Book Review

Litosseliti, L. (Ed.). (2010). Research Methods in

Linguistics. London: Continuum.

Format: paperback (227 pages)

ISBN: 9780826489937

Price: $30.00

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Placed at the center of the "contents" section in this book is the word "issues." It is this very word that piqued my interest in this research book. This is because researching a discipline necessitates problematizing it and researching linguistics is no exception. Linguistics and its allies such as applied linguistics, second language acquisition, World Englishes and the like are issues— sometimes straightforward, oftentimes quite contentious—that students in the fields could find daunting. However, this volume should help them develop informed understanding of the fields with relative ease.

The book is divided into three major sections: Part I: Issues, consisting of two chapters; Part II: Quantitative and Corpus Research Methods, consisting of three chapters; and Part III: Qualitative Research Methods, consisting of five chapters.

Each of the chapters is preceded by "Chapter Outline" that is detailed enough for novice researchers such as graduate students to gradually formalize key concepts involved. Written in a reader-friendly language, the chapters are relatively easy to follow.

Chapter 1 focuses on research questions in Linguistics, which is very appropriate because which research design to employ will ordinarily rely on the nature of one's research question(s). How to formulate successful research questions is discussed in this chapter. In fact, discussing research questions right up front, in my opinion, serves as an apt prequel to research agenda.

Chapter 2 addresses the nuts and bolts of mixed methods, combining both quantitative and qualitative designs. This is very practical; issues in linguistics and language-related studies for that matter, call for integrated methods involving numbers and narratives, especially when dealing with language in use.

Chapters 3 and 4 are intended as sequels to Chapter 1 because the authors discuss key concepts, frameworks and how to organize and process collected data. Here, readers will find very useful techniques as well as pitfalls to be guarded against when analyzing data.

Chapter 5, which is about corpus methods in Linguistics, suitably represents the current trend in language analysis. The author not only discusses the basics of corpus methods but also provides detailed explanations of procedures involved in corpus data analysis, followed by a list of references in this burgeoning field of linguistics.

Chapter 6, discourse-analytic approaches to text and talk, provides the historical background of the emergence of "...the study of real samples of speech and writing.." (p. 117), discussing a turning point from Chomskyan Linguistics to today's more "human" Linguistics. Peppered throughout with examples of interaction at the discoursal level, the chapter ends with critical discourse analysis (CDA), attesting to the fact that language is never devoid of power.

Chapter 7 extends the discourse community of text and talk to the next level of speech community. It discusses the intricacies of linguistic ethnography, recapitulating the close connection between language and culture of a people.

Chapter 8 deals primarily with interviews and focus groups, emphasizing the fact that language use must necessarily involve how people go about constructing social realities. In the chapter, readers will be able to appreciate the logic of the research interview, including the issues of reliability and validity through words.

Multimodal analysis is the focus of Chapter 9. After briefly discussing the operational definition of multimodality, the authors not only explains the ways and means of this research method but also points out potentials and limitations of this research design. Those interested in social semiotic theory of communication will find this chapter a succinct recapitulation of multimodality.

Last but not least, Chapter 10 revolves around narrative analysis in linguistic research. Focusing on sociolinguistic manifestations and discursive constructions of various strands of social processes, the author methodically discusses "...a step-by-step procedure for designing and analyzing [narrative] networks" (p. 199).

In conclusion, this manuscript is a most practical text for those new to research in Linguistics; it provides a panoramic view of linguistic research procedures. The editor of this volume explicitly mentions in the Introduction that this book is "...an essential up-to-date one-stop resource for researchers and graduate students" (p. 1). Readers will find that the chapters live up to this proclaimed practicality.

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