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(Butler et al, 2005; Gómez-González et al., 2008b, 2008c; González Álvarez and Rollings, 2004; Iglesias Rábade and Doval-Suárez, 2002) have summa-

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genres across languages and cultures (Mitchell, 1957; Koike and Biron, 1996; Luzón Marco, 2002; Taboada, 2004).

Within the studies on contrastive discourse it is worth mentioning the work of the Multilingualism group based at the University of Hamburg, some of which has an emphasis on translation. Many of their publications deal with contrastive issues in discourse, in particular two of the volumes in the Hamburg Studies in Multilingualism published by John Benjamin: one on connectivity (Rehbein et al, 2007) and one on multilingual discourse production (Kranich et al, 2011).

### 3. Corpus-based contrastive studies

Johansson (2007) makes a compelling case for the use of corpora in contrastive studies, attributing, in part, the resurgence of contrastive work to the availability of corpora. It is certainly the case that corpora, whether small-, medium- or large-scale, have given us new insights into the comparison of languages. Multilingual corpora are useful because they provide information about all aspects of the language, from morphological to discourse-level comparisons. The composition of the corpora may also shed light on differences

1999; Altenberg, 2002), connectors (Milton and Tsang, 1993; Granger and Petch-Tyson, 1996; Altenberg and Tapper, 1998) collocations and prefabs (Howarth, 1996; Granger, 1998b; De Cock, 2000; Nesselhauf, 2003)-to information structure (Boström Aronsson, 2001; Callies, 2009). This approach has been criticized for presenting interlanguage as an incomplete version of the target language. Granger (2004: 133) justifies the approach arguing that 'most CLC research so far has involved advanced EFL learners (...). For this category of learners more than any other, it makes sense to try and identify the areas in which learners still differ from native speakers and which therefore necessitate further teaching.'

#### 4. The papers in this collection

The papers included here have been organized around four themes: studies of discourse markers; information structure; registers and genres; and phraseology.

The first theme, discourse markers, includes four papers that examine the differences in the use of discourse markers across languages. Recent research has shown the fruitful perspective that contrastive studies can bring to the study of discourse markers and their use in signalling coherence relations (Knott and Sanders, 1998; Altenberg, 2002; Degand and Pander Maat, 2003;

shows that, given its multifunctionality in Spanish, it has more than one equivalent in the English corpus.

The third paper, by Adam and Dalmas, compares discourse markers in French and German, first from a general point of view, thus abstracting from existing studies in either language, and then in the two languages-in contrast, with focus on three particular markers. Adam and Dalmas propose that the differences in the use of discourse markers rest with two characteristics of French that make it different from German. First, in French, the signs of discourse organization on the part of the speaker tend to be more explicit. Second, the verbal element in French has a more central global role than it does in German.

The final paper in this section, by Romero-Trillo, examines the use of Pragmatic Markers as a tool to support interpretation and verify the current interpretation of the communicative act, in a process labelled 'communicative triangulation'. Romero-Trillo studies the English of native and non-native speakers, showing that there are subtle intonation differences in the produc-

Herriman's paper has as a starting point the similarities in presentation order in English and Swedish. Both languages make use of the principle of end-weight, and both languages rearrange elements following that principle, with rearrangements resulting in fronting, extraposition, existential constructions and cleft sentences. However, upon close inspection, she discovers that Swedish makes much more frequent use of fronting and clefts, which she attributes to language-specific constraints (V2 in Swedish, and SV in English). As with many of the other papers, her careful study of fine-grained aspects of discourse has applications for second language teaching.

Doval Suárez and González Álvarez also concern themselves with structure of information, in their case the use of clefts in learner corpora. They contrast use, frequency and structural complexity of clefts in the Spanish portion of the International Corpus of Learner English with the native equivalent in the Louvain Corpus of Native English Essays. They conclude that, contrary to the findings of previous studies carried out with learners with different L1s, Spanish learners underuse clefts. It is suggested that this underuse may point to the fact that the learners are overusing other focus constructions such as pseudoclefts. The paper is an excellent example of a type of contrastive analysis that examines learner's language, or interlanguage, but unlike older approaches to interlanguage, does so from a quantitative point of view.

The structure of Theme and Rheme, both in English and Spanish, has been well researched (Gómez-González, 2001; Lavid, 2010; Taboada, 2004). The differences across the two languages are well known, as are the challenges

1        e third set of papers deal with discourse and contrastive issues from the  
 2 point of view of genre or register. Although most of the other papers also con-  
 3 sider genre as an important variable in contrastive analyses, the papers in this  
 4 section take the notion of genre as the point of departure for the analysis. e  
 5 uncovering of recurrent lexico-grammatical patterns in di erent text types  
 6 and genres, and across di erent languages and socio-cultural settings, raises  
 7 speakers' awareness of how di erent discourse roles, discourse strategies and  
 8 power statuses are enacted in their linguistic choices. is has been a contin-  
 9 uous preoccupation among discourse analysts and grammarians (e.g., Swales,  
 10 1990; Biber et al., 1999; Bhatia, 2002), but it clearly is still a hot issue that  
 11 deserves further investigation. e papers in this section make an important  
 12 contribution to the study of genres from a contrastive point of view.

13        Kunz and Steiner open the section with a study of cohesion in English and  
 14 German. ey consider cohesion from the point of view of language contact,  
 15 and study texts in either language and their translations in the other, analys-  
 16 ing the in uence that translation has on language change. Cohesion analyses  
 17 have a long tradition in English, starting with the seminal work of Halliday  
 18 and Hasan (1976), but there exists little work comparing studies of cohesion  
 19 in English based in that framework to analyses in other languages. Kunz and  
 20 Steiner propose a framework, methodology and corpus annotation process  
 21 that will facilitate the systematic comparison of cohesive resources across lan-  
 22 guages and genres.

23        In Pounds' paper we nd a contrastive analysis of an everyday genre, real  
 24 estate advertisements, in English and Italian. Given the culture-speci c context  
 25 of the genre, Pounds uncovers interesting di erences in the way the persuasive  
 26 nature of the texts is conveyed in the two languages. She uses the Appraisal  
 27 framework (Martin and White, 2005) to study how evaluative language is  
 28 expressed in the two sets of corpora. Appraisal and evaluative language are  
 29 particularly interesting cross-linguistically because, as pointed out by Hun-  
 30 ston and Sinclair (2000: 74), 'evaluation appears parasitic on other resources  
 31 and to be somewhat randomly dispersed across a range of structural options  
 32 shared with non-evaluative functions'. Evaluation tends to be highly implicit  
 33 and discourse-dependent (Hunston, 2000: 199–201), which makes a contras-  
 34 tive analysis particularly well-suited to uncovering general properties of eval-  
 35 uation across languages. Pounds nds interesting di erences between English  
 36 and Italian, in particular in the degree of explicitness of the evaluation.

37        Taboada and Carretero also study evaluative language from the perspective  
 38 of Appraisal. In their work, a corpus of informally-written reviews of books  
 39 and movies is analysed, contrasting English and Spanish texts. e genre is  
 40 particularly interesting because it is also persuasive and argumentative, but  
 41 informal in this case (the reviews were posted online, on consumer-oriented  
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sites). eirs is part of a large-scale annotation effort, and their paper discusses, in particular, how the categories of Appraisal need to be very well defined, so that the corpus can be reliably annotated by different coders.

Zamorano-Mansilla and Carretero close this section with a paper within the same research project, aimed at creating a large annotated corpus of English and Spanish. eir paper focuses on the annotation of modality in the two languages, and in particular the issues of annotator reliability when specifying types of modality conveyed by modal verbs and particles. is paper focuses on dynamic modality, showing that, although it is comparable in English and Spanish from a definition point of view, in practice its annotation leads to the most disagreements.

entral section of the special issue contains two papers that focus on phraseology, as a bridge between lexico-grammar and discourse. Rica Peromingo analyses lexical bundles in two corpora, one of non-native writers of English, and another one of professional native writers (containing English and Spanish subcorpora). e study uncovers interesting results, showing that non-native writers resort to multi-word units more frequently than native speakers of English, but that they show both over- and under-use of certain multi-word units, in particular those present in the native language. Rica Peromingo emphasizes the importance of multi-word units as topics in the teaching of English as a second language.

Mansilla also studies phraseology, but this time with a Spanish-German contrast, and focusing on an interesting semantic field, that of lying, falsehood and deceit. She approaches the concept of falsehood as a metaphor (Lako and Johnson, 1980), and explores the different expressions of falsehood in the two languages, and the different cognitive models that they reveal.

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