

## REVIEWS

**Dontcheva-Navratilova, O. (2009) *Analysing Genre: The Colony Text of UNESCO Resolutions*. Brno: Masaryk University. 163 pp.**

The monograph *Analysing Genre: The Colony Text of UNESCO Resolutions* by Olga Dontcheva-Navratilova explores the discourse of UNESCO resolutions, itself a subtype of diplomatic communication, from the points of view of stylistics, pragmatics and sociolinguistics and from both the synchronic and diachronic perspectives. The author, a lecturer at the Faculty of Education, Masaryk University, Brno, has based her genre analysis on a corpus consisting of resolutions produced over a fifty-year period of UNESCO's existence. She builds upon her three-year professional experience as a translator for the Bulgarian National Commission for UNESCO. The focus of the analysis is to establish how the situational context of the international governmental organization and pragmatic goals involved in cross-cultural interaction influence the linguistic means and the structure of the genre in question and, vice versa, how the language and generic structure help shape the social relations in this type of discourse. She pays attention to the typical style markers in this occupational variety of English, evaluating their conventionality as well as variation. Similarly, the colony text is analysed as a distinctive text type suitable for the genre of collective resolutions in intergovernmental institutional interaction.

Dontcheva-Navratilova's approach to analysis of the genre of resolutions draws on the theoretical premises of discourse analysis which claim that contextually motivated intentions and expectations of the participants in the act of communication determine the choices of linguistic means made by them. In her theoretical framework, she has encompassed a whole array of component theories and approaches of discourse analysis, such as the speech act theory (Searle 1969, 1975), the structure of communicative events, cohesion and coherence, clause relations, and intertextuality, as well as of critical discourse analysis, particularly Fairclough's interpretation of the connection between textual features of discourse, and discourse and socio-cultural processes. Logically, as the UNESCO resolutions have become an established genre of institutional discourse, the author bases her approaches also on genre analysis as defined by Swales (2004) and Bhatia (2002). She introduces her model for contextual analysis of a genre (pp. 15 and 37), comprising situational parameters, discourse participants, communicative purposes and communicative intentions.

The communicative purposes are especially central to the delimitation of a genre.

The author gives an in-depth introduction to the aims, structure, processes and language policy of UNESCO, as well as to its “genre set”, if we make use of Swalesian terminology (1990). Chapter 4 deals with the historical development of the UNESCO resolutions from 1947 to 1999, marked by gradual codification of communicative conventions of its discourse community, and demonstrates the influence of the social context and communicative needs on the corresponding language means and style markers. The author also identifies the basic properties of this genre (pp. 11, 51) which lead her to consider it as a typical colony text, namely the capability of the text components of being used separately from others, the irrelevance of sequence of the text components on their meaning and the fact ensuing thereof, viz. that adjacent items do not constitute a continuous prose.

The pragmatic and communicative considerations lead to distinguishing two basic subtypes of the genre of resolutions, viz. preparatory and executive resolutions. The preparatory resolutions are further subdivided into those dealing with administrative matters and those dealing with elections. The author analyses in depth the differences this division yields in the use of speech acts, move structure, generic structure (i.e. semantico-syntactic structural components), realization of topics and selection of style markers. The majority of analysed resolutions belong to the subtype of executive resolutions, realizing performative speech acts. As the author concludes (p. 88), “resolutions perform regulative and constitutive institutional speech acts, presupposing the existence of extra-linguistic rules and institutional conventions in order for the act to be performed successfully.” The executive resolutions also usually include a preamble (in 82.6% of cases), unlike the preparatory resolutions dealing with administrative and organizational issues where the authority to perform the act is derived from clear administrative rules, explaining thus the absence of the need for a preamble.

The investigated resolutions of both subtypes typically have a three-move structure. Naturally, the rhetorical moves used in the subgenres of preparatory and executive resolutions differ in the types and variation of structural components, as well as in the linguistic means employed to perform them (for example, sequences of non-finite adverbial clauses used in preambles of executive resolutions). Dontcheva-Navratilova also observes that over decades of existence of the UNESCO discourse community the generic structure of resolutions has undergone development towards systematization and codification, eliminating inconsistencies and introducing logical ordering. The rise of two distinct subgenres is another result of this tendency.

The present monograph by Olga Dontcheva-Navratilova is a pioneering work in discourse and genre analysis of the field of resolutions produced in the intercultural institutional discourse, examining the genre in question from various angles. It also provides an illuminating insight into the properties and techniques of the frequently used, but not very well described, genre of a colony text.

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### References

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