

the polyfunctional, dynamic and layered character of genre itself. The successful attempt to bring together theory and practice is certainly very valuable for researchers, students and professionals alike, as this volume will increase their awareness of the complex relationship between what is conceptualized by theory and its day-to-day realization in the workplace.

[Stefania Maria Maci]

SUÁREZ-GÓMEZ, Cristina, *Relativization in Early English (950-1250): the Position of Relative Clauses*, Peter Lang, Bern 2006 [Linguistic Insights. Studies in Language and Communication 49], pp. 149, ISBN 3-03911-203-1, £ 20,30, \$ 34,95, € 29,00.

Relativization is a fascinating topic which has been explored both from a diachronic and a synchronic perspective. The main issues have been the identification of the position of the relativizer which introduces the relative clause – movement to the front or deletion *in situ*, i.e. *wh*-relativizer vs. *that/zero* – and the variation in relative clause structure according to its type, i.e. restrictive vs. non-restrictive. This new monograph concentrates on the position of the relative clause in relation to the main clause in early English. Such an investigation is sustained by a sound theoretical background, with a definition of relativization supported by a thorough description of the set of relativization strategies employed in early English and of the codification of relative clauses in restrictive and non-restrictive classes.

After an overview of the origins of relative clauses, the author's analysis (which relies on a corpus of 518 texts taken from the *Helsinki Corpus of English Texts: Diachronic and Dialectal*) seems to confirm the hypothesis that in the period between 950 and 1250 relative clauses shifted from their position as adjoined clauses placed outside the main clause (as in *We sing every day and every day we must gratify our Saviour with certain goodness, who always wants us to show mercy to men*, p. 77), to clauses closely attached to the noun they modify inside the main clause (as in *Your Father who is in heaven knows what is needful for you*, p. 77). The author argues that such a movement took place through a topicalization stage in which the antecedents of relative clauses were dislocated to the left of the main clause (as in *But he who begins good and continues therein until the end of his life shall be saved*, p. 78).

In the three centuries under investigation both options could co-exist, although the process was practically completed by the earliest stages of Middle English. Suárez-Gómez identifies several factors which were likely to influence the position relative clauses adopted (i.e. adjoining vs. embedding) with respect to the main

clause. For example, extraposed relative clauses appear to occur more frequently with explicit relativizers such as *se*, which seemed less closely tied to their antecedent than those headed by the invariant *þat*; when relative clauses were non-restrictive and when an antecedent occupied the object position (as opposed to the subject-type antecedent). Conversely, embedded relative clauses were more likely to appear when relative clauses were introduced by the invariant *þat* (when they were of restrictive-type) and when their antecedent was in the subject position. Furthermore, embedding apparently occurred when relative clauses were short. Apparently, also the type of text employed had a role in influencing the position of relative clauses: for example, religious treatises favoured embedding, whereas homilies were apparently responsible for extrapositions. Finally, the author reveals that embedded constructions were more likely when the Midlands dialect was employed rather than the Southern one, which seemed to favour extraposition.

In general, the volume is well organized and its in-depth investigation of the topic, supported by a sound methodological approach, reveals how variation in the position of English relative clauses in the period between 950 and 1250 depended not only on linguistic factors but also on extralinguistic variables related to the type of text and of dialect. Cristina Suárez-Gómez's study can be regarded as an important basis for further research on relative clauses in early English.

[Stefania Maria Maci]

JENKINS, Jennifer, *World Englishes, A resource book for students*, Routledge, London/New York 2003, pp. 233, ISBN 0-415-25806-5, £. 16,99, € 22,95.

The debate around World Englishes, English as an International language (EIL) and English as a lingua franca (ELF) has intensified in the last decade, with several new publications concerning the different aspects and implications of the developments of this language. From the recognition of the different varieties spoken in the world and their acknowledgement as local languages in the full sense of the word, to the cultural and political implications of the spread and diffusion of English, the debate has also included aspects concerning appropriate methodologies that should accompany the teaching of English in the world, and lately the emergence of those characteristics that make English the most widespread lingua franca or international language of communication in Europe and in the world.

Jenkin's volume *World Englishes* tackles all these aspects, offering a complete overview of the linguistic, historical and sociolinguistic factors that have led to the present situation, where many issues are still open and in evolution, and research is developing. The volume is divided into four sections: the first, "Introducing key