una teoria dell'azione a livello di singolo enunciato, parlare di testi in termini di macroatti, come è stato fatto dalla linguistica testuale, costituisce una ripresa della prospettiva della retorica classica. Tale prospettiva, di fatto presente in Grice, non sembra tematizzata nel libro di Andorno che pure ripercorre in modo profondo e originale il lavoro griceiano sulla logica della conversazione.

Un manuale aperto dunque, per le questioni che solleva, questo di Andorno, e in quanto tale, lungi dall'adattarsi passivamente al genere cui appartiene, un testo capace di conversare liberamente col suo contesto, di studenti e lettori.

[Federica Venier]

SWANSON, Wendy, *Modes of Co-reference as an Indicator of Genre*, Peter Lang, Bern 2003 [Linguistic Insights, 12], pp. 430, ISBN 3-03910-052-1, € 60,60.

As signalled in the title, this book investigates the cohesive device of co-reference, drawing on insights from a range of contemporary English texts. In the opening chapter, the author (an American scholar, currently a lecturer at Zurich's Schule für Angewandte Linguistik) reviews the notion of co-reference – defined as a "link between two linguistic units which denote the same referent in a given textual world" (p. 32) – in contrast to the wider concepts of linguistic reference and givenness. Chapter 2 explains the three major aims of this analysis: to study meaning as it is carried through a text by means of co-reference; to explore the property of co-reference as a possible criterion for distinguishing between texts; to provide qualitative information on the use of co-reference in three different genres. For this purpose a small corpus was assembled from an academic serial (*Journal of Palestine Studie*s, 3 articles), two weekly magazines (*Newsweek* and *Time*, 3 articles) and excerpts of three recent novels (*The Little Drummer Girl*, *The Smile of the Lamb*, *The Gates of Zion*). All of these texts share a concern with political events in the Middle East and are the work of authoritative, educated writers in the field. They differ considerably, however, as to audience, timeframe, focus and communicative purpose.

The third chapter describes the methodology chosen in this study. Each sample was classified according to the textual assumptions (source knowledge, general knowledge, particular knowledge, linguistic knowledge) underpinning its use of co-reference. Surface markers were then subdivided by grammatical category and according to such non-linguistic features as paraphrase, hierarchical relationships and generalisation. The results of this investigation are summarised in Chapter 4, where quantitative data point to two interesting aspects: sentences in academic texts, as compared to the other two genres, exhibit the lowest proportion of

"floating sentences", i.e. those without a connection to the rest of the text; and the average number of links/sentence pairs is indicative of text type, with the highest figure occurring in fictional writing. On the qualitative side, the distribution of co-referential relationships (reiteration, inclusion, specification) signals a general preference for reiteration – albeit realised differently in each genre – with narrative texts resorting almost exclusively to this option. A considerable amount of information is listed in the Appendices, which include the whole corpus, full tables of analysed sentences and a synopsis of results.

In the light of such data, Chapter 5 suggests an improved analytical framework for labelling co-referential relationships, based on 12 linguistic surface-marker categories (repetitions, repetitions with morphological change, synonyms, direct and indirect grammatical links, full forms, holonyms, meronyms, superordinates, hyponyms, deletions and variant names) and 5 non-linguistic categories (paraphrase, exemplification, generalisation, particularisation and wholification). Despite the prevalence of the former in all genres, magazine articles contain the highest proportion of non-linguistic co-reference, requiring more outside knowledge and interpretation on the reader's part.

What this study makes clear is the typological value of co-reference in discourse analysis, as writers select different markers under the pressure of generic constraints and their own communicative purpose. Despite the risk of subjectivity inherent in this type of analysis, the author's approach is scientifically sound and contributes to knowledge in the area by means of reliable textual data. Such improved understanding of co-referential phenomena will prove to be useful not only to discourse analysts but also to the enrichment of pedagogic practices in L1/L2 English writing classes.

[Davide Simone Giannoni]

Il Lexical Approach*: una proposta utile? Rassegna Italiana di Linguistica Applicata*, Anno XXXV, n. 1-2, Bulzoni Editore, Roma 2003, pp. 454, ISSN 0033-9725, € 31,00.

Now in its thirty-fifth year, RILA was one of the first Italian journals to specialise in applied linguistics. Under the editorship of Gianfranco Porcelli it has also become an important forum for the presentation and discussion of the latest developments in the fields of language learning and psycholinguistics, and this is the theme of *Il* Lexical Approach*: una proposta utile?*

The central focus of the volume is a detailed analysis of the 'lexical approach', the term chosen by Michael Lewis for his theory of successful language learning. Indeed the book's very title poses the question of whether or not the lexical