

Editorial

Ibérica 20 contains six research articles, one research note and nine reviews. It opens with two genre-based works on research articles (RAs) across disciplines. In the first paper, Matthew Peacock focuses on linking adverbials across four science and four non-science disciplines. By making use of the WordSmith Tool v.4 (Scott, 2004), he studies linking adverbials – such as “however” or “otherwise” – in terms of frequency, function and disciplinary variation. With Biber et al.’s (1999) semantic categories for linking adverbials as a guiding light, Peacock analyses 320 published RAs totalling a 1,961,042 word corpus. Conclusions reveal important disciplinary variations – such as a higher use of linking adverbials by non-science disciplines – and stress the prominent role of linking adverbials as signalling and cohesive devices for the construction and strengthening of claims by researching authors. In the second paper, Enrique Lafuente Millán deals with authorial identity and the writer’s presence in RAs. By combining data from 96 RAs published in four different disciplines and insights from 14 specialist informants, he examines the use of exclusive first person markers as an interpersonal strategy that influences authoritative stance. Lafuente’s concern lies primarily with the discursive functions of exclusive “we” so that seven pragmatic functions are identified, their relative occurrence estimated and their purpose discussed in view of potential disciplinary variations. Particularly innovative is the array of comments by the specialist informants from each discipline gathered from interviews and groups meetings that enhances this author’s main findings.

The following two papers both examine the metaphorical use of language within the financial context. Firstly, Nadežda Silaški and Tatjana Đurović acknowledge and address animal metaphors in the conceptualisation of INFLATION as an ANIMAL in English economic discourse. More specifically, they focus on the INFLATION IS A FEROCIOUS ANIMAL metaphor to claim and map the negative evaluations contained in INFLATION as an entity. In so doing, Silaški and Đurović draw a parallel between INFLATION and the ways animals move, look, eat/are fed, attack and are controlled in an effort to illustrate the wealth of linguistic realisations pertaining to the FEROCIOUS ANIMAL metaphor. Secondly, María Enriqueta Cortés de los Ríos calls our attention to today’s world economic

crisis by analysing seven covers recently published in *The Economist* from a cognitive-axiological perspective. In particular she discusses the metaphors, metonymies, image schemas, colour and cultural aspects found in the target press covers, and examines how these devices are used to capture meaning and communicate the economic crisis. In her analysis, Cortés contends that the magnitude of today's world economic crisis is conveyed through metaphorical expressions related to extreme natural phenomena (i.e. nature, weather and apocalyptic metaphors), that metaphors and metonymies are based on image schemas that strengthen the negative side of the economic crisis, and that colours and culture-related features are used as persuasive strategies to move and influence readers.

In a fifth paper, Camino Rea Rizzo and Aquilino Sánchez Pérez explore the so-called "lexical constellation model" and its contribution to the formation of new terms in telecommunication English. They begin by presenting and illustrating the lexical constellation model with particular attention to the potential and behaviour of semantic features to shape old and new meaning and senses within lexical units (or "words"). Based on technical dictionaries and other reference works as well as a five-million word corpus of telecommunication English compiled by the first author for her Ph.D. thesis (Rea, 2008), Rea and Sánchez apply the lexical constellation model to three familiar words in telecommunication English such as "bus", "hub" and "chip" with the aim of discovering "the relationships and connections between the new technical meaning generated and the "old meaning or meanings" in which the new sense is rooted or from which it derives" (page 115).

Luis Javier Santos López closes this section with a research article on parliamentary discourse. Santos studies a corpus of transcriptions gathered from 187 plenary sessions of the Spanish Parliament held between 2000 and 2008 and focuses on Question Time as a particular subgenre within political discourse. Santos first takes into account the Gricean maxims of quantity, quality, relevance and manner to explain the link between the discourse uttered in Parliament when questioning and its underlying cooperative principle. Then, he goes on to explore the communicative purpose and channel, the relationship between speakers and hearers as well as the topics of concern and suggest a classification of subgenres for the umbrella genre identified as parliamentary discourse.

The research note by Philippa Mungra reports the process and outcome of

implementing a Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) methodology in a medicine course with the purpose of teaching medicine students to write scientific abstracts in English. Mungra's description of the course layout and methodology developed, team-work undertaken, testing method employed and sample exercises outlined will be very interesting to those lecturers faced with the task of designing CLIL courses as an alternative to LSP courses in pursuance of the requirements laid down by the Bologna Declaration and the European Space for Higher Education.

As far as the section of reviews is concerned, this reveals the ample opportunity of LSP for research and international publications. Bárbara Eizaga Rebollar provides a detailed account of metadiscourse in academic speech from the point of view of Relevance Theory; Anabel Borja examines the discourse types that criminal law entails for translation purposes in Spanish and Italian; Michael White assesses a volume that applies cognitive linguistics to second language teaching and learning; Miguel F. Ruiz-Garrido explores a collection of chapters from the 2005 AILA Conference focused on conversation analysis as applied to spoken specialised discourse; Elena López Torres reviews the Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) methodology and its implementation from primary to tertiary educational levels; Chelo Vargas acknowledges a volume published in honour of the reknowned Danish lexicographer Henning Bergenholtz with fourteen relevant contributions from highly regarded scholars in the field of lexicography; Marta Aguilar writes about a manual addressed to non-native speakers of English for the purpose of writing science research texts that comply with the conventions of today's scientific community; Juan Carlos Palmer-Silveira addresses the construct of interculturality in business settings and the simulation and gaming methodology as a vehicle to achieve the communicative competence that helps readers to communicate efficiently in an intercultural business context; and, finally, Honesto Herrera Soler encourages readers to resort to statistics and use the SPSS software for making the most of our research.

Ibérica is most indebted to the members of the Editorial Committee who have assessed proposed manuscripts on a permanent basis for the past years. On behalf of the whole Editorial Committee, I would like to appreciate the collaborative effort and dedication shown by Ivone C. Cunha (ISCAP, Porto, Portugal) and Hanna Skorczynska (Universidad Politécnica de Valencia). Moreover, I would personally like to thank them both for their personal support and encouragement not only on my editorial duties but also on my

particular concerns. The journal wishes Ivone and Hanna well in their current and future academic endeavours and welcomes two new members to the Editorial Committee: Honesto Herrera (Universidad Complutense de Madrid) and Chelo Vargas (Universidad de Alicante).

Finally, I would like to acknowledge those invited external reviewers who have assessed submitted manuscripts during this past semester. These have been: Adriana Bolivar (Universidad Central de Venezuela), Honesto Herrera (Universidad Complutense de Madrid), Adelina Jover (Universidad de Alicante), Rosa Lorés (Universidad de Zaragoza), Pilar Mur (Universidad de Zaragoza), Françoise Salager-Meyer (Universidad de Los Andes, Mérida, Venezuela) and Chelo Vargas (Universidad de Alicante). My appreciation for their detailed assessments and the expertise and time invested in the journal.

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