

EDITORIAL

The present volume consists of seven research papers, which represent various pragmatic approaches to linguistic phenomena.

In “*Topoi* in Critical Discourse Analysis”, Igor Ž. Žagar critically discusses the role that *topos* (pl. *topoi*), one of the most widely-used concepts from classical argumentation theory, plays in contemporary Critical Discourse Analysis. The article provides an overview of various definitions of *topoi*, from Aristotle and Cicero to 20th-century Anglo-Saxon linguistics and concentrates on the use of the concept as exemplified in the works of Ruth Wodak’s Discourse-Historical Approach.

The second text, Fee-Alexandra Haase’s “Peirce’s Law of Triviality: The Implementation of the Trivium of Logic, Rhetoric and Grammar”, subtitled as “Basic Categories for Linguistics and Literature Studies from a Universal Semiotic Theory”, is an attempt to (re)construct Charles Sanders Peirce’s semiotic theory with emphasis on its linguistic aspects. By gathering numerous thought-provoking quotations from Peirce and his critics, arranged and often re-quoted in *trivium*-oriented three main sections, viz. logic, grammar, and rhetoric, the author aims to illuminate the nature of Peirce’s original views on language and communication and the development of his thought. The presentation is appended with a bibliography of Peirce’s works.

“A Pragmatic Analysis of Silence in an American Constitutional Issue” by Dennis Kurzon provides further evidence for a typology of silence already elaborated by the author in his previous works. Kurzon discusses three main types of silence, viz. conversational, textual and situational silence, and comments on selected problems related to the typology. The discussion is illustrated with examples culled from controversial court cases in the United States, especially those concerning the “moment of silence” legislation.

The fourth paper, “The Semantic-Pragmatic Analysis of Persian Modal Verbs Based on Papafragou’s Model” by Jalal Rahimian and Zohreh Vahedi, is a lengthy relevance-theoretic discussion of the semantics and pragmatics of Persian modal verbs. Persian modals are defined in terms of logical relations and propositional domains; the discussion concentrates on three lexemes, viz. *šodan*, *tavān* and

bāyad and their various forms and includes a critical contrastive analysis vis-à-vis the English language modal system.

In the next text, “The Pragmatics of Multi-Verb Sequences: The Case of the Verb *Go*”, Noriko Matsumoto provides an account of the nature of multi-verb sequences in English. The author uses a cognitive linguistic approach and constructs an image-schematic account of the many constructions which the verb *go* motivates.

The next paper, “Speech Acts, Criteria and Intentions” by Jesús Navarro-Reyes, explores the contentious tenets of speech act theory. The author carefully analyses selected elements of the original Austinian model and its further elaborations. He argues against intentions conceived in terms of necessary conditions for a successful accomplishment of a speech act and suggests an alternative, “criterial” account of their role, based on Wittgenstein’s philosophy of language.

The last text, “Conceptual Focus in Social Encounters: The Case of Directives” by Hanna Pułaczewska, presents an analysis whose aim is to highlight the conceptual focus on groups as a specific property of discourse in young peer groups of Polish speakers. The author claims that this is an alternative in the conceptual focus on individual interlocutors, which is implicitly assumed to be an interactive norm in a vast body of pragmatic studies dealing with the performance of speech acts in both monolingual and comparative setups. The present analysis is based on empirical material comprising interaction in young peer groups in Poland, Great Britain and Germany under constant experimental conditions, made possible by the internationally-recognised reality TV show “Big Brother”.

The seven papers in this volume testify to pragmatics being a research perspective rather than a narrow subdomain in linguistic analysis. They show the vast array of pragmatic studies, which range from philosophical-theoretical investigations in the tradition of Peirce, and even Aristotle (however skeptical the latter was about analysis of natural language), to empirical, both qualitative and quantitative research focused on natural language expressions. Most importantly, they indicate the mutual interdependence of theoretical and applied research.

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