

**Ioan Milică, *Lumi discursive. Studii de lingvistică aplicată*,
Editura Junimea, Iași, 2013, 294 p.**

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Language sciences are recently experiencing a tremendous diversification of scientific concerns, among which applied linguistics researches occupy a privileged position. Given these circumstances, a book which deals with the hypostases of verbal communication is quite justified, among other reasons, by its topicality. We refer to the volume of studies gathered under the compelling and suggestive title, *Lumi discursive... [Discursive universes]*, signed by Ioan Milică and published by Editura Junimea of Iași in 2013. As a matter of fact, the title is meant “to draw [the readers’] attention to the fact that the leading idea of the studies included in the volume consists in the interpretation of linguistic acts as a dynamic, adaptive universe”, says the author (p. 13). Essentially, the volume reflects the author’s long-term researches, some of the issues discussed here representing his constant preoccupations. Thus, revising and enriching his research, the present volume gathers the author’s previous results, which have been disseminated in various scientific publications.

The main subject matter dealt with throughout nearly three hundred pages is not entirely novel. By extension, the book joins those scientific works which aim at text and discourse analysis, a topic which have long aroused the interest of specialists; being claimed by many language sciences. On a more restricted level, the volume continues the series of papers on applied linguistics which exemplify the semi-otic aspect of verbal communication. Notwithstanding this fact, the present volume brings a notable novelty into these research fields. On various occasions, the author regards the old approaches in a light very different from that in which his predecessors look upon them and/or proposes new approaches. At the same time he provides new linguistic material for

research purposes. Acknowledging the fact that any linguistic theory must be supported by evidence from speech reality, just like any applied research should be based on a solid theoretical framework, the author applies that golden mean which reconciles both the former and the latter requirement. In this way, we assist at an original reconfiguration of how certain speech acts from public and / or private sphere may be interpreted.

The debate on the “discursive universes” proposed for analysis in this volume is preceded by an *Introduction*, in which the author makes some considerations on the theoretical basis of the studies included; giving an outline of the main coordinates of applied linguistics, which is meant to comprise the heterogeneity of speech acts. Beyond its theoretical delimitation from other concerns of language sciences¹, the author points out some benefits of applied studies to linguistic research.

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The first section, *Discursul public*, reunites case studies which discuss phenomena characteristic for communication in political sphere and in the media. In the first study, *Ideologie și limbaj*, the author examines the totalitarian discourse related to legal and journalistic texts and to other linguistic realities such as onomastics and ideologically mo-

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¹As a matter of fact, the author notes the relativity of the distinction made by F. de Saussure. Thus, according to the author, in actual research we cannot speak of a “language linguistics” (i.e. theoretical linguistics), but of concurrent linguistic theories, just like there is no “speech linguistics” (i.e. applied linguistics) but linguistic analysis and description practices (p. 8).

tivated urban toponymy. This one is followed by the study entitled *Cuvintele discordiei*, in which the author claims, quite fairly, that linguistic violence is widely and constantly encountered in contemporary Romanian political discourse. In this case study, the author explores aspects such as the presence of jargon in political statements of Romanian parliamentarians, inventorying other “anomalies” or linguistic phenomena incompatible with the structural and functional characteristics of political discourse. The examples given by the author in this respect are very instructive. The last study included in this thematic field, *Embleme onomastice*, is remarkable for the author’s pertinent observations regarding the aggression of anthroponyms in public sphere.

In the second section, *Universul proverbelor*, the author analyses certain discursive phenomena which are fundamental to the proper interpretation of the use of proverbs in verbal communication. The first study, *Gramaticalizare și stilizare paremiologică*, deals with certain structural and ornamental patterns of proverbs, the author’s purpose being to propose a typology of the contextual uses of proverbial formulas. The next study, “*Vorba ceea*”, exploits the ways in which these sapiential phrases may be anchored in discourse. In our opinion, the last study of this section, *Stigmatul proverbial*, stands out for its extremely interesting subject matter. In this case, proverbs are regarded as imagological emblems, the author proposing to discuss the stereotypes reflected in these words of wisdom. We believe that the universe of these adages, quite fascinating of its own, become even more interesting when these folk piece of advice acquire the quality of constituents of a “repeated discourse”². In this regard, the studies included in the present section demonstrate the proverbs’ extraordinary vitality and their function as a ceaseless source of inspiration including for everyday speech acts.

The last section of the volume, *Modele naive, modele savante*, includes studies which explore the linguistic material offered by folk and scientific terminology. Although apparently situated outside the

“discursive universes” mentioned above, the incorporation of this research field into the volume is justified, on the one hand, by the fact that terminologies, in their turn, reflect certain world views. On the other hand, the study of terminology is useful in showing that some of the discursive universes have metaphorical character par excellence. Thus, in the first study, *Modele cognitive și oglindiri figurative*, the author gives an outline of botanical terminology, insisting on the peculiarities of the folk and scientific model of designating plants and on the onomasiological domains reflected on the semantic level of ethnobotanical and scientific names. Another study, *Imaginarul animalier în presa sportivă contemporană*, is dedicated to nicknames and tag-names derived from animal names which are in current use in Romanian and international media. The series of applied linguistics studies ends with some considerations on the features and functions of metaphor in scientific discourse which is the topic of the case study entitled *Metafora științifică*.

The present volume is remarkable for the interdisciplinary character of the analysis carried out by the author. Thus, speech acts are not unilaterally described, i.e. from the point of view of a single methodological framework, but they are analysed from various perspectives. Due to the nature and complexity of the interpreted linguistic material, the author makes use of a wide range of methods and tools belonging to different scientific domains. In this way, the author manages to point out the solidarity of speech acts with the communication situations in which they are employed.

The results obtained by the author are related, with a great competence, to the previous researches carried out in theoretical and applied linguistics. Moreover, the book invites the reader to reflect upon the issues discussed the while the analysis questions foregoing hypothesis or conveys explanations offered by other specialists or by the author himself. In this regard, we should note the proper and scientific manner, in which the author supports his statements, presents and explains the extracted linguistic mater-

²By “repeated discourse” we mean what E. Coșeriu defines as: “everything that, in the speech of a community, is repeated more or less alike, in form of an already existing discourse or a more or less stable combination of either short or long fragments of «what has already been said»” (in *Lecții de lingvistică generală*, Chișinău, Editura Arc, p. 258). We also refer to the definition given by Stelian Dumitrăcel: “«prefabricated speech acts» such as proverbs, idiomatic expressions, formulas of comparison, citations from authors etc., inserted by «collage» in sentences which represent a product of «free speech technique»” (in *Discursul repetat în textul jurnalistic. Tentația instituirii comunității fatice prin mass-media*, Editura Universității “Alexandru Ioan Cuza”, Iași, 2006, p. 7).

ial. The functional perspective adopted by the author throughout his investigation naturally implies the assessment and reassessment of the analysed speech acts. Even when it comes to certain delicate issues, such as the totalitarian or the contemporary political discourse, the author maintains, throughout his interpretative approach, a neutral tone characterized by discernment in which prudence merges with courage.

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Overall, the applied linguistics studies included in this volume explore less enquired linguistic areas which, by making use of appropriate research methods, allow certain generalizations, thus contributing to the completion of the current theoretical models and abstractions. Not exhausting all the merits and the richness of aspects dealt with in the sections of the volume *Lumi discursive...*, we highly recommend the work signed by Ioan Milică as a noteworthy contribution to applied linguistics researches which deserves not only the attention of a restricted group of specialists, but also that of the wider public.