

[ostrava
journal of
english
philology

vol. 2
no. 2

2010



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A Functional Characterology of English Transitional Pr-Verbs: Presentation or Appearance on the Scene Revisited

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In the framework of the theory of functional sentence perspective (FSP), aptly elaborated by Jan Firbas (summarised in Firbas 1992), the English verb tends to be the mediator (i.e. transition) between the theme and the rheme. Every sentence implements one of the dynamic semantic scales, which functionally reflect the distribution of communicative dynamism and operate irrespective of word order. In principle, Firbas distinguishes two types of dynamic semantic scales: the Presentation Scale and the Quality Scale. The present paper discusses the dynamic as well as the static semantic characteristics of the English verb operating in the transitional sphere of the clause, with special regard to its Presentation Scale occurrence. The author examines especially the Firbasian phenomenon of presentation or appearance on the scene, exemplifying this phenomenon by means of a statistical and FSP analysis of a sample corpus based on religious discourse.

Keywords: presentation, scale, English, verb, FSP, Firbas, transition, existence, appearance

Analyzing e-mails from the viewpoint of FSP

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This paper reports on a linguistic analysis of e-mail messages from the viewpoint of the theory of functional sentence perspective (FSP). FSP is an important factor in communication strategies. The way in which sentences are perspectived suggests the communication purpose of the writer, indicating the point of departure and the core of the message. Drawing upon the methodology of FSP theory, this paper examines specific features of personal e-mail communication. Particular attention has been devoted to those items which demonstrate similar use. The aim is to present facts that are generally applicable and utilizable in deeper and more extensive research in the future.

Keywords: functional sentence perspective, e-mail communication, dynamic semantic functions, ellipsis, emoticons

Questioning and Responding Practices in Medical Interviews Revisited (Part II: Patients)

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The paper offers selected results from a long-term project inquiring into the field of medical interviewing. The main goal of the project is to identify communicative strategies of doctors and patients that are capable of conveying empathy and trust. Via an interdisciplinary analysis based on data excerpted from the most recent edition of the British National Corpus, the author attempts to bring quantitative and qualitative evidence that doctor–patient interaction has undergone significant modifications, resulting in a social redefinition of the asymmetrical roles of the main protagonists. The presented text focuses particularly on the communicative strategies of patients, drawing attention to their questioning and responding practices.

Keywords: medical interviewing, questioning and responding practices, patients, interdisciplinary research, British National Corpus

The Research Article Abstract in Social Sciences and Its Promotional Function

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The present paper examines research article abstracts in social sciences. It introduces the research article abstract as a genre and investigates its rhetorical structure. Furthermore, it focuses on the promotional function of abstracts and the rhetorical strategies used to perform this function. A total of eighty abstracts selected from six social science journals were analyzed. The results showed that the pattern which occurred in the majority of abstracts was P–M–R (Purpose–Methods–Results).

Keywords: abstract, promotional function, research article, academic discourse

The Female Grotesque in Works by Fay Weldon, Jeanette Winterson and Angela Carter

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The paper initially focuses on the character of the female grotesque presented in Bakhtin's study of Rabelais, paying special attention to Bakhtin's discussion of the "idealizing tradition" and the "Gallic tradition", two opposing views in the context of the medieval debate about women known as the querelle des femmes. This theoretical framework is then used to explore three twentieth-century examples of the British feminist novel claiming that they offer feminist versions of the medieval popular comic images of the woman in the Gallic tradition.

Keywords: female grotesque, querelle des femmes, Mikhail Bakhtin, feminism, Fay Weldon, Jeanette Winterson, Angela Carter

**“Safe underneath the Story of My Life”:
Completing the Circle in Phyllis Alesia Perry’s *Stigmata***

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The paper discusses Phyllis Alesia Perry’s novel Stigmata (1998) and demonstrates how Perry interrogates the meaning of traumatic memories and remembering in relation to one’s (in)sanity and wholeness. Binding the past to the present, I argue, Perry’s novel probes the issue of historical authenticity and access to historical truth, while establishing a distinct Africana womanist consciousness that validates African heritage and black female subjectivity. Building upon the art of quilting, the novel offers a way in which traumatic memories can be overcome to foster recovery and healing: personal, cultural and national.

Keywords: Africana womanist, black female body, history, insanity, memory, remembering, pain, slave trade, trauma, wholeness

**At the Intersection: The Conflicting Position
of the Army Chaplain in World War One**

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Their conflicting roles as officers and upholders of the faith made army chaplains particularly vulnerable. They are one of the most difficult but also most revealing groups to analyse within the army of World War One. By focusing on Anne Perry’s quintet on World War One, this article demonstrates that fiction has a special ability to illustrate the complexity and vulnerability of the army chaplain’s position as it reveals a multi-faceted and deeply felt reality which is both more personal and intense than that provided by documentary accounts insisting on factuality.

Keywords: Army Chaplain, duty, World War One, Anglican, Ypres, fiction, history

The Borders of Realism in Paul Auster’s *The Book of Illusions*

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This paper analyzes Paul Auster’s use of narrative techniques such as metafiction and intertextuality as postmodern narrative techniques along with the imagery of presence and absence and the complementarity principle to point out the author’s depiction of the problematic status of physical reality in the contemporary world. Based on the theory of possible worlds in literature (Ronen), the paper also points out the way in which Auster, by using these narrative strategies and techniques, problematizes such myths of American

cultural identity as the American Dream and emphasizes the difference between physical reality and the world of fiction; this becomes one of the key themes within the allegorical framework of the novel.

Keywords: realism, borders, postmodernism, allegory, narrative techniques, American dream, textuality, imagination, ontological levels