

BOOK NOTES

Taking a philosophy of language approach, Marina Sbisà (Ch. 2) shares her personal, scholarly journey related to classifying illocutionary acts and how the philosophical notions of fact-value and theory-praxis shaped her understanding. In Ch. 3, Peter Auer explores the language-space relationship, focusing on the often separate traditions of spatial deixis and areal linguistics. In the chapter he argues that these two traditions can be reconciled when space is made relevant through interaction and suggests the term SPATIAL INDEXICALITY to bridge the theoretical divide. Ch. 4 by Susan Ervin-Tripp reviews research related to child syntax development and the role pragmatics has played in this area. In Ch. 5 Charles Antaki demonstrates how conversation analysis can offer an alternative approach to the study of pragmatics by focusing on the turn-taking contributions interlocutors make in conversation. In Ch. 6 Yorick Wilks takes an artificial intelligence approach and explores how computational modeling of dialogue can advance the field. Sachiko Ide, in Ch. 7, provides an introduction to Japanese linguistic politeness, characterized by *wakimae*, and uses empirical evidence to demonstrate how Japanese use different linguistic forms to index their sense of self. Robin Lakoff explores the notions of intertextuality and appropriation in Ch. 8. Through several examples from public discourse, Lakoff considers the social and political functions of intertextual references to illustrate how sociopolitical cohesion may or may not be formed through such references. In Ch. 9 Teun van Dijk takes a critical discourse approach and use a UK House of Commons debate to examine how different discourse features may be utilized to abuse power for political reasons. Jenny Cook-Gumperz & John Gumperz (Ch. 10) examine the debates surrounding the contemporary reform of the German spelling system to highlight the importance of symbols and writing systems in the construction of national identity and the ideological firestorm debates over them can cause. Jacob Mey completes the volume in Ch. 11 with a personal note about the thirty-five-year friendship he has had with Verschueren. Mey recounts Verschueren's professional accomplishments and provides personal anecdotes to pay respect to his friend.

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BARBARA DANCYGIER, *The language of stories: A cognitive approach*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012. Pp. x, 228. Hb. £63.

Reviewed by LAURA A. CARIOLA
Linguistics and English, Lancaster University
Lancaster, LA1 4YL, United Kingdom
l.cariola@lancaster.ac.uk

A recent trend in cognitive linguistics has been a greater interest in studying the relationship between language and cognition within the realm of literary studies.

In this context, *The language of stories: A cognitive approach* investigates the cognitive linguistic processes that underpin and drive the construction and negotiation of meaning and interpretation in literary texts. By drawing on construction grammar and blending theory, the author proposes a new cognitive approach to the analysis of the language of narratives that systematically explores the dynamicity of blending between different levels of language expressions, ranging from sentence-level lexical and grammatical choices to text-wide structural strategies, in the construction of multilevel narrative spaces.

In Ch. 1, Dancygier discusses theories and research, including cultural and evolutionary perspectives, that inform the cognitive and linguistic study of narrative meaning and comprehension and thus provide a conceptual framework for the following discussion. Ch. 2 outlines the function of blending in the cognitive construction of narratives. This chapter conceptualises narrative space as a container for independent textual input elements that are selectively integrated and elaborated and thus prompt the construction of viewpoint and the emergence of a conceptually coherent story structure.

Ch. 3 focuses on the function of narratorship. In particular, the narrator's epistemic viewpoint is conceived as a composition of various micro-level phenomena that are located within the narrative space and that contribute to the emergence of the macro-level story structure. Ch. 4 explores micro-level viewpoint phenomena and the function of representational frames as well as the concept of viewpoint compression that moderates and drives the emergent story. Ch. 5 identifies the role of referential expression in the construction of story space and viewpoint, with special attention devoted to the function of pronouns.

Ch. 6 discusses theatre discourses and how theatre-specific objects and specific language choices embody the intentions and emotions of characters and thus contribute to a compressed story blend. Ch. 7 outlines various strategies of thought and speech presentation in literary text. Particular attention is devoted to the conceptualisation of speech and thought as low-level space and its relationship to higher-level viewpoint compression and story composition. Ch. 8 presents a final summary of the discussions outlined in the previous chapters.

Overall, the book presents a stimulating and innovative contribution to cognitive linguistics and its role in the construction of meaning and interpretation of literary texts. The use of literary examples makes the author's detailed analytic discussions very accessible to the reader. *The language of stories: A cognitive approach* is recommended for students and researchers, including linguists, cognitive scientists, and literary critics, who are interested in the intersection of cognitive linguistics and narratives.

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