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Movie Language Revisited

Evidence from Multi-Dimensional Analysis and Corpora

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Book synopsis

This book explores the linguistic nature of American movie conversation, pointing out its resemblances to face-to-face conversation. The reason for such an investigation lies in the fact that movie language is traditionally considered to be non-representative of spontaneous language. The book presents a corpus-driven study of the similarities between face-to-face and movie conversation, using detailed consideration of individual lexical phrases and linguistic features as well as Biber's Multi-Dimensional Analysis (1998). The data from an existing spoken American English corpus - the Longman Spoken American Corpus - is compared to the American Movie Corpus, a corpus of American movie conversation purposely built for the research. On the basis of evidence from these corpora, the book shows that contemporary movie conversation does not differ significantly from face-to-face conversation, and can therefore be legitimately used to study and teach natural spoken language.

Contents

Contents: Opening Credits: Face-to-Face and Movie Conversation - The Making of: Methodology and Data - Shot 1: Multi-Dimensional Analysis of Face-to-Face and Movie Conversation - Shot 2: Close-ups - Closing Credits: Implications and Applications.

About the author(s)/editor(s)

Pierfranca Forchini has an MA in Foreign Languages and Literatures, an MA in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, and a PhD in Linguistic and Literary Sciences. Her interests are the lexico-grammar interface of spoken and movie language, American English phraseology and phonology, corpus linguistics, contrastive linguistics and audio-visual translation. She currently lectures in English Linguistics at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy.

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