

## EDITORIAL

The present volume consists of six research papers and three reviews. The papers partly supplement the first 2009 volume of *Lodz Papers in Pragmatics* 5.1—*Special Issue on Speech Actions*, edited by Iwona Witczak-Plisiecka and Maciej Witek.

In “Shared Content as Speaker Meaning”, Eleni Kriempardis argues for a new model of “speaker meaning”—a mutually recognised content of the speaker’s overt commitment—defined in relation to two functional domains used to construe utterance meaning, viz. the subjective processing domain and the interpersonal domain of communication. The suggested conception of speaker meaning is admittedly both minimal, i.e. conventionally restricted, and inherently pragmatic, i.e. speaker-dependent. Arguably, this new interesting and, at the same time, contentious model should integrate the more objective (conventional) elements of communication associated with the Gricean trust in cooperation with the necessarily subjective side of inferential communicative processes. By the author’s own admission, the paper is an independent voice within the semantic minimalism/contextualism debate, especially with regard to Cappelen and Lepore’s (2005, 2006, 2007) model.

In the next short, but theoretically rich, text—“Pragmatic Ambiguity: The Thetic Function of Modality”—Amedeo Giovanni Conte and Paolo Di Lucia present ambiguity located in deontic sentences through the lens of pragmatics. The discussion of the pragmatic aspects of deonticity is based on linguistic analysis on the lexical, phrasal, and sentential levels and focuses on the function of the German verb *sollen* and the English verb *shall* with considerable amount of attention devoted to Latin.

The topic of deonticity and vagueness or ambiguity associated with deontic expressions is also present in the next text—“A Note on the Linguistic (In)Determinacy in the Legal Context”—by Iwona Witczak-Plisiecka. In this text, deontic expressions, and especially the legal use of *shall*, are discussed along with other indeterminate expressions culled from legal language contexts. The inherent indeterminate nature of the language of the law, but also surprising interpretations of apparently innocent expressions in legal contexts, are discussed with reference to the main tenets of relevance theory (Sperber and Wilson 1986/1995) and the indeterminacy claim (Carston 2002, 2009), which the theory endorses.

Yagihashi Hirotohi’s paper under the telling title—“Why Can a Japanese Unagi-Sentence Be Used in a Request?”—concentrates on the speech act of request in the Japanese language context with focus on the so-called “Unagi” structure. This structure was (humorously) named after Kojima’s (1988) now

famous example—“Boku-wa Unagi-da”, literally “I am (an) eel” (with “Unagi” meaning “eel”), but used e.g. to place an order in a restaurant or indicate location. In his analysis, Yagihashi Hirotooshi uses the framework of cognitive linguistics, especially Ron Langacker’s (1987, 1990, 1993) model to account for the metonymy involved and the construal of the reference point in Japanese as a language of high context culture.

The next paper—“ Might Interjections Encode Concepts? More Questions than Answers” by Manuel Padilla Cruz—discusses the nature of interjections, i.e. one type of fragmentary expression in the English language. The underlying research question expressed in the title, i.e. the puzzle whether interjections can encode concepts, is analysed with the use of the apparatus of relevance theory to eventually show a high degree of pragmatic data intrusion in the processing of interjections which may possibly possess (general) conceptual schemata.

Finally, in “‘I Bet They Are Going to Read It’: Reported Direct Speech in Titles of Research Papers in Linguistic Pragmatics”, Hanna Pułaczewska addresses the question of the pragmatics (sic!), i.e. the function, quality, relevance and economy, of the titles of research papers published within the field of linguistic pragmatics. She particularly concentrates on the titles which include a citation in the form of direct speech and compares them with titles which solely make use of a descriptive element. The discussion is based on a number of surveys and case studies carried out among students of English philology in Poland with the aim of revealing the potential attractiveness and “memorability” of titles with direct speech act quotations.

The volume closes with two review articles. Manuel Padilla Cruz’s discussion of *Pragmatics and Non-Verbal Communication* by Tim Wharton (2009) is followed by Marta Dynel’s critical review of Victor Raskin’s (2008) *The Primer of Humor Research*.

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