



MYHILL, John. **Typological Discourse Analysis**. Oxford: Blackwell. 1992. Pp. 295.

Typological Discourse Analysis constitutes a linguistic field of recent development, which as the name itself indicates, derives from the research traditions of typology on the one hand and discourse analysis on the other, combining the methodology and theory of both. Myhill defines it as "the cross linguistic study of the factors affecting the choice of one construction or another in a given language taking the surrounding discourse context into consideration as having a crucial effect on this choice" (2). In this book he gives an account of this field of analysis presenting and explaining a variety of linguistic phenomena illustrated with textual data taken from a very wide range of languages, which guarantees the typological value of this study.

The book is divided into seven chapters. Chapter one, which is the introduction, presents a general outline of what typological discourse analysis is, giving the reader a broad view of what this theory is about. The author starts by explaining the origins of typological discourse analysis, and then goes on to describe how it approaches and studies different phenomena that take place in various languages. According to Myhill the basis of the theory of typological discourse analysis consists of the parameters used in characterizing the functions of constructions; he, therefore, gives a brief account in this chapter of some typical parameters, to give the reader a general idea of what they are, since, later in the book, some of them will be discussed in detail. The rest of the introduction is dedicated to the explanation of other important aspects related to the theory of typological discourse analysis, such as the type of data used in these studies and the genetic diversity of the languages described. This chapter ends with a proposal of the

different applications that typological discourse analysis may have in various linguistic fields.

Chapter two introduces a series of concepts such as: *information status*, *specificity*, *discourse salience*, *paragraphing*, etc. which the reader has to be familiar with in order to understand the following chapters, since they will be used for the description of more complex phenomena discussed later.

The rest of the chapters in this book are devoted to the presentation of different studies that have been carried out, with respect to a variety of linguistic phenomena that occur in a vast number of languages. Thus, chapter three contemplates *tense* and *aspect*. Myhill presents a number of cases where the use of quantitative methods can help to clarify the reasons *why* certain verbal forms associated with tense/aspect functions are used and also to establish *when* these forms are employed. Chapter four concentrates on *voice alterations* such as active vs. passive, ergative vs. antipassive, etc. describing a number of parameters which govern these voice alterations. The phenomenon presented in chapter five is *word order variation*. As Myhill himself points out, what he does in this chapter is to summarize the findings of quantitative studies of word order variation. Although there are still many aspects of word order variation to be investigated, these quantitative studies have permitted researchers to arrive at important conclusions, such as what factors affect the order of the subject and the verb in strongly VO languages and what factors affect the relative order of the subject and verb and the object and verb in languages with flexible order of object and verb.

In chapter six Myhill again concentrates in a variety of phenomena, but this time he describes quantitative analyses of phenomena which have not been very much studied with this methodology. An aspect of this chapter which is worth mentioning is the

variety of languages described; we find the study of a vast array of phenomena each taking place in a different language, thus we have *Spanish Clitic Climbing*, *Subject Marking in Korean*, *Nominal Agent Incorporation in Indonesian*, etc.

The last chapter comprises not only the conclusions that Myhill presents in relation to the work exposed in his book, but also a discussion of the approach he has followed in the study of the various linguistic phenomena he has presented throughout it (i.e. quantitative typological discourse analysis), explaining its scope, how it relates to cross-linguistic comparison, to mental processes, etc.

Myhill's *Typological Discourse Analysis* is a book of great interest not only for linguists working on this specific theory of analysis but also for those interested in other fields, since, as it incorporates studies of phenomena considering a wide variety of languages, it could provide important information for linguists interested on grammars of specific languages as well as for those dedicated to language typology. [María del Carmen FUMERO PÉREZ, *Universidad de La Laguna*]

SIMPSON, Paul. 1993. **Ideology and Point of View**. London: Routledge. Pp. 198

Studies on stylistic analysis are constantly evolving. Over the last ten years, we have witnessed great efforts by researchers to extend new findings in linguistics to stylistic analysis. Moreover, the linguistic approach to literary texts has also been clearly enriched with the latest developments in sociology, philosophy, pragmatics, poetics and gender studies.

In this sense, *Language, Ideology and Point of View* can be said to appear at the

right time. Paul Simpson (University of Belfast) has successfully brought together different perspectives to the study of narrative point of view. The author pans smoothly from the fields of critical linguistics to the arenas of poetics, pragmatics or gender studies with no perceptible leaps. A varied number of case studies are chosen throughout the book to demonstrate how linguistic techniques are equally useful for the study of different types of discourses.

Written clearly in informal language—very much in the style of the Routledge *Interface series*—the book lacks neither systematicity nor precision. It is addressed to students of stylistics, linguistics and academics in general. Metalanguage is used pertinently and models of description are carefully described and discussed prior to the analyses in each section.

The book is organized in eight chapters. The study works on the premise that the study of literature cannot be divorced from the study of language and social conditions. Thus, the introduction (chapter 1) is devoted to building a bridge between stylistics and critical linguistics, as a compulsory connection in which narrative point of view should be related to ideological issues.

Chapter 2 offers a critical survey of the best known approaches to the study of point of view. Uspensky's and Fowler's categories—psychological, spatio-temporal, and ideological point of view—as well as Leech's classification of speech and thought presentation serve as a starting point to the author's arguments. Major attention is dedicated to the review of psychological point of view. In this regard, structuralist, generative and interpersonal (Hallidayan) frameworks are also skillfully discussed. There are some interesting connections established between Genette's definition of *focalization*, Banfield's "unspeakable" sentences, and the solutions offered by the functional/interpersonal model which the author espouses.

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