BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Minds, Networks, Narratives: 90 Years of the Department of English
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Sessions in Linguistics

Yasuda, S. (2023). What does it mean to construct an argument in academic writing? A synthesis of Englis for general academic purposes and English for specific academic purposes perspectives. Journal of English for Academic Purposes, 66, 101307.

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A comparative view on socio-pragmatic parameters of requests

Speech acts are frequently used utterances in everyday communication in many languages. One of the most analysed speech acts is the speech act of requesting. A request can be expressed through multiple forms and can be used to express multiple meanings. Although a request very often represents a single speech act, it is not a simple act, but an act highly influenced by social and contextual features, especially by the language and the culture of the speakers.

This paper analyses different situational contexts that cause the production of requests by native speakers of American English and native speakers of Macedonian. The focus is on the strategies employed by the interlocutors in the realization of the speech act of requesting. An online questionnaire was used as in instrument to gather the data, which was later qualitatively and quantitatively analysed. The situations in the questionnaire include different social distance and social status between the interlocutors, and a different context. The participants are university students.

The aim of the paper is to determine the language form of this speech act in two different languages and the socio-pragmatic features of requests in two different cultures. It has been concluded that the social and contextual features have a different impact on the American and Macedonian speakers that consequently results in requests with different patterns in American English and Macedonian.

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Uncovering areal parallels in argument marking

Researchers investigating valency have long noted cross-linguistic similarities in argument marking. Patterns involving core markers are well understood (cf. e.g. Bickel 2011), while those with non-core markers demonstrate less evident parallels and so are more challenging and more interesting. The paper establishes and investigates such patterns of correspondence for a dozen of European languages. This kind of study requires a fine-grained approach to valency, employing the concept of semantic microroles, defined in relation to individual predicate meanings (cf. Hartmann et al. 2014). My dana are drawn from a sizable database of valency patterns and analysed using the methods of affinity analysis (Agrawal et al. 1993), which identifies sets of markers that frequently enough correspond to each other, i.e. mark