

Luna Filipović (ed.) (2021) *Police Interviews: Communication Challenges and Solutions*

This collection breaks new ground in police communication research. It involves the first instance of the same dataset being analysed from different theoretical and methodological perspectives as well as providing original and detailed insights into both monolingual and bilingual UK police interviews and US police interrogations of suspects. The topics include the role of metacommunication and its appropriate vs inappropriate use in evidence elicitation, assessment of mitigation vs aggravation strategies in questioning, identification of right vs wrong empathy and the importance of getting it right, effects on complexity in police speak on quantity and quality of information obtained, and the multiple challenges that affect interpreter-mediated exchanges in this highly sensitive communicative context. All levels of linguistic meaning are covered, words, constructions, sentences, discourse, and contextualised within psycholinguistic and sociolinguistic knowledge about inferencing, emotion and social interaction. Originally published as a special issue of *Pragmatics and Society* 10(1) 2019. (abridged from publisher's website)

John Benjamins. ISBN 9789027209368 (151 pp) routledge.com

Stanisław Goźdź-Roszkowski & Gianluca Pontrandolfo (eds) (2021) *Law, Language and the Courtroom: Legal Linguistics and the Discourse of Judges*

This book explores the language of judges. It is concerned with understanding how language works in judicial contexts. Using a range of disciplinary and methodological perspectives, it looks in detail at the ways in which judicial discourse is argued, constructed, interpreted and perceived. Focusing on four central themes – constructing judicial discourse and judicial identities, judicial argumentation and evaluative language, judicial interpretation and clarity in judicial discourse – the book's ultimate goal is to provide a comprehensive and in-depth overview of current critical issues of the role of language in judicial settings. Written by contributors from legal linguists, lawyers, legal scholars, legal practitioners, legal translators and anthropologists, the work explores patterns of linguistic organization and use in judicial institutions and analyses language as an instrument for understanding both the judicial decision-making process and its outcome. The

book will be an invaluable resource for scholars in legal linguistics and those specializing in judicial argumentation and reasoning and forensic linguists interested in the use of language in judicial settings. (*from publisher's website*)

Routledge. ISBN 9780367721855 (280 pp.) routledge.com

Chris Heffer (2020) *All Bullshit and Lies? Insincerity, Irresponsibility, and the Judgment of Untruthfulness*

In a postfactual world in which claims are often held to be true only to the extent that they confirm pre-existing or partisan beliefs, this book asks crucial questions: how can we identify the many forms of untruthfulness in discourse? How can we know when their use is ethically wrong? How can we judge untruthfulness in the messiness of situated discourse? Drawing on pragmatics, philosophy, psychology and law, *All Bullshit and Lies?* develops a comprehensive framework for analyzing untruthful discourse in situated context. TRUST, or Trust-related Untruthfulness in Situated Text, sees untruthfulness as encompassing not only deliberate manipulations of what is believed to be true (the insincerity of withholding, misleading and lying) but also the distortions that arise from an irresponsible attitude towards the truth (dogma, distortion and bullshit). In addition to the theoretical framework, this book provides a clear, practical heuristic for analyzing discursive untruthfulness and applies it to such cases of public discourse as the Brexit 'battle bus', Trump's tweet about voter fraud, Blair and Bush's claims about weapons of mass destruction and the multiple forms of untruthfulness associated with the Skripal poisoning case. (*abridged from publisher's website*)

Oxford University Press. ISBN 9780190923280 (352 pp.) oup.com

Martha Komter (2019) *The Suspect's Statement: Talk and Text in the Criminal Process*

What suspects tell the police may become a crucial piece of evidence when the case comes to court. But what happens to 'the suspect's statement' when it is written down by the police? Based on a unique set of data from over fifteen years' worth of research, Martha Komter examines the trajectory of the suspect's statement from the police interrogation through to the trial. She shows how the suspect's statement is elicited and written down in the police report, how this police report both represents and differs from the original talk in the interrogation, and how it is quoted and referred to in court. The analyses cover interactions in multiple settings, with documents that link one interaction to the next, providing insights into the interactional and documentary foundations of the criminal process and, more generally, into the construction, character and uses of documents in institutional settings. (*from publisher's website*)

Cambridge University Press. ISBN 9781107059481 (218 pp.) cambridge.org

Endurance Midinette Koumassol Dissake (2021) *Language and Legal Proceedings: Analysing Courtroom Discourse in Cameroon*

This book investigates language-related problems which arise in courtroom discourse in the Republic of Cameroon, in Central Africa. While Cameroon has over 250 national languages, court cases are conducted in the two official languages, English and French. This is despite the fact that 40% of the adult population is illiterate in these languages, and means that lay litigants often encounter language-related problems during trials. In this study, the author makes use of Speech Act Theory and Interactional Sociolinguistics to analyse the speech acts of both legal professionals and lay litigants as observed in 37 legal cases, demonstrating how the use of exoglossic languages in a highly multilingual nation constitutes a serious issue. The book will be of interest to students and scholars of Forensic Linguistics, Language Policy and Planning, and Discourse Analysis, particularly those with an interest in the African context. (*from publisher's website*)

Palgrave Macmillan/Springer. ISBN 9783030763480 (120 pp.) springer.com

