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### Book Review

**Choice in Language: Applications in Text Analysis**, by Gerard O’Grady, Tom Bartlett and Lise Fontaine (Eds.), Sheffield, Bristol, Equinox, 2013, vi+347 pp., £19.99 (Papercover), ISBN-13 978-1-908049-55-1

The notion of choice is of great importance in Systemic Functional Linguistics (henceforth, SFL), as well as in language teaching and learning. *Choice in Language: Applications in Text Analysis* is one of the few publications which aims to open a comprehensive debate on the place and use of choice. It is a collection of twelve papers, together with the Introduction.

In the Introduction, O’Grady stresses that the notion of choice provides a constant underlying theme in describing the lexicogrammatical choices in specific languages, and, as a core theoretical concept, choice has played a key role in the development of systemic functional theory from its early stages.

Part A contributes to interpersonal choice and the construction of author identity. Adendorff and Pienaa examine a sex worker discourse and find a high frequency of non-finite processes expressing potentiality and futurity. In Chapter 2, Swain suggests that Italian journalistic discourse allows so much individualism and voice styles of the journalists that in such ‘partly free’ press, a broad, two-part typology of the reporter voice and writer voice kind may be applicable, which is not the case in the English counterpart, where reporter voice, correspondent voice and commentator voices coexist. Barletta, Mizuno and Moss’s research in Chapter 3 shows that the APPRAISAL choices made by the second language teacher-researchers aligned these novice writers uncritically with the tenets of a positivist scientific discourse because they desire to enter the discourse community of applied linguists, and their attempt to imitate “expert” writing style.

Part B surveys choice in political speech. Banks finds in his study of grammatical metaphor in French political tracts that the incidence of grammatical metaphor is relatively very high, and nominalizations play a role in presupposition, showing a kind of solidarity, which is not the case in English, where it is a strategy used mainly to give information. Chapter 5 is O’Grady’s investigation of phonological choices in Blair’s talk in reaction to the London underground bombings of 7 July 2007. His work contributes to understanding how speakers projecting logico-semantic meaning within clause nexuses.

Part C targets at the effects of choice in text-type. Mahfouz’s study in Chapter 6 highlights the role of domain, an extralinguistic constraint on choice, in disambiguating polysemous verbs, while Lavid, Arús and Moratón’s study in Chapter 7 illustrates how the investigation of thematic choices was used to create a semi-automatized annotation scheme, a key step towards the creation of algorithms which can automatically code Theme. In Chapter 8, Sellami-Baklouti suggests a probabilistic approach to choice through the impact of contextual factors on the tactic system in research article abstracts. In Chapter 9, Berry makes some comments on teaching academic literacy, which should lay emphasis on recalibrating learners’ Thematic choices from contentlight to contentful. Chapter 10 is a corpus study on the differential patterned occurrence

of ellipsis in texts varied for contextual mode. Ben finds that contextual factors explain the occurrence of ellipsis and ellipsis types, among which our present state of knowledge weighs more than the nature of the relationship between language and context, as it is theorized in SFL.

Of the two chapters addressing the interplay of choice across different modalities in the final section, the first by Guijarro interprets how the combination of verbal and visual modalities create a coherent whole that achieves the presumed aim of promoting luxury and exclusivity in hotel brochures, while the second by Montemayor-Borsinger, Ventola and Magalhães is a multimodal analysis of the front cover choices for the first three editions of Halliday's *Introduction to Functional Grammar*, which shows how the evolution of SFL can be tracked by changes in the cover design.

The collection highlights the dimensions of choice across a continuum of phonological, syntactic, lexicogrammatical, semantic, pragmatic, and textual strata, and of formal, informal, mono-semiotic, and multimodal genres. The articles in various genres, including sex worker discourse, journalistic discourse, political tracts, prime minister's speech, newspapers, research article abstracts, informal spoken English, formal written English, hotel brochures, and book covers, offer diverse generic and methodological approaches to show how both quantitative and qualitative methods can be applied to linguistic and non-linguistic choice.

In fact, this book is of high value to those interested in applied linguistics, discourse analysis, corpus-based approaches to linguistics, and rhetoric, and it is not only a selection of writings that contribute to the development of the multi-layered and multimodal analytical perspectives of choice, but a reference book for any language teacher who wants to better understand this central notion.

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