

BOOK REVIEWS

Annalisa Baicchi, Cristiano Broccias & Andrea Sansò, eds. 2005. *Modelling thought and constructing meaning. Cognitive models in interaction.* (Materiali Linguistici – Università di Pavia 50). Milano: FrancoAngeli. Pp. 252. ISBN 8846468899.

Reviewed by AD FOOLEN, Radboud University Nijmegen

This volume contains a selection of 15 papers which were presented at a Cognitive Linguistics (CL) conference, held at the University of Pavia, 20–22 November 2003. In her Foreword to the volume (p. 7), Annalisa Baicchi reports that the idea for this first Italian conference on Cognitive Linguistics arose at the Spanish Cognitive Linguistics Conference in 2000 in Madrid. In the present volume, Spain is represented with two contributions. There are also three papers from Belgian authors and there is one Polish contribution. The other nine papers are of Italian origin.

The volume opens with a paper by René Dirven, in which he gives an overview of the “Major strands in Cognitive Linguistics”. The editors state in their short Introduction (pp. 8–10) that they have chosen to group the papers into five sections, corresponding to the strands that Dirven distinguishes in his paper: the GESTALT PSYCHOLOGY-BASED STRAND, the PHENOMENOLOGY-BASED STRAND, the COGNITIVE DISCOURSE STRAND, the COGNITIVE POETICS STRAND, and the PSYCHOLINGUISTIC STRAND. Dirven does indeed distinguish five strands, but one of them is also the COGNITIVE SOCIOLINGUISTICS STRAND. As there were no papers in the present volume representing this strand, the editors silently replaced this slot by the cognitive poetics strand, which in Dirven’s overview is treated as a part of the cognitive discourse strand.

For the present review, a different grouping of the papers seems pertinent. The first group consists of papers which give a general overview. The second group consists of papers which analyze a certain linguistic feature from a cognitive linguistic perspective, and finally there are a few papers which, in

Folia Linguistica 41/3–4 (2007), 443–485.

ISSN 0165–4004, E-ISSN 1614–7308 © Mouton de Gruyter – Societas Linguistica Europaea

my opinion, do not fit very well in a CL volume, defining CL as research on the conceptualization of “the world” in language and discourse.

Dirven’s comprehensive overview paper is at the same time the most lengthy paper of the volume (pp. 11–54). A nearly identical version of this overview has been published in Ruiz de Mendoza Ibáñez & Peña Cervel (2005). Dirven shows an impressive acquaintance with the field of CL research and his overview is useful for everyone who wants to get a picture of the field in a nutshell.

“Cognitive Linguistics, functional linguistics, and TAM marking” by Jan Nuyts is the second paper in the volume. A more extensive version of his paper can be found in Ruiz de Mendoza Ibáñez & Peña Cervel (2005). Nuyts discusses CL in relation to functional linguistics (FL). Using tense-aspect-modality (TAM) marking as an illustration, Nuyts sees the two approaches as complementary and argues in favor of cooperation between the two. As Brdar (2007) has summarized and commented on the papers by Dirven and Nuyts in Ruiz de Mendoza Ibáñez & Peña Cervel (2005) in an adequate way, I can happily refer to the relevant part of that review (pp. 202–204).

Antonio Barcelona, an expert on the topic of metonymy, presents a useful overview of the relevance of metonymy in all areas of CL analysis, not only in lexical polysemy, but also in grammar, phonology and discourse. An earlier version of this text appeared as Barcelona (2002). The other Spanish contribution in this volume is also general in outlook. Ruiz de Mendoza Ibáñez & Díez Velasco discuss the relationship between CL and corpus linguistics. They argue that both fields can profit from each other and show that not only studies that deal with formal aspects of language (phonology, morphology and syntax) can make use of corpora. For corpus-based semantic analysis, some sophistication is required, but it can be done. The authors concede, however, that metonymy is hard to operationalize, and that intuition will remain the main methodology for metonymy research. A reflection of this can be seen in the volume edited by Stefanowitsch & Gries (2006), which contains nine corpus-based papers on metaphor, but only two on metonymy.

The four papers with a more general orientation (Dirven, Nuyts, Barcelona, and Ruiz de Mendoza Ibáñez & Díez Velasco) are all written by non-Italian authors. One might surmise that the editors wanted to include these more general papers in their volume for that section of Italian readership not so well acquainted with the CL approach.

The three editors are each present in their volume with papers on specific constructions. Annalisa Baicchi analyzes sentences in which thought processes are conceptualized as motion events (e.g. *A fancy thought popped into his mind*). She shows that all parameters that hold for factive motion (path, manner, personification, etc.) also hold for mental processes. At the end of the paper a model is presented, in which all the parameters are integrated. There are two imperfections in this interesting paper: the author does not tell the reader how the (English) corpus from which she took the examples that illustrate her analysis was constituted, and Talmy (1996), which is frequently referred to in the paper, is missing in the bibliography.

Cristiano Broccias analyzes “non-causal change constructions”, as he calls them: constructions which look like causal constructions (*Sally drank herself to death*) but in which the causal relation is “replaced” by a temporal one (*The supporters booed them off at the interval*, which can be paraphrased as: the supporters booed, while they, the players, left the field at the interval). Broccias sees the causal interpretation of the construction as the primary one, also diachronically. Like Baicchi, Broccias analyzes English.

Andrea Sansò analyzes the use of passive and impersonal constructions in a corpus that consists of Umberto Eco’s *Il nome della rosa* and its translations into Spanish, Polish, Dutch, Danish and Modern Greek. He shows that passives and impersonals occur where event elaboration (explicit specification of subject and object) is not relevant. Different types of passive and impersonal constructions are put on a semantic map which is constituted by the parameter DEGREE OF EVENT ELABORATION (with PATIENT-ORIENTED PROCESS, BARE HAPPENING, and AGENTLESS GENERIC EVENT as the main values).

Rossella Pannain takes a cognitive look at nominal classifiers in Southeast Asian languages (including Chinese). She shows that the classifiers originate from words that have to do with plant parts (leaf, seed, trunk, etc.). In particular, their shape meaning is relevant when they grammaticalize into classifiers. In CL, we tend to see the human body as the main source domain for conceptualizing other domains, but this interesting study reminds us of the fact that it is those objects that humans interact with, especially through manipulation, which are phenomenologically salient.

Paul Sambre analyzes definitions in natural discourse. He selected examples from Belgian newspapers (in French and Dutch) which appeared from 1991 to 1994 and looked at how the new phenomenon of the Internet was characterized. He observes that, besides the copula, the definitions

contained a variety of predicates (e.g. French *constituer* 'constitute', Dutch *vormen* 'form', Dutch *deel uitmaken van* 'be part of', French *symboliser* 'symbolize', French *rester*, Dutch *blijven*, both meaning 'stay', etc.), which can be related to different CL dimensions (reference-point constructions, mental space overlap, state change, etc.).

Diane Ponterotto studies metaphor in discourse, i.e. "how metaphor emerges, grows, changes, lives in a text" (p. 157). In her view, "the locus of metaphor production and interpretation is not the human mind but the text" (ibidem). She illustrates her claim with analyses of metaphors in different text types: spontaneous conversation, personal letters, film scripts and an advertisement. The text type turns out to be a relevant factor in analyzing the metaphors. In a more abstract style of arguing, Michele Prandi also deals with metaphor, discussing the tension between conceptual metaphor and "metaphorical creation in discourse". He makes the point that although metaphors may look very creative, they often rely on conceptual metaphors that are presupposed in certain text types and which might only be familiar for specialists. He illustrates this with an analysis of expressions from British Romantic poetry which elaborate on the image of 'liquid light'.

Elżbieta Tabakowska analyzes the Polish translation of Elizabeth Bishop's poem *Sandpiper*. She shows that point of view, the difference between objective and subjective construal in the sense of Langacker, plays an important role in the poem. Tabakowska argues that it is extremely difficult to grasp this implicit aspect of the text and to render it adequately in the other language, which makes paying attention to this and similar phenomena in translation studies all the more pertinent.

There are three papers in the volume which are less relevant from a CL point of view. Annamaria Caimi analyzes conditional conjunctions as they occur in the Italian and English version of the European Union treaty. Conditional constructions have attracted the attention of cognitive linguists (see Dancygier & Sweetser 2005), but Caimi's contrastive analysis, useful as it may be in itself, does not make use of cognitive models. A similar note can be made on the paper "Comprehending idiomatic expressions: The role of individual speed of processing" by Cristina Cacciari, Paola Corradini & Roberto Padovani. In recent literature, we see an increasing contact between phraseological and cognitive linguistic research (see, for example, Dobrovolskij and Piirainen 2005), but in the present paper, the focus is on the difference between fast and slow readers in processing idiomatic expressions. This type of interest fits more into a purely psycholinguistic line

of research. This also holds for the last paper in the volume, “Learning a second language: The role of verbal memory from an experimental psychological perspective”, by Paola Palladino. She shows that verbal memory difficulties in the first language transfer to the foreign language learning process.

A distinguishing quality of the volume reviewed here is the attention paid to discourse. This feature is present in the papers by Sansò, Sambre, Ponterotto, Prandi, Tabakowska, and also in the overview article by Ruiz de Mendoza Ibáñez & Díez Velasco. The volume thus illustrates the vitality of the cognitive discourse strand, one of the five strands that Dirven distinguishes in his overview paper. This is not to say that the papers that belong to the Gestalt strand (Baicchi, Broccias and Sansò) and the phenomenology-based strand (Pannain) are less valuable. The overview articles have their own quality as well; they can be useful as first orientations in the field, for example in a CL course.

The volume has its weaknesses too. Firstly, as pointed out, the papers by Dirven, Nuyts and Barcelona overlap (partly) with texts in other volumes. Secondly, the editors could have been more selective (not including the papers by Caimi, Cacciari et al., and Palladino), which would have strengthened the CL profile of the volume. And thirdly, they could have given the text another editorial round before sending it to the publisher. I noted more than 25 typos, a native speaker would have changed some of the phrasings, and at least six references in the text did not correspond to entries in the useful collective bibliography (21 pages) at the end of the book. The book does contain a list of addresses of the authors but not an index.

I read this volume just after the *10th International Cognitive Linguistics Conference*, which took place in July 2007 in Kraków, Poland, organized by one of the contributors to the present volume, Elżbieta Tabakowska. While reading the book, several associations with the conference came to my mind. Issues of methodology (Ruiz de Mendoza Ibáñez & Díez Velasco) was also a theme in two plenary lectures at *ICLC10*: Talmy (defending the role of intuition) and Geeraerts (propagating a more extensive use of corpus data). The relation of cognitive research to functional approaches was addressed by Ruiz de Mendoza Ibáñez in his plenary lecture “Cognitive modeling and levels of linguistic explanation: Applications and implications”. Like Nuyts, he argued in favor of cooperation between CL and FL. Looking at the theme sessions of the conference, there was one on usage-based cognitive semantics (cf. the paper by Ruiz de Mendoza Ibáñez & Díez Velasco), one on mental

spaces and viewpoint in grammar and discourse (cf. Tabakowska), one on metonymy (cf. Barcelona), one on (event) classifiers (cf. Pannain), one on cognitive poetics (cf. Tabakowska), and one on metaphor (cf. several papers in the volume). Metaphor in discourse (the papers by Ponterotto and Prandi) was strongly represented at the conference by way of several papers from the Praggeljaz research group, directed by Gerard Steen. All these links to *ICLC10* indicate that the volume reviewed here reflects current topics of cognitive linguistic research. I can only hope that this first Italian conference on Cognitive Linguistics will see a follow up and that we will read more Italian research in yet another volume.

References

- Barcelona, Antonio. 2002. On the ubiquity and multiple-level operation of metonymy. In Barbara Lewandowska-Tomaszczyk & Kamila Turewicz, eds. *Cognitive Linguistics today*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 207–224.
- Brdar, Mario. 2007. Review of Ruiz de Mendoza Ibáñez & Peña Cervel, eds. 2005. *Folia Linguistica* 41(1/2): 201–209.
- Dancygier, Barbara & Eve Sweetser. 2005. *Mental spaces in grammar: Conditional constructions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Dirven, René. Major strands in Cognitive Linguistics. In Ruiz de Mendoza Ibáñez & Peña Cervel, eds. 17–68.
- Dobrovolskij, Dmitrij & Elisabeth Piirainen. 2005. *Figurative language: Cross-cultural and cross-linguistic perspectives*. Amsterdam: Elsevier.
- Nuyts, Jan. 2005. Brothers in arms? On the relations between Cognitive and Functional Linguistics. In Ruiz de Mendoza Ibáñez & Peña Cervel, eds. 69–100.
- Ruiz de Mendoza Ibáñez, Francisco & M. Sandra Peña Cervel, eds. 2005. *Cognitive Linguistics. Internal dynamics and interdisciplinary interaction*. Berlin & New York: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Stefanowitsch, Anatol & Stefan Th. Gries, eds. 2006. *Corpus-based approaches to metaphor and metonymy*. Berlin & New York: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Talmy, Leonard. 1996. Fictive motion in language and “ception”. In Paul Bloom, Mary A. Peterson, Lynn Nadel & Merrill F. Garrett, eds. *Language and space*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 211–276.

Reviewer's address

Department of Linguistics
Radboud University Nijmegen
PO Box 9044
NL-6500 KD Nijmegen, The Netherlands
e-mail: a.foolen@let.ru.nl

received: 14 August 2007