# Review of
# *Routledge Handbook of Corpus Approaches to Discourse Analysis*

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***Routledge Handbook of Corpus Approaches to Discourse Analysis*** edited by Eric Friginal and Jack A. Hardy, Routledge, 2021, 662pp., $250.00 (Hardcover). ISBN 9780367201814.

Discourse analysis is an interdisciplinary field which is concerned with language use in different contexts. More specifically, as Bhatia, Flowerdew and Jones (2008) succinctly put it, discourse analysis is "the analysis of linguistic behaviour, written and spoken, beyond the limits of individual sentences, focusing primarily on the meaning constructed and interpreted as language is used in particular social contexts" (p. 1). Despite the recency of the field—it has a history of just over 60 years—it has now become an established area in linguistics, with a good number of approaches. These approaches have been based on context and major developments in other fields such as—in addition to linguistics, of course—philosophy, sociology and politics, resulting in an interdisciplinary inquiry with many approaches to its study. Bhatia, Flowerdew and Jones (2008) concern themselves with a discussion of seven approaches to discourse analysis which, they believe, are the major ones and "represent a range of directions" (p. 3). The first of these is the corpus approach to discourse analysis which is the topic expanded and carefully discussed in *the Routledge Handbook of Corpus Approaches to Discourse Analysis*, edited by Eric Friginal and Jack Hardy.

*The Routledge Handbook of Corpus Approaches to Discourse Analysis* is a comprehensive resource which comes in thirty-four chapters—in addition to the introduction—that cover a wide array of topics and investigations based on corpus analyses. The chapters are authored by eminent scholars and represent a diverse collection of corpus-based studies in various social and cultural domains. Chapter One, by Eric Friginal and Jack Hardy, is an introduction to corpus-based discourse analysis and a summary of the sections and chapters included in the handbook. Chapter Two, by Bernadette Vine, looks at spoken interactions in the workplace and particularly focuses on the role of gender in the use of the pragmatic marker *eh* in a corpus of business meetings at a workplace in New Zealand.

Chapter Three, by Julie Bouchard, Laura Di Ferrante, Nabiha El Khatib, and Lucy Pickering, extends the focus on spoken interactions in the workplace and compares the speech of workers who use augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices with that of workers who do not use AAC devices. Chapter Four, by Eric Friginal, Jennifer Roberts, Rachelle Udell, and Andrew Schneider, tackles the discourse of airline pilots and air traffic controllers (ATC) and shows that "[p]ilot– ATC utterances … are different in linguistic composition from business call centres, even with their clear contextual parallels with agents-callers in the medium and also the various functions of their discourse features" (p. 50). Chapter Five, by Shelley Staples, examines healthcare discourse using corpus linguistics and shows—through analysis of the interactions of U.S.-trained nurses and internationally educated nurses (IENs)—that there are differences between the two groups in the segmentation of the discourse and the linguistic features used. Chapter Six, by Joseph Lee, jumps to another domain and showcases how corpus linguistics is used to analyse the use of discourse markers *you know* by second language (L2) teachers in the classroom. Chapter Seven, by Yaoyao Chen, Svenja Adolphs, and Dawn Knight, provides a discussion on the value of using corpus approaches to the study of multimodal spoken discourse analysis by focusing on the use of some formulaic expressions. Chapter Eight, by Alan Partington and Alison Duguid, draws on data from a case study to update Zaller's (1999) analysis of media politics by proposing five modifications to his categorisation of "modern political media linguistics communication types" (p. 118). Chapter Nine, by Jessica Lian, showcases the various applications of corpus-based analyses in language planning through a case study on how corpus linguistics can be used in analysing the discourse of language planning and policy. Chapter 10, by Marcia Veirano Pinto, investigates how analysis of the media language (more specifically, the lexico-grammatical features) alone can inform analysts of the register of the discourse. Chapter 11, by Raffaele Zago, explores telecinematic discourse by analysing—using a corpus-assisted methodology—English cinematic speech through a case study which compares different types of filmic corpora.

Chapter 12, by Pierfranca Forchini, is an example of an authentic movie discourse study which uses corpora to explore the linguistic characteristics of movie conversational discourse. Chapter 13, by James Stratton, provides an account of how diachronic corpora are used in linguistics drawing on a case study on the use of intensifiers in Early Modern English. Chapter 14, by Brock Wojtalewicz and Randi Reppen, focuses on elementary learners' writings by collecting a corpus of texts written by learners from different backgrounds to analyse the use of lexical bundles and their discourse functions. Chapter 15, by Jack Hardy, extends the study of learner writing in English for academic purposes and explores the use of metadiscursive strategies in student writings in biology and philosophy. Chapter 16, by Joseph Collentine and Yuly Asención- Delaney, analyses the various linguistic bonds which L2 learners make in their written academic texts and follows their development of the Spanish subjunctive by L2 learners. Chapter 17, by Rurik Tywoniw and Scott Crossley, presents a measurement of morphological complexity using an automated corpus-based approach. Chapter 18, by Tony Berber Sardinha, shows how scientific texts can be analysed using corpus analysis by drawing on a study on lexical units in scientific discourse of different registers. Chapter 19, by Gerlinde Mautner, provides insights into how specialised corpora are used in business discourse. Chapter 20, by William Michael Lake and Viviana Cortes, provides assistance to students of writing for professional purposes by comparing between English and Spanish research articles in terms of the use of lexical bundles and their communicative functions. Chapter 21, by Carlos Kauffmann and Tony Berber Sardinha, showcases how the multi-dimensional analyses—in particular, the lexical and canonical ones—are used in the study of literary style. Chapter 22, by Maggie Leung, jumps to the study of professional discourse by analysing the use of phrasal verbs in engineering English discourse across genres.

Chapter 23, by Ursula Lutzky, explores the use of digital media in business discourse; specifically, it analyses the tweets passengers addressed to British and Irish airlines in order to explore the discursive features of airline discourse. Chapter 24, by Catherine Smith, is a focal analysis of the manifestation of stance in financial discourse and highlights the use of lexical and grammatical categories of stance across genres. Chapter 25, by Sylvia Jaworska, examines the use of corpora in the analysis of the discourse of advertising and shows the discursive practices in digital advertising, highlighting new forms of digital discourse. Chapter 26, by Helen Baker, Tony McEnery, and Vaclav Brezina, is an analysis of a corpus created from the transcripts of Early English Books Online in the seventeenth century about banking discourse and shows that "[t]he corpus analysis does give us a sense of the changing ways in which people in early modern England conducted their finances" (pp. 456-457). Chapter 27, by Clark Cunningham and Jesse Egbert, focuses on how corpus tools can be utilised in the analysis of written laws and provisions drawing on a diachronic analysis of the interpretation statuses of American judges and their discourse in courts. Chapter 28, by Emily Williams, shows how corpus analysis can be used in tandem with critical discourse analysis by presenting a study which analyses the discourse of American language policy. Chapter 29, by Paula Rodríguez- Puente, uses corpus linguistics to explore the linguistic features of legal discourse focusing on the genre of law report in the British Common Law system. Chapter 30, by Audrey Roberson, examines—through corpus tools—news articles about suicide by identifying frequent collocations related to suicide and crime discourse. Chapter 31, by James Balfour, examines how contextualisation is manifested in the press by analysing stories of violent crimes using corpus tools. Chapter 32, by Mark Wilkinson, explores the shaping and theorisation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender identities in discourse by analysing the representation of their identities in a corpus of newspaper articles. Chapter 33, by Magdi Kandil, showcases how corpus tools can be used in political and diplomatic discourse by highlighting the case of the diplomatic crisis between Qatar and three other Arab countries led by Saudi Arabia and the representation of Qatar in the Saudi media before and after the crisis. Chapter 34, by Stephen Skalicky, identifies, through corpus linguistics tools, the use and functions of verbal humour and irony in discourse. Chapter 35, by Chandrika Balasubramanian, demonstrates that corpus tools are valuable in identifying the development of languages and focuses on the case of the development of Indian English by identifying the Indian words in three corpora collected in the years 2000, 2016 and 2019.

All in all, *The Routledge Handbook of Corpus Approaches to Discourse Analysis* represents an advancement in the study of discourse analysis and shows how corpus tools and applications can be utilised in the analysis of a wide range of texts in a wide array of domains. It provides discourse analysts with a comprehensive resource of empirically-driven case studies reported in 34—"meticulously written" (p. 1), to use the editors' words—chapters which include insights for further research and study. This handbook shows the multifaceted nature of discourse, in its spoken and written modes, and the multiplicity of corpus tools which can be used in its analysis. The authors of the 34 of chapters come from different contexts and bring about varied perspectives of looking at the study of discourse and a multitude of topics ranging from academic to media-related to political to identity shaping and power relations. These topics enrich our understanding of the diversity of discourse studies and of the advantages of using corpus tools in the analysis of texts. As the editors of the handbook note in Chapter One, corpus-based analyses provide "clearer identification of patterns and tendencies within general and specific discourses" (p. 1). What is interesting about corpus-based studies presented in this handbook is that they present "diverse and overlapping, often fascinating results" (p. 1).

However, there are three main concerns about the handbook which may be considered in upcoming editions. The first relates to the organisation of the chapters. The editors note, in Chapter 1, that the

handbook includes "34 empirical chapters organized into five primary sections. These are studies of (1) naturally occurring spoken, professional, and academic discourse; (2) (scripted) spoken discourse; (3) academic written discourse; (4) professional written discourse; and (5) media discourse" (p. 3). However, as a reader, I found that a thematic ordering might be a better way of organisation. It was distracting sometimes to jump from a study on diachronic corpora in Chapter 13 to another on elementary learners' writings in Chapter 14 and from learner writing in English for academic purposes in Chapter 15 to the development of the Spanish subjunctive in 16. I claim that Chapter 23 is better positioned after 19 because both are related to business discourse, and 26 be positioned after 24 as both are banking and financial discourse. In addition, readers would have liked the classification provided by the editors in Chapter One to be reflected in the list of contents in the frontmatter. There is usually a sudden jump in the titles of the chapters which were—to me—not very informative of the content of the respective chapters. The title of Chapter Two is a notable example. As a reader, I would have liked the title if it were a sociolinguistic analysis of the use of the pragmatic marker *eh* in spoken workplace discourse.

The second concern, which is in fact partially treated in the handbook, relates to the interdisciplinarity of the field of discourse analysis. Chapter Two deals with the study of discourse and interactional sociolinguistics. This interdisciplinarity is explicitly stated in the chapter, and readers in five places in the chapter are apprised of the use of this approach as a supplement to the corpus-based approach used in the analysis. The author of Chapter Two explains that the "quantitative analysis is supplemented by a closer qualitative examination using an interactional sociolinguistics approach" (p. 5). However, in many other chapters, such interdisciplinarity—which is a salient feature of discourse analysis—is not manifested as such. We would have liked more emphasis on the interdisciplinarity of topics and approaches in the study of the discourses presented in the volume. The last point about the handbook relates to the implications of the studies included. Although readers would greatly value the content and presentation of the sections in each chapter, they would have valued more the inclusion of a section on the implications of the discourse study in each chapter, particularly that discourse analysis is intertwined with applied linguistics and language pedagogy. Some chapters did refer to some pedagogical implications (Chapters 12, 14, 15, and 20). In saying this, however, emphasising the practical implications of each study would have been a useful ending of the chapters.

## References

Bhatia, V.K., Flowerdew, J. & Jones, R.H. (Eds.). (2008). *Advances in discourse studies*. Oxon: Routledge.