Series – Themes in Translation Studies", 12, 2013, pp. 71-93

The paper reports on research conducted on a small monolingual corpus of 'Terms and Conditions of Use' from corporate websites aimed at finding similarities/differences in terms of layout, content, lexis and phraseology. The analysis is based on the comparison of two sub-

corpora composed of translated and non-translated texts, using English as a Lingua Franca (ELF) and English as a Native Language (ENL) respectively. The examples provided show that the format of the 'Terms and Conditions of Use' in both ENL and ELF texts is influenced by the differences in the various national legislations. These international legal models are considered as "globally-relevant STs", that is to say, conventionalised legal formats undergoing some adaptation and reformulation due to socio-cultural aspects.

Francesca Seracini

R.P. HART – J.P. CHILDERS – C.J. LIND, *Political Tone - How Leaders Talk and Why*, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago 2013, 293 pp.

The volume presents analyses of a large extracts of political texts (30,000 texts of 500 words each), drawn mostly from American presidential campaigns over the last 65 years. The texts range from campaign and policy speeches, debates, political advertising, newspaper articles to TV programs. The analyses are performed with the aid of a software program, DICTION, which is a dictionary-based package that examines texts for their verbal 'tone', hence the book's title. DICTION deploys 10,000 search words divided into 31 word lists, containing different words. The program analyses texts on the basis of five master variables: activity, optimism, certainty, realism and commonality, each of which is associated with certain word lists. For example, certainty is calculated on the basis of words indicating resoluteness, inflexibility, completeness and a tendency to speak ex-cathedra. Users of the software can also build their own wordlists, grouped into semantic fields, and the book shows how such lists of patriotic terms, party references, voter references, leader references and religious terms are used to analyse the political texts in the book. The authors identify combinations of the variables to bring out eight main tones in political discourse: the Accommodating Tone, the Balanced, the Ur-

gent, the Assertive, the Resilient, the Measure, the Neighborly and the Wandering Tone. One chapter is devoted to each tone, and the volume opens and closes with reflections on the mysteries and possibilities of political tone.

*Amanda Murphy*

S. BRUTI, *La cortesia. Aspetti culturali e problemi traduttivi*, Pisa University Press, Pisa 2013, 131 pp.

Il libro, organizzato su quattro capitoli, presenta un'analisi della (s)cortesia da un duplice punto di vista, culturale e traduttivo. Nel primo capitolo Bruti si focalizza su studi preesistenti relativi alla cortesia. Se a partire dagli anni Settanta circa, gli studi sulla stessa avevano una prospettiva soprattutto pragmatica ed erano fortemente anglocentrici, oggi si cerca di ampliare l'analisi prendendo in considerazione più lingue e utilizzando un approccio multidisciplinare. Come Bruti ribadisce più volte, per analizzare la cortesia, che spesso parlanti di culture diverse creano e percepiscono in modi differenti, non si può prescindere dal contesto situazionale in cui questa viene prodotta e ciò risulta tanto più vero nel momento in cui bisogna tradurre la stessa nel testo audiovisivo, dove coesistono più forme espressive e sussistono vincoli di varia natura.

Nei successivi tre capitoli Bruti prende in considerazione esempi tratti dal *Pavia Corpus of Film Dialogue* e si concentra sulla creazione e la traduzione rispettivamente di complimenti, insulti e forme allocutive, quest'ultime particolarmente insidiose nella traduzione dall'inglese all'italiano. Se studi sulla creazione dei complimenti nella lingua inglese rilevano dei tratti discorsivi ricorrenti, non è sempre possibile fare delle generalizzazioni di questo tipo sulla creazione degli insulti, per i quali emerge una certa creatività. Per quanto riguarda il testo tradotto (doppiato e/o sottotitolato) in italiano spesso si interviene semplificando, attenuando o addirittura eliminando l'insulto o il complimento.

*Laura Anelli*

G. SALDANHA – S. O'BRIEN, *Research Methodologies in Translation Studies*, St. Jerome, Manchester/Kinderhook 2013, 277 pp.

This book presents the wide range of methodological practices within the field of translation studies. It is intended for PhD, Masters and Undergraduate students, and researchers unfamiliar with research methodologies in translation studies. The methodologies presented originate from different disciplines and a detailed description is given of the factors to be taken into consideration when choosing one particular methodology. Each chapter analyses one specific approach depending on whether the focus is on product, process, participants or context. The authors deal with product-oriented research first, distinguishing between the use of critical discourse analysis and corpus linguistics in descriptive research and the use of assessment models in evaluative research. Process-oriented research and participant-oriented research are introduced in the chapters that follow, with key considerations on issues such as new research tools, analysis methods, ethics and the need for greater standardization. Finally, context-oriented research and the advantages and risks of using case studies as a method to investigate the relationship between external factors, culture, translators and translations are addressed. The book also investigates some fundamental concepts of doing research, such as the different methodological approaches (quantitative, qualitative or mixed) in relation to the research questions, hypotheses and types of data and important issues related to research report writing.

*Francesca Seracini*

A. BIBBÒ, *Il traduttore e il suo lettore: alcune riflessioni sul rapporto tra contrainte e censura*, "InTRAlinea", 15, 2013

L'articolo analizza le conseguenze nella traduzione letteraria della forza costrittiva della censura "regolatrice" e "strutturale". Dal concetto di *contrainte* avanzato dal gruppo francese Oulipo, Bibbò discute le caratteristiche dell'autocensura intesa come mezzo, da un lato, utile a far accettare la

traduzione nella cultura di arrivo, dall'altro come moto di ribellione del traduttore che scegliendo una dominante traduttiva è in grado di smuovere i cardini della censura strutturale dall'interno del sistema. Inoltre, la scelta della dominante conferisce un aspetto di unicità, di "dignità artistica" al testo tradotto, il quale coinvolge attivamente il lettore nella scoperta di un'altra cultura parlante alle radici del passaggio interpretativo operato dal traduttore.

*Claudia Alborghetti*

L. BARRA, *Invisible Mediations. The Role of Adaptation and Dubbing Professionals in Shaping US TV for Italian Audiences*, "VIEW. Journal of European television history and culture", 2, 2013, 4, pp. 101-111

The article presents the results of an ethnographic study about the influence of the processes of dubbing and adaptation (and all the intermediate steps involved) on the reception of media products originally intended for audiences with different languages and backgrounds. The "invisible art" of TV dubbing and adaptation has to face several challenges concerning not only technical and linguistic constraints, but also financial and time limits imposed by the broadcaster. Examining the production of the US sit-com *How I Met Your Mother*, Barra describes the various modifications (translation, adaptation, dubbing, post-production) the original episodes undergo before being broadcast on Italian TV and reflects upon how these dynamics affect the way the Italian audience receives and perceives the series.

*Laura Anelli*

M. CRONIN, *Translation in the Digital Era*, Routledge, London/New York 2013, pp. 165.

"Is there a future for translators? In the age of Google Translate, is the human translator condemned to large-scale extinction?" These questions are central to Cronin's discussion of what is happening to translation in the digital age. The consequences of digital technology and the In-

ternet on translation are heavy and crucial. And yet, translation's engagement with technology has a long history: in fact, technology should not be considered as an accessory to translation, as it has been fundamental for the definition of translation activities in different cultures and historical periods – up to our time. As Cronin aptly puts it, the information age we are presently living in should more properly be defined as the translational age, because the most important notion of our contemporary moment, that is the concept of convertibility (i.e. the ability of words, images and sounds to be converted to the universal language of code), is inescapably related to translation processes.

*Mirella Agorni*

S.M. RIKE, *Bilingual Corporate Websites - from Translation to Transcreation?*, "The Journal of Specialised Translation", 20, 2013, pp. 68-85

Based on the view that translation concerns both linguistic and non-verbal elements, the paper explores the implications of multimodality in multilingual corporate websites, suggesting a progressive "convergence of translation and text production". Within the framework of multimodal social semiotics, the author analyses the corporate website of a Norwegian company, comparing the website in Norwegian and the website in English, aimed at a national and international audience respectively. The analysis shows how verbal text and imagery have undergone a process of "transcreation", whereby the various semiotic resources have been "actively used", rather than just "translated", by the translators to create meaning in a way that takes into account the cultural differences among the audiences.

*Francesca Seracini*

Y. ZHENG, *Exploring Long-term Productive Vocabulary Development in an EFL Context: The Role of Motivation*, "System", 40, 2012, 1, pp. 104-119

During a ten-month study, Zheng examined the productive vocabulary development trajectories

of four university-level EFL learners in China. He then related any developments in their productive vocabulary knowledge to their situated vocabulary learning experiences, in an attempt to explore the interplay between motivational self images and vocabulary development. He discovered that after a year of study, the participants were more inclined to recycle a smaller range of simple words, while leaving the more difficult academic words largely unattended in productive vocabulary use. He argues that L2 learning outcomes not only depend on the availability of learning opportunities, but also on learners' subjective willingness to explore these opportunities to facilitate their own language learning.

*James Rock*

P. CHAPPELL, *Engaging Learners: Conversation- or Dialogic-driven Pedagogy?*, "ELT Journal", 68, 2014, pp. 1-11

In this article Philip Chappell presents a study of the types of talk occurring in 'conversation-driven' ELT. He analyses a series of activities driven by conversation using classroom discourse techniques. Considering that natural conversation does not normally co-exist with classroom talk, the study identifies various opportunities for language learning, and it specifies a type of talk in which learners were less involved in transactional discourse, and more in analysing issues and possibilities. Philipp Chappell demonstrates the importance for teachers to be informed of the types of talk occurring in their lessons, providing them with a platform to analyse their own classrooms.

*Valentina Morgana*

R. LYSTER – K. SAITO – M. SATO, *Oral Corrective Feedback in Second Language Classrooms*, "Language Teaching", 46, 2013, pp. 1-40

The aim of the article is to review research on oral corrective feedback (CF) in second language (L2) classrooms. The study identifies various types of oral CF, and their frequency in classroom contexts. The authors then review

research on CF preferences, revealing a learner preference for receiving CF, which is compared to reluctance among teachers to provide it. The article presents theoretical perspectives in support of CF, and some issues related to the general role and purpose of CF in the language classroom. An overview of laboratory studies on the effects of recasts is followed by an analysis of the effects of different types of CF, and of the variables that could affect it.

*Valentina Morgana*

D. TSAGARI – G. FLOROS ed., *Translation in Language Teaching and Assessment*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle upon Tyne 2013, xi + 257 pp.

The use of the learner's mother tongue and translation in the foreign language classroom is no longer anathema. As shown by the ever-expanding body of literature on the subject, we are indeed in the midst of an unprecedented resurgence of interest in the benefits that interlingual activities of different kinds can bring to the process of teaching and learning another language. Taking both a theoretical and an empirical perspective, its twelve chapters explore numerous ways of using translation to develop core language competence areas, in particular vocabulary and phraseology, grammar, reading, and writing. Moreover, they address the often contested relationship between translation and language assessment, examining original ways in which translation tasks can be designed so as to guarantee increased test fairness and evaluation transparency. Particularly novel is the attention devoted to the distinctive impact that translation can make on the learning environment in terms of enhanced student-initiated interaction, which in turn engenders high levels of motivation, widely believed to facilitate learning in general. A final element of interest is that this volume provides insightful suggestions on how to use translation throughout the entire language-learning process, from the initial stages with young learners to advanced levels with



university students. As such, it can appeal to a wide readership of scholars and practitioners.

*Costanza Peverati*

M. MAHLBERG – C. SMITH – S. PRESTON, *Phrases in Literary Context: Patterns and Distributions of Suspensions in Dickens's Novels*, "International Journal of Corpus Linguistics", 18, 2013, 1, pp. 36-56

This article, from the field of corpus stylistics, focuses on Dickens's "suspended quotations", or "suspensions", i.e. the narrator's interruption of speech in the novel with linguistic units of a minimum of five words. This topic had already been studied by Mark Lambert in 1981, and is systematically examined here with the aid of the ConcGram tool. Aspects taken into consideration are the phenomenon's relationship with patterns of body language presentation, in its occurrence across novels and in its relation to reporting verbs (*exclaimed* and *continued* in particular). Suspensions are thus investigated as sequences that contribute to creating meaning in fictional prose.

*Caterina Allais*

A. MURPHY, *On "true" Portraits of Letters to Shareholders – and the Importance of Phraseological Analysis*, "International Journal of Corpus Linguistics", 18, 2013, 1, pp. 57-82

*On "true" portraits of Letters to Shareholders – and the importance of phraseological analysis* offers a methodological perspective on corpus analysis by pointing out how different findings related to a single research question may emerge depending on the software adopted. The paper thus queries the comparability of the results of research using different software, Wordsmith Tools, WMatrix and DICTION, and provides evidence that the macro analysis of key words and key semantic domains needs to be complemented by close phraseological analyses if the meaning of a text is to be grasped. For the purpose, a corpus of Letters to Shareholders refer-

ring to 2008 compared to identically constructed corpora from the same companies, referring to 2006 and 2010, is investigated.

*Pierfranca Forchini*

W. MAGUIRE – A. MCMAHON ed., *Analyzing Variation in English*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2011, 348 pp.

The volume presents articles which concentrate on the importance of variation in linguistics. The first six chapters focus on the collection and analysis of variable linguistic data, while the following six demonstrate the potential of nonlinguistic domains for the advancement of variation theory and integrate it in other fields of linguistics and educational settings. In particular, P. Honeybone looks at variation and linguistic theory, emphasizing the role of the individual, while G.R. Guy discusses traditional notions of variation and change which are now commonplace in variationist studies (e.g. orderly heterogeneity, inherent variability, real and apparent time, S-curve, age-grading, incrementation and stabilization). He also stresses the link between research on variation and change and historical linguistics. C. Montgomery and J. Beal use starburst charts to illustrate perceptual dialectology while R. McMahon looks at variation and genetics. Finally, G. Trousdale focuses on the role of standard and non-standard varieties of English in national curricula, stressing the problematic status of 'standard English'. He also considers whether other varieties could be successfully used for instruction. Each chapter ends with a "what next" section that suggests additional readings and resources as well as areas calling for future research.

*Caterina Allais*

P. CANTOS GÓMEZ, *Statistical Methods in Language and Linguistic Research*, Equinox, Sheffield/Bristol 2013, 260 pp.

It is now widely acknowledged that quantitative methods and statistic techniques can offer

a substantial contribution to linguistic studies. Cantos Gómez's book is a development of lecture notes for a module on *Quantitative Data Analysis* for PhD students, and can be considered as an introductory statistics text for linguists with a basic knowledge of mathematics. It consists of seven chapters and a set of appendices. Written simply, the book provides many examples taken from different research studies, such as literature and language acquisition. The author explores some basic issues in the field of statistics (such as the notions of measures of central tendency, proportions and percentages, dispersion, standard scores, distributions and probability), then he analyses different types of scales and variables, he distinguishes between parametric and non-parametric statistics, and explains what is meant by 'multivariate statistics'. Gómez finally deals with 'word frequency lists', examined from the point of view of typology, usefulness, keywords, text annotation, and compares wordlists, frequency distribution and in the last chapter he analyses 'words in context', i.e. concordances and collocations. At the end of the text there are some appendices dedicated to charts on distribution indexes (standard normal, t-, F-, U- and Chi-square) and coefficients (Pearson product-moment correlation and

Spearman rank correlation). A large number of tables and figures facilitate the comprehension of the models proposed.

*Silvia Pireddu*

M.R. HASHEMI, *Reflections on Mixing Methods in Applied Linguistics Research*, "Applied Linguistics", 33, 2012, 2, pp. 206-212

Hashemi investigates how mixed methods research – that is the integration of both quantitative and qualitative methods in a single study – has been used in applied linguistics. He states that there is a paucity of research that examines the integration of the two methods, before providing a description of various mixed methods research designs. This is followed by a description of a study of 205 peer-reviewed research papers over a 14-year period. The results show that concurrent triangulation is the most popular mixed methods design, with researchers tending to only mix methods at the stages of data collection and analysis. According to Hashemi, the quality of research in the field of applied linguistics could be improved if researchers used a wider range of mixed methods designs.

*James Rock*