

Il libro è congegnato in maniera chiara e didatticamente efficace sotto vari aspetti: è un testo di riferimento per introdurre alla problematica della traduzione del testo sacro nelle lingue germaniche nel loro costituirsi come lingue scritte, per seguire lo sviluppo diacronico sia delle tecniche traduttorie sia degli strumenti lessicali e espressivi che le lingue germaniche forgiarono e poi svilupparono nel corso della loro storia, dalle origini fino alle soglie dell'età moderna. In conclusione: è un libro pensato per un corso universitario ed è un valido strumento didattico, ma non è solo questo. Le traduzioni sono all'origine dello sviluppo di una lingua scritta, quando la lingua deve dotarsi di un bagaglio lessicale adatto all'espressione di concetti difficili e elaborati. Dato il taglio comparativistico, che permette di seguire alcune linee di sviluppo dei mezzi espressivi in diverse lingue germaniche che iniziano il loro cammino di lingue di cultura, in diverse epoche e in diversi contesti storici e culturali, risulta utile e illuminante anche per studiosi che siano più addentro alla problematica dell'evoluzione linguistica, in particolare l'evoluzione semantica e l'arricchimento del patrimonio lessicale.

[Marusca Francini]

NOGUCHI, Judy, *The Science Review Article. An Opportune Genre in the Construction of Science*, Peter Lang, Bern 2006, [Linguistic Insights, 17], pp. 274, ISBN 3-03910-426-8, € 49,00.

The author of this volume is an ESP teacher at Mukogawa University and the Osaka Graduate School of Engineering (Japan). Like other colleagues in her position, she is sometimes asked to revise research articles submitted to international English journals by a non-native speaker (NNS) scholar. On one occasion, as explained in the Preface, the scientist concerned was having for the first time to write a review article instead and turned to her for advice. His questions and the consequent exploration of the 'new' genre by Dr Noguchi form the basis of this comprehensive monograph, whose eight chapters are devoted specifically to the English science review article.

The theoretical background and main references in the literature, from discourse analysis to academic genre studies, are given in the opening chapter. The view taken here is that textual features should be investigated at three levels: the content ('substance'), its translation into words ('form') and the overall purpose of the text ('action'). The NNS writer is expected to become conversant in the unwritten rules that govern each level of meaning and its negotiation within the discourse community. The second chapter deals with the present dynamics of academic English, which produces 'linguistically challenged' scientists at the periphery. It argues that scientific communities are not single units but *nested*

structures involving different groups of people – i.e. the English-speaking community, English speaking academics, and the global discourse community – each of which tends to concentrate on certain types of linguistic aspect. After a word of warning about the risk of ossification faced by such research genres as the research article, the rhetorical traditions of Japanese are described as a possible source of change to be used by scholars who have already gained admission to the international scientific community.

The nature and function of the review article are described in Chapter 3, also in the light of information contained in editorial guidelines, supplemented with information from a survey of biomedical researchers at the University of Birmingham (questionnaire + interview). The results suggest that the genre's importance depends on what subdiscipline is targeted, with newer specialisms less likely to benefit because of the dearth of literature, and that it includes different purposes (e.g. setting the past record straight, providing an introduction for students, updating readers on latest developments). For Noguchi this suggests that the review article is therefore “an opportune genre with which to introduce new linguisticultures [sic] for a new age” (p. 94). Subsequently, the chapter presents the corpus compiled for this study, which consists of 25 articles from *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (USA)*, and lists its main quantitative features. These texts are classified after consultation with specialist informants, into four categories: history reviews, status quo reviews, theory reviews, or issue reviews. The microlinguistic evidence is described in Chapter 4, which also lists the main types of SIE (sentence initial element) observed in the corpus, while the fifth chapter adds a detailed description of the four moves and their constituents (i.e. steps) in the macrostructure of review articles. The distinctive linguistic realisations and rhetorical functions of each step are illustrated by a number of examples and then quantified and discussed with reference to the four generic variants identified initially.

The three closing chapters bring together the insights gained in the analysis and attempt to define the rationale that governs the structure and wording of review articles, including their title, subheadings and negotiation of meaning. To help NNS scholars overcome the challenges posed by a genre which has quasi pedagogic implications, the author provides a scheme (*writer's amanuensis*) for redrafting such texts effectively and suggestions for making the most of information from electronic corpora. She is also keen to stress, however, that such guidelines should allow a degree of freedom for creativity and ‘alternative rhetorics’, especially since review authors are always chosen among senior, well-established members of the scientific community. There is no denying that this is indeed an under-researched genre and that it deserves closer attention, not only for pedagogic reasons but also for its contribution to the dissemination of scientific knowledge. Like editorials and other less prestigious features in journals, the review article seeks to bridge the gap between expert and novice scholars and between specialists familiar with its

content and colleagues from other (sub)disciplines. Whether its special status will eventually allow it to become more rhetorically diverse and inclusive, especially for NNS authors, remains of course to be seen: whatever the outcome, the volume is a useful addition to the academic genre bookshelf and should be welcomed by linguists and EAP practitioners alike.

[Davide Simone Giannoni]

GILLAERTS, Paul / SHAW, Philip (eds.), *The Map and the Landscape. Norms and Practices in Genre*, Peter Lang, Bern 2006 [Linguistic Insights. Studies in Language and Communication 49], pp. 256, ISBN 3-03911-185-5, £ 28.80, \$ 48.95, € 41,20.

This volume examines the multifaceted characteristics of genre seen as both the centre of a particular disciplinary domain and the realization of its discourse. Genre is therefore investigated by emphasizing, on the one hand, its taxonomic and normative features, and, on the other, its axiologic and cultural values. As a result, genre is not seen as a static phenomenon but rather as a dynamic one, where taxonomy and axiology underline the relations and tensions between norm and textual practice occurring within various disciplinary domains. Such dynamism is discussed in four different sections: *Written Cases*, *Effects*, *Oral Cases*, and *Education and Training*.

The first section opens with Paul Gillaerts's contribution, which applies genre norms (as defined in normative literature) to genre textual practice in sales letters, thus showing that sales letters are increasingly adopting features of personal letters, as the potentialities of this hybridisation can be exploited to create a more persuasive and effective kind of text. The presentation of the second written case is by Birgitte Norlyk, who concentrates on job adverts: if, on the one hand, business organizations require serious job advert texts written in such a way as to attract efficient applicants, marketing organizations, on the other hand, create advertising texts (presenting both potential applicants and corporations) whose appeal relies on pathos, informal discourse and narrative elements. The resulting text thus represents another hybrid genre reflecting the complex organizational context of multiple voices, audiences and interpretations. The contribution by Elizabeth De Groot focuses on a cross-cultural analysis of annual reports of Dutch and British companies. This study, carried out through interviews, reveals that the same genre has conflicting norms whenever the comparison is between national cultures rather than between professional ones. This is due to the awareness of different national legal requirements, and the recognition, from the British counterparts, that investors constitute a central part of their audience.