



## ESSE-8: LONDON 2006

29 August – 2 September 2006

### **S24. Subjectivity/Intersubjectivity and Stance in Discourses**

**Friday 1 September: 9.30-11.30am**

Convenor: Juana Marín-Arrese (Complutensian University, Madrid)

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This seminar aims to bring together various contributions on the topic of subjectivity/intersubjectivity in different genres and discourses. Subjectivity relates to the ways in which the viewpoint of the speaker/writer (SP/W) is explicitly encoded, in an attitudinal or an epistemic sense, or the extent to which the information is implicitly grounded in the perspective of the SP/W. Intersubjectivity involves the expression of SP/W's attention to addressee/reader's "presence" and/or point of view. Papers will relate to descriptive or theoretical insights, empirical or methodological aspects such as corpus-based analyses, and contrastive studies of English and other European languages.

### **Subjectivity, Stance and Voice in Research Articles in the Field of Management and Leadership**

Hilkka Stotesbury (University of Joensuu)

Subjectivity has become an important issue in the study of academic discourse, previously considered objective and implicit. An important way of showing subjectivity is by voice. The older, positivist framework based on the use of the passive voice in research reporting has increasingly been replaced by the more overt and more frequent projecting of the author's voice. The aim of the present study is to consider subjectivity/inter-subjectivity, stance and voice in 40 research articles in the field of management and leadership. In my presentation, I shall focus on the use of the first and second person pronouns in the research articles.

### **Perspective and Subjectivity/Intersubjectivity in Discourse: a case study**

Juana I. Marín-Arrese (Complutensian University, Madrid)

This paper presents results of a study on the use of resources for the expression of subjectivity by the British Prime Minister Tony Blair, in two distinct events and situation types: as a witness in *The Hutton Inquiry* (August-October 2003), and in his statement opening the Parliamentary debate on Iraq (18 March 2003). The aim is to explore: (i) The expression of perspective and enunciational stance in both types of discourse; (ii) The expression of (inter)subjectivity and the similarities and differences thereof in the attitude of the speaker, in relation to the two communicative events.

## **Self-mentions in Academic Research Articles in English and Spanish**

Pilar Mur Dueñas & Ignacio Vázquez Orta (University of Zaragoza)

First person singular and plural pronouns together with self-citations form the functional category of *self-mentions* in the framework of metadiscourse. Through these, writers signal their authority and establish themselves as the originators of what is being communicated. This paper presents the analysis of the use of the lexico-grammatical realizations of this metadiscursive category and their particular rhetorical sub-functions in research articles in English and Spanish. It is argued that the extent of use of these metadiscursive features can contribute to the authors' self-promotion and its (non) inclusion may be conditioned not only by the disciplinary or small culture in which they are embedded but also by the national/international audience for which they are published and the corresponding degree of self-promotion that is expected in each context.

## **Acknowledging Others' Views in the Argument: a contrastive corpus-based English-Italian study of adverbials framing an argument**

Amanda Murphy (Catholic University of Milan)

This is a contrastive corpus-based study of adverbials which position the writer as regards the presumed reader in written English and Italian texts from different registers. The adverbials functionally frame an argument, showing awareness of another point of view. The English corpora contain 4 sub-types: a) signalling awareness of probable disagreement; b) giving equal weight to two sides of an argument; c) conceding a point reluctantly and then counter-asserting, d) asserting the obviousness of a concession, then counter-asserting. The Italian corpora appear to contain fewer exponents of these adverbials, but in one of the sub-corpora their use is more frequent.

## **The Expression of Subjectivity in Argumentative Texts: a corpus study of Spanish-English L1 and L2 writers**

JoAnne Neff van Aertselaer (Complutensian University, Madrid)

This study of subjectivity examines the construction of stance in the argumentative texts of two sets of writers: experts writers in Spanish and English, as contrasted with novice university writers, Spanish EFL and American writers (L1). The main focus of the study is the analysis of both typological and cultural differences in argumentative texts of the four groups mentioned. The study shows that there are significant differences between both Spanish EFL writers and their American counterparts, but also between the two groups of expert writers, both regarding textual and interpersonal markers, features which may reflect different argumentation strategies.

## **Towards a Theorisation of Stance in Political Discourse: Bush/Kerry debates in the light of Integrative Logometry**

Laurent Rouveyrol (University of Nice Sophia Antipolis)

This presentation aims both at introducing an approach destined to model subjectivity/intersubjectivity in the case of Bush/Kerry presidential debates and at proposing a variational analysis. Our model dwells on Vion's interaction theory, *Critical Discourse Analysis* and Biber's stance markers. The integrative model is turned into a *scheme* compatible with O'Donnell's *Systemic Coder* enabling comparative statistical analysis after manual tagging. The study reveals that few features help identify significant variation strategies. However, they span all levels of language activity, which pleads for multidimensional conceptions of stance.