langue or system and *parole* or speech which Jespersen thought could not be clearly distinguished.

Finaly, four papers make part of the last section of the book (Part IV), 'Studies on History in Literary Texts'. In the first article, Stefano Manferlotti deals with the figure of the director in Elizabethan theatre and focuses on *Macbeth*, providing several examples taken from this literary work where becomes evident the absence in Elizabethan theatre of a director in a modern sense as the whole text becomes a script and the actors have to perform spontaneously with just the directions implied throughout the text. In the second article, Uwe Baumann comments on the model set by Elyot in his book *Speculum Principis*, a model to be imitated by princes all over the world as represented in that book by Severus Alexander. The third paper deals with the images and metaphors about the union of England and Scotland taken from Ben Jonson's *Hymenaei*. The author of this paper, Anna Cataldi, examines the role played by James I as a peacemaker between the English and the Scottish peoples and the images and metaphors about this union desired by the king between England and Scotland contained in Ben Jonson's masque. In 'How-to Literature', the fourth and last paper, David Hart provides a brief outline of the history of medical texts written in the vernacular language from the 16th to the 19th centuries and compares the style and the expected audience of nine of them. Hart thus exemplifies the shift from the more personal narration and involved character of the 17th and 18th century texts to the more 'information' style of the 19th century ones. This shift is clearly manifested in the differences of clause structure between all those texts, with a progressive increase of nominalisation and different clause-structuring forms, predicative adjectives, etc.

This book contains a wide range of topics written by several scholars working in Historical Linguistics. The result is a collection of well documented papers, which provide plenty of examples and pave the way for future research on those topics. There is a General Index at the end of the book which, despite not being very extensive, has several keywords or entries that may be very useful for those who are only interested in some particular aspect. Students and scholars will find it very helpful as it is an excellent source of information on very specific aspects of Historical Linguistics and other related fields related, Comparative Linguistics, English Literature, etc.

Antonia Sánchez-Macarro and R. Carter (eds.) (1998): *Linguistic Choice across Genres: Variation in Spoken and Written English.* **Amsterdam: John Benjamins.**

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The book reviewed here represents a very interesting and relevant contribution to the field of text linguistics and text analysis from the systemic functional grammar perspective. The volume brings together a number of papers presented at the 7th International Systemic Functional Workshop held in Valencia, Spain, in July 1995. As the editors mention in the

foreword, the workshop and its subsequent publication focus on the study and analysis of linguistic choices and variation in spoken and written genres. This notion of choice, basic in a systemic functional grammar perspective, enables the linguist to analyse the potential expression of meaning in a myriad of socio-cultural contexts. These contexts vary from well-established academic texts to popular swear words, covering among others: academic articles on philosophy, scientific research papers, emergency telephone calls and casual conversations. Undoubtedly, one of the main achievements of this volume is that the editors and authors have succeeded in presenting an exhaustive corpus of genres covering written and spoken texts. Thus, they offer, at the same time, interesting insights into the relationship between text and context.

   Linguistic Choice across Genres contains three sections: an introduction by Gunther Kress, a section devoted to written genres and, finally, a section on spoken genres. The introduction, entitled "Meaning as Work: Individuals, Society and the Production of Representational Resources", considers meaning as the outcome of choice, assuming that choice not only consists of the selection of a possibility from existing resources, but also of the actual process of meaning-making when we have a context of available semiotic resources. This conception of choice is underpinned by notions such as the transformative action of meaning-making, the type of actors and the kind of context involved. This idea is, in fact, the theoretical basis underlying the research undertaken in the following articles, in which the analysis of different written and spoken genres is based upon the particulars of the contextual situation.

   The second section contains ten articles which attempt to cover the study of choice in written texts. The first article, written by Geoff Thompson, is a theoretical and practical analysis of two sample texts. From his analysis the author concludes that choices are not made independently throughout the texts, but they have a marked influence on each other even across sentence boundaries, a phenomenon called *resonance*. The section on written texts also includes articles by Thomas Bloor (on conditional expressions across two different genres: economic forecasts and articles on linguistic philosophy), Michael P. Jordan (on constraints and limitations of choice in cause-effect logical relations), Vicente López-Folgado (on variations and possibilities of choice in NG premodifiers), Angela Dowing and Julia Lavid (on variation and thematic progression in English, German and Italian administrative texts), Eija Ventola (on choices in academic writing), Louise J. Ravelli (on the consequences of the choices made in art-related written texts), Meriel Bloor (on choice and innovation in computer science), Pilar Garcés-Conejos and Antonia Sánchez-Macarro (on choice of politeness strategies in scientific articles: popularisation versus initialisation), and Katja Pelsmaekers, Chris Braecke and Ronald Geluykens (on the question of choice for L2 writers when using subordinate clauses).

   The third section of the book contains articles on spoken genres, which is a highly significant contribution to the academic study of genres and text analysis, as not much research on spoken materials has been carried out to date. In this section the reader can find articles by Gordon Tucker (on quality and adjectival choice and its lexico-grammatical consequences), Adrienne Chambon and Daniel Simeoni (on the choice of modality in

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, worlwide linguistic typology, etc. The next chapter within this section examines language from a symbolic perspective, describing it as a 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 illustraintg several stages and problems thoughout 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