

Book Announcements

Diana Eades (2008) *Courtroom Talk and Neocolonial Control*

This book examines the social consequences of courtroom talk through a detailed investigation of the cross-examination of three Australian Aboriginal boys in the case against six police officers charged with their abduction. The book is in the series 'Language, Power and Social Process', edited by Monica Heller and Richard Watts, which aims to develop new approaches in the socio-linguistic and linguistic anthropological study of social issues and problems. Eades stresses that it is not possible to consider questions of language and power without taking into account the full social, political and legal context. She thus undertakes a 'critical sociolinguistic analysis' of language and power in the court process to show how courtroom talk, along with its assumptions about how language works, can serve to legitimize neo-colonial control over indigenous people.

Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. ISBN 11-020482-7 (hb)

Krzysztof Kredens and Stanislaw Gozdz-Roszkowski (eds) (2007) *Language and the Law: international outlooks*

Containing twenty-three contributions from linguists and lawyers working in nineteen countries on five continents, this collection demonstrates that forensic linguistics/language and the law has become a truly global phenomenon. It also highlights the heterogeneity of legal and linguistic systems worldwide: both common and civil law systems are represented and a variety of different language types are discussed. All this puts much of the Anglo-Saxon literature in this field into global perspective. The chapters are organised into sections covering many of the key areas in forensic linguistics: multilingualism and the law, legal translation and interpreting, legal and courtroom discourse, statutory interpretation, police interviews, trademarks and linguistic evidence.

Frankfurt am Mein: Peter Lang. ISBN 631-57447-8 (pb)

Roy Harris and Christopher Hutton (2007) *Definition in Theory and Practice: language, lexicography and the law*

This monograph considers the theory of definition from the perspective of Harris's integrational linguistics and applies that theory in one of its sections to questions of language and law. The book is divided into four sections. The first section discusses theory in purely theoretical terms and makes distinctions between different types of definitions. The second section considers definition in the dictionary and argues that many definitions are prescriptive rather than descriptive of common usage. The third section discusses definition in the legal context. The authors begin by considering definitions of 'law', proceed to interpretative strategies, and conclude with general considerations about meaning in law. The fourth section is a conclusion on definition, indeterminacy and reference. The book is clearly weighted more towards theory than practice and will be of interest mainly to lawyer-linguists.

London & New York: Continuum. ISBN 0-8264-97055 (hb)

Vijay Bhatia, Christopher Candlin and Jan Engberg (eds) (2008) *Legal Discourse Across Cultures and Systems*

This collection is one of a number of volumes (for another, see the review of Bhatia, Candlin and Gotti, *Legal Discourse in Multilingual and Multicultural Contexts: arbitration texts in Europe*, in volume 12(2) of this journal) to have emerged from a large-scale project investigating what happens to the same legislative genre when it is written, interpreted and used across a variety of linguistic, legal and socio-political contexts. The project studied international arbitration laws written and used in a number of jurisdictions in Asia, South America and Europe. More broadly, this volume addresses such questions as what happens to legal language when it is used across legal and linguistic systems and in what way the generic integrity of legal documents is maintained in multilingual and multicultural legal contexts.

Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press. ISBN 978-962-209-851-0 (pb)

Maria Teresa Turell, Maria Spassova and Jordi Cicres (eds) (2007) *Proceedings of the Second European IAFL Conference on Forensic Linguistics/Language and the Law*

These proceedings contain papers presented at the very successful 2nd European IAFL conference held at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona in September 2006. We find the plenary lectures by Enrique Alcaraz-Varó on the language of administration, Ron Butters on linguistic issues in US

trademark litigation, Malcolm Coulthard on expert witnessing, Philip Harrison and Peter French on forensic speech analysis, and June Luchenbroers and Michelle Aldridge on a cognitive linguistic approach to sexual assault and child witnesses. We also find papers from the colloquia on 'Linguistics and Cognition' and 'Comprehensibility'. The volume includes a further twenty-eight papers covering a wide variety of topics by authors from a range of geographical and occupational contexts.

Barcelona: Institut Universitari de Linguística Aplicada. ISBN 978-84-96742-28-4 (pb)