

therapeutic dialogues), Luis Pérez- González (on the relevance of choices in conflictive calls for emergency assistance), Karen Malcolm (on differentiating choices in dialogues between strangers and friends), Robert Veltman (on the analysis of swearing as a paradigmatic example of language as choice) and finally Martin Hewings (on intonation choices in the case of non-native speakers of English).

In conclusion, it should be stressed that this collection of articles provides new models for the study of Texts Linguistics and Genre Analysis, apart from clearing the way for future research into new perspectives and developments. In this regard it is worth mentioning the innovative didactic perspective, opened by Katja Pelsmaekers, Chris Braecke and Ronald Geluykens in their article on L2 writing and Martin Hewings in his study of non-natives intonation. These articles emphasise the alternatives, relationships and restrictions determined by choices in a given context. Consequently, genres are characterised by all the choices that are possible in a particular context limited by the constraints made by the interpersonal relationships of individuals, lexical and grammatical aspects, power differences between actors, previous choices, the purpose and the function of the text, cohesion, coherence, register, and some others. The articles imply that there is still a need for further research, but also present models of approach to different texts that may prove useful when trying to analyse variation across genres.

Milagros Fernández Pérez *Introducción a la Lingüística*. Barcelona: Ariel, 1999.

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The book written by Fernández Pérez is an excellent introduction to Linguistics. This work is divided into two different sections, each one containing three chapters. The first section focuses on language whereas the second concentrates on different aspects of modern and historical Linguistics. In the first section language is analyzed from distinct perspectives: social, symbolic and neuropsychological. Thus in the first chapter Fernández deals with language as an object of study from different viewpoints: language as a system, variations within a language, national and official language, worldwide linguistic typology, etc. The next chapter within this section examines language from a symbolic perspective, describing it as a means of communication between human beings where different codes are involved. Consequently, different Semiotic aspects of language structure are here explained, such as the concepts of 'cognition' and 'communication' in Spanish. The last chapter within the first section analyzes language from a psychological perspective. Here the author recalls some of the most important theories on the process of language acquisition, describing and illustrating several stages and problems throughout this process.

The second section deals specifically with Linguistics. In a very structured way the author takes us from the original objectives and theories of historical linguistics to a much more modern conception of linguistics. Taking as her main reference some of the concepts

previously analyzed in the first section, Fernández offers an overview of the origins of Linguistics, and provides helpful illustration of some important approaches and traditions still current in the field. She reflects on some traditional key concepts from a comparative point of view, which allows her to explain the reasons for the modern division in contemporary Linguistics in the second chapter in this section. This chapter deals with several branches of Linguistics such as phonology, grammar and lexicology. But the author also finds and explains a number of important links between other branches of the field, as some of them have common aims and ideas and can be better explained through a comparative analysis, for instance: Sociolinguistics and Anthropology, Psycholinguistics and Neurolinguistics. This chapter is completed with a very comprehensive introduction to some of the latest advances in Applied Linguistics: language teaching and learning, problems in translation, etc. The last chapter in this section is dedicated to Linguistics from a more philosophical perspective. Here Fernández applies the concept of epistemology to some of the linguistic theories and doctrines previously described, stressing that this epistemology is not prescriptive.

This book is a very comprehensive guide to some of the major problems in contemporary Linguistics and it is very well organized into several chapters, distributed over two coherent sections. This represents a clear advantage for the reader, as all concepts and theories described throughout the book are very well correlated. Furthermore, at the end of each chapter Fernández includes a number of texts, questions and practice material relating to the content provided in each chapter, so this work definitely serves as a very worthy and necessary introduction to historical and contemporary Linguistics.

Agustín Coletes Blanco, *Pérez de Ayala, bajo el signo de Britannia*. Serie Literatura, 39. Valladolid: Secretariado de Publicaciones de la Universidad de Valladolid, 1997. 154 p.

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The present book completes a trilogy devoted to the English sources in Pérez de Ayala's literary and non-literary works. It had started with the publication of *Gran Bretaña y los Estados Unidos en la vida de Ramón Pérez de Ayala* (Oviedo: Instituto de Estudios Asturianos, 1984) and continued thereafter with *La huella anglonorteamericana en la novela de Pérez de Ayala* (Murcia/Oviedo: Universidad de Murcia y Universidad de Oviedo, 1987). In this case, its author, Agustín Coletes, writes about the presence of this influence in Ayala's "minor" works, that is to say, his poems, short stories and essays. On the whole, we have a very clear picture of Ayala's readings and opinions on many English and American authors from Shakespeare to Joyce or T. S. Eliot. Agustín Coletes demonstrates his extensive knowledge of the writer, whether when he refers to the contents of his library, or when he quotes the main critical reviews of his literary works. He has studied the character and his writings thoroughly and patiently, and his conclusions are the