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*L'individuazione degli equivalenti nella lessicografia bilingue*

Giovanni Rovere

Studi italiani di linguistica teorica e applicata XLI, 2 (2012), pp. 205-234

SUMMARY

The methodological problems in the determination of equivalents in bilingual metalexigraphy are rarely the subject of discussions that go beyond the general reference to the lexicographer's language skills.

This paper addresses the question as to how and to what extent target language corpora can be used, on the one hand, to verify initial hypotheses concerning the equivalent being searched for and, on the other hand, to search for equivalents unknown to the lexicographer via targeted search queries.

In the interest of efficiency, a systematic use of target language corpora is only possible in the case of special dictionaries with a highly limited selection of lemmas and a restricted number of article-internal items. Corpora, however, are essential whenever an answer has to be found to questions which are dealt with differently by the lexicographers due to their individual levels of expertise. This leads to a conclusion which might seem paradoxical: on the one hand, corpora are generally indispensable as an instrument of control, but, on the other hand, their use requires a far greater level of expertise from the lexicographer compared to the work with traditional lexicographic resources.

*Enunciati pragmatici italiani: forme e funzioni nel discorso*

Pablo Zamora Muñoz

Studi italiani di linguistica teorica e applicata XLI, 2 (2012), pp. 235-258

SUMMARY

Pragmatic utterances are a subset of pragmatic phraseological units that formally have a phrasal structure or may be equivalent to a phrase; pragmatically, they are interactive responses, play different illocutionary acts and can serve as conversational markers. Following an analysis of their actual behavior in the discourse, using a film corpus and Itwac, we observe that the frequency of use is lower than expected, there is a tendency to use morphosyntactically simpler statements, are likely to experience formal reductions and to be neutralized by other linguistic-discursive resources that the speaker has at his disposal.

*Il problema del tempo futuro in tedesco e la sua didatticizzazione  
(per discenti italiani)*

Claudio di Meola

Studi italiani di linguistica teorica e applicata XLI, 2 (2012), pp. 259-276

#### SUMMARY

The present study primarily aims at a more thorough analysis of the German *werden*-future which is investigated in opposition to the present tense with future reference. On the basis of a corpus of 2,000 oral and 2,000 written occurrences, four functions of the *werden*-future are postulated: pragmatic (emphasis on the importance of the future event for speaker and/or hearer), semantic (emphasis on the diversity of the future event with respect to the present situation), temporal (unambiguous setting of the event in the future), and purely grammatical (when future reference is already established by the context). In spoken language, pragmatic function appears to be predominant; in written language, grammatical function seems to be widespread. This study also deals with the didactics of the future tense for learners of German as a foreign language. A survey of 22 grammars shows that improvements are needed: in fact, better (linguistic) explanations concerning the nature of the *werden*-future as well as a realistic communicative setting of the German examples could be a great help to the learner.

*Looking up collocations. A qualitative case study on dictionary use strategies*

Barbara Berti

Studi italiani di linguistica teorica e applicata XLI, 2 (2012), pp. 277-292

#### SUMMARY

A regular employment of collocations is an essential ability for a native-like L2 production. Nowadays, learners of English have a wealth of material at their disposal: dictionaries of collocations, learner's and general purpose dictionaries all provide information concerning the combinatorial properties of words in their target language. However, the hope that learners progress from a bilingual dictionary to a monolingual one is often dashed as students tend to rely heavily on bilingual resources. Quantitative studies on large groups of monolingual dictionary users have been carried out. Yet, the individual strategies at work in the consultation of bilingual resources have not been fully investigated, especially with a view to the look-up of collocations. The purpose of this case study is to gain insight into individual dictionary use strategies at work in translation tasks involving lexical collocations. A small group of Italian learners of English of different levels was presented with a set of sentences all containing lexical collocations. The participants were asked to provide translations with the aid of an English-Italian dictionary. Both productive and receptive uses were tested. In order to have access to the participants' mental processes, the individuals were asked to verbalise their thoughts according to the think

aloud protocol. The analysis of the data suggested that dictionary use skills tend to remain rather poor throughout the learning process, even though they certainly improve with more proficient students. In general, the users showed a rather stiff process of consultation that relied almost exclusively on one section of the dictionary at a time, even when at a loss with the translation task. As regards collocations, the experiment found that, contrary to expectations, collocates were looked up before bases more often.

*Negotiating repairs in an italo-australian phone-in radio program*

Antonia Rubino

Studi italiani di linguistica teorica e applicata XLI, 2 (2012), pp. 293-316

SUMMARY

This paper explores the way in which the host of a phone-in radio program accomplishes repairs when the callers, mainly first generation Italo-Australians, resort to the bilingual practices commonly used in the migrant community. Contrary to the preference for self-correction postulated by Schegloff et al. (1977), the study finds a preference for other-initiated other repair, largely accomplished by the host. This is explained in light of the range of identities construed in interaction by the host and the callers.

The study also highlights an ambivalent attitude held by the host towards either enforcing a monolingual norm or alternatively, encouraging the bilingual practices of the community. The paper concludes that this type of programs on the one hand can enforce purist attitudes towards language use amongst Italo-Australians, on the other can encourage migrants to have their voices heard in the public space of the radio, irrespectively of their linguistic abilities.

*Conflict discourse and cognitive processing in  
Martin McDonagh's The Beauty Queen of Leenane*

Roberta Piazza

Studi italiani di linguistica teorica e applicata XLI, 2 (2012), pp. 317-366

SUMMARY

This study of Martin McDonagh's play *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* investigates verbal confrontation in the dramatic discourse between its female characters. The analysis shows how various expressions of conflict range from direct and symmetrical, when the two women use repair and refutations, to indirect confrontation in the case of witty and ironical ripostes. The aspects of an interactional confrontation

are not simply appreciated as rhetorical strategies but are viewed in their quality as speech acts that may trigger different cognitive processes in the mind of the readers/viewers.

This study suggests that the closeness and distance that are associated with the speech act of disagreeing and conflicting can be viewed from the cognitive angle of Relevance Theory (Sperber and Wilson, 1995 [1986]), if one considers that speakers make an initial approach to their interlocutors by taking on board what they say and their views, to then take their distance from them when they refute their propositions. The dimensions of ‘closeness’ and ‘intimacy’ in opposition to that of ‘distance’ and ‘disengagement’ therefore are not simply social (i.e. speakers disagree in a situation of intimacy) but can actually be seen in relation to the cognitive effects to which the dramatic text gives rise.

*The Merchant of Prato di Iris Origo: l'elemento italiano nell'originale del 1957*

Rosa Argenziano

Studi italiani di linguistica teorica e applicata XLI, 2 (2012), pp. 337-354

#### SUMMARY

This paper examines the Anglo-Italian dialectic realized by Iris Origo in *The Merchant of Prato*, the English biography of Francesco Datini, published in 1957. What is particularly emphasized is the introduction of elements of the fourteenth century Tuscan vernacular in the original English edition; these elements are mostly taken from the documents of Datini's Archive in Prato. In this regard the survey focuses on some terms with witnesses that dictionaries place after the fourteenth century, therefore anachronisms, except for *cappellinaio*, found in the Datini Archive's lemmatized *corpus*. After the presentation of the Italianisms identified in the biography, the exchange of the final vowels marking the genus, a phenomenon of morphosyntactic contact detected for some words, is considered. In the last part we consider the quotations of proverbs and popular aphorisms which Iris Origo withdraws from the letters of Datini's Archive. Finally, we refer to the Italian edition of 1958, that neglects the presence of a lot of inserts in Italian in Origo's work, without informing the reader about it.