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**Dumitrescu, Domnita** (2011). *Aspects of Spanish Pragmatics*. American University Studies, Series XIII: Linguistics, Vol. 35. New York: Peter Lang. ISBN 978-1-4331-0443-5. (Hardcover). ISBN 978-1-4539-0179-3 (eBook), 254 pp. Precio: € 63.80, US\$ 82.9

Dumitrescu's book is divided in two parts: the first, "On Politeness and Face Management," comprises chapters one to five and provides a general overview of the realization of four different speech acts (thanking, apologizing, complimenting and wishing) by different cultural groups (both L1 and L2 speakers), using Brown and Levinson's (1987) theoretical framework with Kerbrat-Orecchioni's (1997) and Bravo's (1999) modifications, and in different contexts of communication. The second part, "Discourse Functions and Strategies," comprises chapters six to ten and addresses pragmalinguistic issues not directly re-

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lated to the topics covered in the first part. Thus, it covers interrogative allo-repetitions, mitigation, 'sí', personal 'a' and 'dizque'. All the material included in the book is based on work previously published by the author from 1995 to 2010 in different books and journals and in some cases in a language other than English. This explains the assorted contents, types of corpora used and general treatment of the different chapters.

The first chapter revises politeness theory and applies the theoretical models mentioned above to the description of some speech acts in Spanish, French, English and Romanian highlighting cross-linguistic similarities/differences.

Using both a test of social habits and a role-play, Chapter Two studies the expression of gratitude and reactions to the expression of gratitude by Spanish speakers from Argentina and Mexico, Spanish intermediate level learners in the United States and bilingual Spanish speakers (Mexican-American). Reported results show that native Spanish speakers used extensive speech acts to express gratitude thus restoring the cost-benefit difference and balancing the relationship with the interlocutor. Non-native speakers, on the other hand, did not produce similar responses to those of native speakers, but instead made both pragmatic and sociopragmatic errors. Finally, bilingual speakers produced varied answers ranging from acceptable to problematic exhibiting again sociopragmatic and pragmatic errors.

The realization of the speech act of wishing is the topic of Chapter Three. The analysis was based on data collected from Latin American Spanish speakers' and US Hispanics' responses to questionnaires about their social habits. Although data was not collected from Romanian speakers, the author compares her results to expressions of wishing in Romanian based on a forthcoming study.

Blackboard Politeness is the subject of Chapter Four. The data used for analysis consisted on electronic messages exchanged between students in an undergraduate business course and between students and their professor. Students came from varied linguistic backgrounds, including native Spanish speakers and bilingual speakers (English-Spanish). Results showed differences between student-student and student-professor interactions. The first were characterized by strategic politeness, expressing a desire to strengthen fellow students' self-image, while the second exhibited a predominance of conventional politeness.

Changing methods of data collection and theoretical approach (what the author calls the Hispanic School's), Chapter Five studies facework in sociolinguistic interviews. The data used is a Caribbean corpus collected between 1991 and 1997 by Reyes Benítez. Results showed the abundance of face-flattering strategies used by the participants thus defying the norm for this type of interaction. Dumitrescu hypothesizes that this might be due both to the age of the participants and their cultural preference to create solidarity links in whatever situation they are in.

Chapter Six uses corpora collected in different cities of the Hispanic world to study the discourse functions of interrogative allo-repetitions in Spanish. Providing a variety of samples of allo-repetitions occurring in the data, Dumitrescu concludes that allo-repetitions can be either affiliative, that is, accepting into one's discourse the interlocutor's word; or disaffiliative forcing the interlocutor to self-correct or even censoring his/her contribution to the conversation. In both cases, the author claims, allo-repetitions affect participants' social image.

The study of mitigation in oral interactions is the focus of Chapter Seven. Using data from the Madrid corpus of educated speech, the author discusses the mitigating strategies used in impositive and assertive speech acts. After analyzing dialogic mitigation, the author concludes that more studies need to be done in this area.

Chapter Eight analyzes the discourse functions of the autonomous and non-autonomous *Sí* using data from the 1998 electronic *Macrocorpus de la norma lingüística culta de las principales ciudades del mundo hispánico* and from *El habla popular de la República Mexicana* (1995). Results point out the similar functions of *Sí* in Mexican and Peninsular Spanish. The differences found are the very high frequency of statements expressing emphasis and intensifying agreement with the interlocutor, and the relative shortage of the variant *sí que + verb* in Mexican Spanish. These results, the author declares, have to be verified with future studies and statistical analyses.

Chapter Nine explores the correlation between position of direct objects, the use or lack of use of the personal *a* in front of direct objects, and clitic doubling of those objects. To analyze these issues a questionnaire designed by the author was given to Spanish speakers from Buenos Aires and Madrid. The data showed the similarities between the two populations examined in terms of their functional extension in their use of *a* carrying Scenic Prominence.

Finally, Chapter Ten analyzes the use of the discourse particle *dizque* using the database of the Spanish Royal Academy (CREA), Corpus de Referencia del Español Actual. The author concludes that the four types of *dizque* she found involve an ongoing transition from evidentiality (producing intertextuality) to epistemicity producing polyphony.

Considering this book as a whole, it is easily seen that it would be a good resource for undergraduate students of pragmatics interested in getting acquainted with empirical research and different and varied databases to study the realization of speech acts and pragmalinguistic issues.

Although the different data collecting procedures employed make it difficult to integrate contents from the first part of the book, this integration would have allowed for a more extensive and enriching analysis. Nevertheless, as the

author points out, the structure of the book allows each chapter to be used separately by readers interested in the different topics covered.

For a next edition, an introductory chapter linking the contents of the first and second parts of the book is highly recommended. Similarly, a concluding chapter integrating results of the two parts of the book would be of great value to readers interested in seeing the connection between sociopragmatics and pragmalinguistics.

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