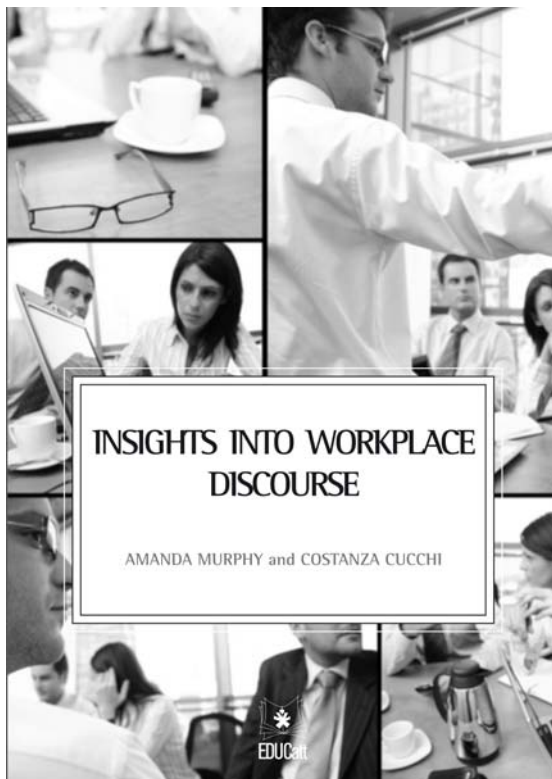# Amanda Clare Murphy

Pubblicazioni ultimo triennio (2008 – 2010)

"Corpus Analysis of European Union Documents", in *Encyclopaedia of Applied Linguistics: Corpus Linguistics*, C. Chapelle (ed.), Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford (forthcoming).

Abstract

The European Union is a unique, political, economic and linguistic entity, due to its policy of multilingualism. At the time of writing, twenty-three official languages have equal status in the Union, and vast amounts of documents are constantly translated and made available online. Large scale corpus-based linguistic research has so far produced a parallel corpus of European Parliamentary Proceedings for Machine translation, a representative parallel corpus of the Acquis Communautaire, and multilingual text mining and news-gathering tools. Smaller scale research in English and French has concentrated on purposely-built corpora for the study of typical concepts and phrases and their change over time, of EU text types and typical lexico-grammatical and textual features of EU language, comparing it to other monolingual corpora.

Insights into Workplace Discourse, EduCatt, Milano 2010 (in collaborazione con C. Cucchi).

This book, aimed at students of English specialising in business studies, provides an overview of the fundamental written and spoken genres of workplace discourse, from a cross-cultural point of view, and contains activities that develop linguistic awareness. The first two chapters, written by Costanza Cucchi, concentrate on spoken business genres, in particular on meetings and negotiations, considered as key events in corporate decision-making and problem-solving processes. Regarding meetings, the importance of the role of the Chair is pointed out, and various approaches to the analysis of negotiations are presented. Applications of Conversation Analysis, Speech Act Theory and Politeness Theory to spoken business genres are also illustrated. Chapters four and five, written by Amanda Murphy, consider typical written business genres, concentrating on letters and emails. The chain-like quality of both internal and external business communication is illustrated, and the rhetorical structure and politeness strategies adopted in For Your Information letters and Sales Promotion letters are compared in Italian and English. As regards emails, the emerging similarity to speech and the personal element in business emails is discussed, along with the reasons for which companies choose emails or telephone calls in certain circumstances. The ubiquitous use of English as a Lingua Franca in international business is pointed out.

"4-grams in comparable specialized corpora: perspectives on phraseology, translation, and pedagogy in Romer", Ute and Schulz, Rainer (eds), *Patterns, Meaningful Units and Specialized Discourses*, John Benjamins, Amsterdam 2010, pp. 87-103 (in collaborazione con P. Forchini)
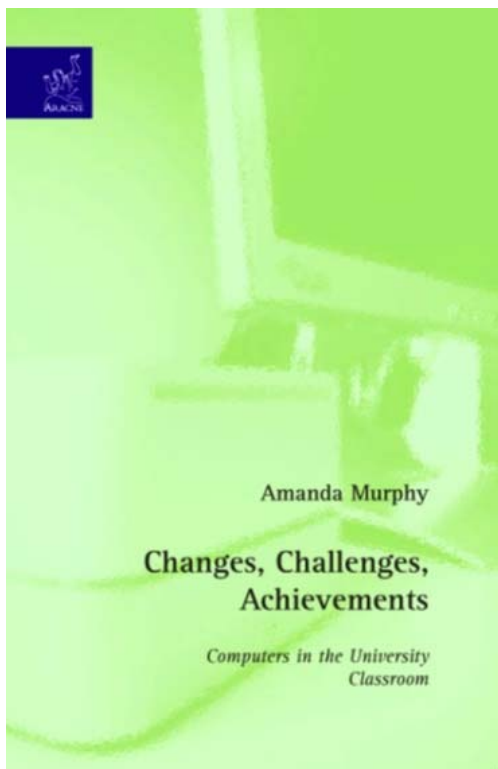
Abstract

This chapter investigates the idiom principle as four-word phrases (4-grams) headed by prepositions in specialized corpora in English and Italian. Concentrating on "at the end of", it reports that the collocates

of at the end of regard time, and that apparently synonymic 4-grams are not used in the same contexts. It then explores 4-gram realizations of at the end of in a specialized comparable corpus of Italian. Two findings emerge: firstly, that the most obvious equivalent, alla fine d*, occurs more frequently than in the English corpus; secondly, this n-gram is frequently used, but has weaker collocational relations, and several synonymic 4-grams share its collocates. This invites contrastive research on lexical variation and repetition and on the strength of collocations of multi-word units in English and Italian. Lastly, the paper recounts an experiment with students who gained awareness of language by concentrating on phraseology in comparable corpora.

"Editorials and Opinion Articles in the CorDis corpus: a transversal study" in *Wordings of War*, J. Morley – P. Bayley (eds.), Routledge, London 2009, pp. 186-207.
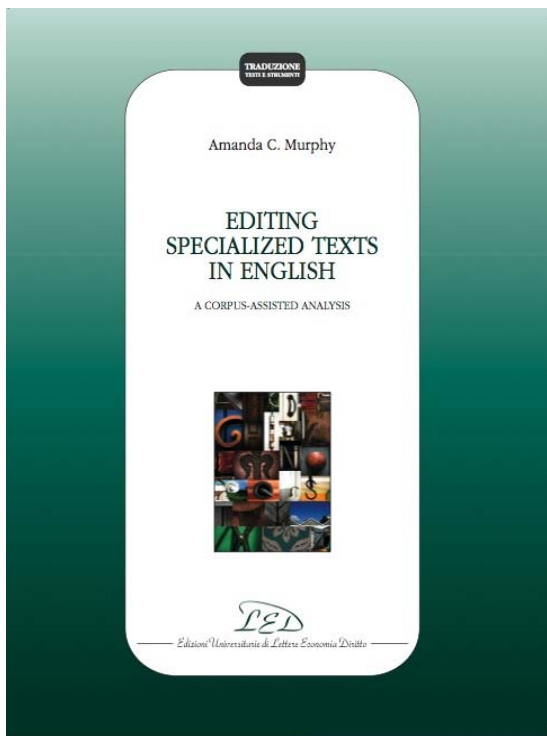
Abstract
This chapter builds on previous work that has distinguished linguistic features of the discourse type *opinion articles,* from other types in media discourse, such as *editorials* and *newspaper reports*. Starting from Biber's lists of features involved in the 'overt expression of persuasion' (1988: 195), Murphy and Morley (2006) documented characteristic features of op-eds in terms of the frequency of first and second personal pronouns, verbs indicating mental and verbal processes, and lexical density. In the present paper, the subcorpora of opinion articles and editorials from the *CorDis Corpus* are compared and contrasted across two different parameters, popular papers versus quality papers, and British versus American papers, with the aim of making finer distinctions between the two discourse types. Three broad issues are approached. Firstly, aspects of spoken discourse such as interjections, vocatives, discourse markers, contracted forms, and first person imperatives are sought and explored in the two discourse types. Secondly, through an analysis of keywords and headlines, differences are observed across the two types of newspapers, quality and popular, and between American and British papers. Lastly, the phraseology of the two discourse types is examined through comparing clusters of 2, 3 or 4 words in the subcorpora.

Amanda Murphy

Changes, Challenges,
Achievements

Computers in the University
Classroom

Changes, Challenges, Achievements: Computers in the University Classroom, Aracne, Roma 2008

This volume traces the development over ten years of the contribution that computer technology can make to language learning and testing in university. It is based on the author's experience of teaching English language and linguistics to university students, and recounts a series of successful experiments in the classroom. A theme running through the work is the fact that university students are adult learners who have different learning styles, and that using computers and corpora can diversify their learning process. Through individual and pair work, students become protagonists in discovering features of their language proficiency, of language learning and of the language itself.

Editing Specialized Texts in English: A corpus-assisted analysis, LED, Milano 2008.

This volume examines the editing of specialized texts as practised by the Editing Unit at the Directorate-General for Translation at the European Commission in Brussels. Following a corpus-assisted approach, it compares two comparable corpora of the same texts, in their non-edited and edited versions. Using quantitative techniques from corpus linguistics together with manual text analysis, the author reflects on the types of revisions that are made, of a formal, grammatical and lexical nature, and on some phraseological aspects of the edited texts.

The conclusions drawn are that the written English representing supranational organizations such as the European Union institutions continues to be norm-bound, adhering to standard British English. However, traces of influences from other European languages, in terms of false friends, and certain grammatical phrases, characterize the corpus of edited texts more than reference corpora of British English. Similarly to translated language, edited language is also found to be characterized by explicitation and simplification.

"Mediated language in non-native speaker texts in the European Commission", in C. Taylor (ed.), *ECOLINGUA: the role of e-corpora in translation, language learning and testing*, EUT, Trieste 2008, pp. 173-184.

Abstract
This article examines the English of non-edited texts from the European Commission and compares it with that of the texts edited by the DGT Editing Service. The ultimate aim of this is to investigate editing as a process of mediation, during which language undergoes a process of rewriting and revision wrought by someone who did not write the text. Lefevere (1992: 9) includes editing in his list of rewriting activities, alongside translation, historiography, anthologizing and criticism, and rewriting is interpreted by Ulrych and Anselmi (2008) as a means of mediation, which is extremely important for texts of all types, since mediated texts are actually the form of texts which most readers encounter. Mediated texts are investigated in a comparative light, both against the same text previous to their revision, and against the general reference corpus of the BNC.

"4-grams in comparable specialized corpora. Perspectives on phraseology, translation and pedagogy", *International Journal of Corpus Linguistics*, 13:3, 2008, pp. 351-367 (in collaborazione con P. Forchini).

Abstract
This paper investigates the idiom principle as four-word phrases (4-grams) headed by prepositions in specialized corpora in English and Italian. Concentrating on "at the end of", it reports that the collocates of at the end of regard time, and that apparently synonymic 4-grams are not used in the same contexts. It then explores 4-gram realizations of at the end of in a specialized comparable corpus of Italian. Two findings emerge: firstly, that the most obvious equivalent, alla fine d*, occurs more frequently than in the English corpus; secondly, this n-gram is frequently used, but has weaker collocational relations, and several synonymic 4-grams share its collocates. This invites contrastive research on lexical variation and repetition and on the strength of collocations of multi-word units in English and Italian. Lastly, the paper recounts an experiment with students who gained awareness of language by concentrating on phraseology in comparable corpora.

"Descriptive Translation Studies and the Use of Corpora: Investigation Mediation Universals", in *Corpora for University Language Teachers*, C. Taylor Torsello (ed.), Peter Lang, Bern 2008, pp. 141-166 (in collaborazione con M. Ulrych).

Abstract
The choice of research methods in the study of translation depends on whether one opts for a contrastive linguistics or translational approach. This paper describes the empirical investigation of mediation universals by means of a descriptive, evidence-based approach, through the use of monolingual comparable parallel corpora. Mediated texts of various types are compared from the point of view of their common phraseology, and are contrasted with non-mediated texts.