

New Empirical and Theoretical Paradigms in Corpus Pragmatics, An Introduction

Jesús Romero-Trillo

Abstract The second volume of the Yearbook of Corpus Linguistics and Pragmatics series, *New Empirical and Theoretical Paradigms in Corpus Pragmatics*, investigates the positive feedback between empirical and theoretical approaches to linguistics. The aim of the chapters in the volume is to propose new research paradigms to current studies in corpus linguistics and pragmatics.

The second volume of the Yearbook of Corpus Linguistics and Pragmatics series, *New Empirical and Theoretical Paradigms in Corpus Pragmatics*, investigates the indispensable positive feedback, though often transient in scholarly focus, between empirical and theoretical approaches to linguistics. The aim of the chapters in the volume is to propose new research paradigms to current studies in corpus linguistics and pragmatics, while trying to cross the threshold of traditional practices and venture into prospective paths of linguistic enquiry. The authors, with diverse backgrounds in pragmatics and corpus linguistics, offer novel theoretical and empirical models that can explain language better in itself and in its relation to reality.

To attain this aim, the chapters have been structured in four parts: (1) New empirical paradigms in corpus pragmatics; (2) Current approaches to the pragmatics of culture and society and (3) Advances in L2 corpus-based pragmatics research. The last section presents reviews of relevant volumes on different topics related to corpus linguistics and pragmatics.

The first part, *New empirical paradigms in corpus pragmatics*, opens with a chapter authored by Cristina Grisot and Jacques Moeschler entitled '*How Empirical*

J. Romero-Trillo (✉)

Departamento de Filología Inglesa, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, C/Francisco Tomás y Valiente 1, Madrid 28049, Spain
e-mail: jesus.romero@uam.es

Methods Interact with Theoretical Pragmatics?'. Their study investigates an issue that has been present in theoretical pragmatics for several decades, i.e., the conceptual vs. procedural approach and its application to the description of verb tenses. With the aid of corpus-based methodology, the authors conclude that the conceptual/procedural distinction should be investigated through empirical pragmatics in order to use real data, and thus incorporate the results to machine translation systems.

The chapter '*Subject Realization in Japanese Conversation by Native and Non-native Speakers: Exemplifying a New Paradigm for Learner Corpus Research*', written by Stefan Gries and Allison Adelman, presents the application of a new statistical method and its possibilities in Learner Corpus pragmatics research. It consists of a two-step regression procedure (MuPDAR) that determines the reason why some choices made by non-native speakers differ from those made by native speakers in a more comprehensive way than other traditional methodologies. They illustrate their theoretical proposal with the empirical analysis of Japanese native speakers' choices of grammatical, discursive and pragmatic realizations in comparison with non-native speakers of Japanese, and stress its advantages over other methods, specifically for error analysis purposes.

The next chapter, '*Jesus! vs. Christ! in Australian English: Semantics, Secondary Interjections and Corpus Analysis*', by Cliff Goddard, examines the different uses of such interjections and their nuances in pragmatic meaning in a corpus of Australian English. The methodological scope of the analysis incorporates the notion of speakers' ethnopragmatic awareness in context-bound elements, such as interjections, and how these elements can realize distinctive meanings that are amenable to semantic analysis through the Natural Semantic Metalanguage approach in liaison with corpus linguistics.

Shuangling Li ends the first section with the chapter '*A Corpus-Based Analysis of Metaphorical Uses of the High Frequency Noun Time: Challenges to Conceptual Metaphor Theory*'. Her chapter contributes to the ongoing debate on Conceptual Metaphor Theory and its validity with the application of corpus linguistics methodology. One of the most cutting-edge conclusions that the author reveals is that the collocational behaviour of certain lexical items and the phraseological uses of some linguistic expressions cannot be entirely explained, or at least have not been accurately described so far, in the traditional mappings of Conceptual Metaphor Theory.

The second part of the volume, Current approaches to the pragmatics of culture and society, departs with Jacob Mey's thought provoking chapter '*Horace, Colors and Pragmatics*'. In his contribution, and through the study of Horace's writings and of his apparent colour blindness, the author links the ethnological character of color terms in diverse societies, and by extension, how colors have different weight in the daily life of their inhabitants. Through a corpus-based analysis of Horace's texts (a truism, as all analyses of classical Latin are in essence corpus-bound) Mey adopts a socio-pragmatic approach to the analysis to aver the need for this perspective in the analysis of authors belonging to distant cultures or epochs.

Barbara Lewandowska-Tomaszczyk and Paul A. Wilson author the second chapter of this section entitled '*Self-Conscious Emotions in Collectivistic and Individualistic Cultures: A Contrastive Linguistic Perspective*'. In their contribution, the authors embark on the description of the relation between linguistic and culture-bound aspects of individualism and collectivism through the study of two emotions, shame and guilt, in English and Polish. Their study combines different theories with authentic corpus data, linking pragmatics with avant-garde theories on cultural identities. For this purpose, the authors use a questionnaire-based (GRID) methodology identifying cross-linguistic similarities and differences with respect to shame and guilt, validated with corpora, and then make interesting proposals for a more refined understanding of collectivistic and individualistic cultures.

The next chapter is Sarah Buchanan's '*Translating Freedom Between Cultures and Ideologies. A Comparative Analysis of the Translation of Keywords in Galatians*'. The author delves into the question of the conceptualization of values and beliefs in different cultures and societies, focusing on concepts such as freedom and slavery. Through a corpus-based analysis of Bible translations in German, French, Spanish and English, the author examines the translators' choices and the pragmatic implications of their decisions for readers of Paul's letter to the Galatians. This study, based on an intercultural corpus of sixteen translations, is a clear attempt to include corpus linguistics and pragmatics in the agenda of scholars working on translation and exegesis.

The last chapter of this section is authored by Fabienne Baider and Maria Constantinou and is entitled '*How to Make People Feel Good When Wishing Hell: Golden Dawn and National Front Discourse, Emotions and Argumentation*'. Their chapter, which has obvious social implications, analyzes the notions of resentment and hatred vis-à-vis the analysis of contempt and pride. By focusing on the pragmatic analysis of the metaphors and linguistic symbolisms used to embody these emotions in corpora, they illustrate how the use of these tropes leads to the social exclusion of some communities.

The third section of the volume, Advances in L2 corpus-based pragmatics research, starts with Lieven Buysse's contribution entitled '*We Went to the Restroom or Something. General Extenders and Stuff in the Speech of Dutch Learners of English*'. The study explores the use of general extenders, such as 'and stuff' and 'or something'. Through the comparison of two corpora, one of Dutch speakers of English and the other of native speakers of English. The study shows the general quantitative affinity of the phenomenon in both groups of speakers, but also the discrepancies in terms of fine-grained qualitative details. Some tentative explanations for the learners' choice of general extenders, i.e., L1 transfer, the intensity of exposure to certain forms in the target language, and learners' restricted repertoire of pragmatic devices, are suggested.

The next chapter, by Leonardo Campillos Llanos and Paula Gozalo Gómez, is entitled '*Oral Production of Discourse Markers by Intermediate Learners of Spanish: A Corpus Perspective*'. The authors investigate the oral production of discourse markers by learners of Spanish, and compare these results with those by native speakers. The overall description of the evolution of the markers in the

non-native speakers, together with a breakdown of the most used discourse markers in the corpus in native and non-native speakers, is used as a source of comparison and of some pedagogic guidelines for the teaching of Spanish.

Marta Carretero, Carmen Maíz-Arévalo and M. Ángeles Martínez contribute to the volume with a chapter entitled ‘“*Hope this Helps!*” *An Analysis of Expressive Speech Acts in Online Task-oriented Interaction by University Students*’. Their focus is on the presence of expressive speech acts in a corpus of e-forum history logs derived from online collaborative writing. Their hypothesis is rooted in the belief that in computer-mediated exchanges implicit disembodiment must lead to an outstanding role of expressive uses of language. The results of the analysis confirm the importance that expressive speech acts play in on-line communication.

The last chapter is authored by Shanru Yang and is entitled ‘*Interaction and Codability: A Multi-layered Analytical Approach to Discourse Markers in Teacher’s Spoken Discourse*’. The author proposes a novel multi-layered analytical approach combining corpus linguistics, conversation analysis, and Second Language classroom modes analysis for the investigation of discourse markers in teachers’ spoken language. The author exemplifies this approach through the detailed examination of macro and micro contextual uses of discourse markers in teacher-oriented classroom interaction in order to show the validity of this new methodology.

The volume ends with the reviews of three relevant volumes that epitomize significant and diversified updates in the study of corpus linguistics and pragmatics: Götz’s (2013) ‘*Fluency in Native and Nonnative English Speech*’; ‘*The Linguistics of Speech*’ (2009) by Kretzschmar & Partington; and Duguid & Taylor’s (2013) ‘*Patterns and Meanings in Discourse: Theory and Practice in Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies*’.

In sum, I believe that the contents of this volume with its new empirical and theoretical approaches to pragmatics and corpus linguistics, can be a very useful source of inspiration to understand the use of language in real contexts.