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REVIEW

Adam Głaz. 2012. *Extended Vantage Theory in Linguistic Application: The Case of the English Articles.*

One of the fundamental commitments of the cognitive linguistics enterprise, namely, the cognitive commitment, asserts that we cannot account for language without taking into consideration the findings on the human mind and brain from other scholarly disciplines, such as psychology or neuroscience, to mention but a few. It is this commitment that makes cognitive linguistics cognitive and truly interdisciplinary in nature (cf. Evans, Bergen and Zinken 2007). Adam Głaz in his monograph entitled *Extended Vantage Theory in Linguistic Application: The Case of the English Articles* illustrates how the cognitive linguistics paradigm can benefit from the findings in the field of anthropology. Specifically, drawing on Robert E. MacLaury's Vantage Theory (VT for short), a relatively unknown model of categorization in the linguistic milieu, he develops his extended version of VT, namely, Extended Vantage Theory (EVT for short), where he addresses the issue of how the cognitive mechanisms recognized in the process of color categorization may relate to and account for the cognitive processes underlying the uses of the English articles.

The book opens with Acknowledgements (pp. 13-14) and a concise Introduction (pp. 15-18). The main body of the monograph comprises six chapters (pp. 19-255) of both theoretical and analytical orientations as well as Conclusion (pp. 257-260). The final section of the book consists of impressive References (pp. 261-279), featuring over 370 entries, as well as an Index of names (pp. 281-286) and a Thematic index (pp. 287-295) which the reader may find helpful in navigating through the book.

Chapter 1 (pp. 19-56) is of purely theoretical orientation and familiarizes the reader with the basic theoretical assumptions as well as with analytical categories and procedures of VT. In general, VT proposes a model of categorization based on the way human beings orient themselves in space-time by combining and harmonizing the spatial and temporal coordinates. A category is modeled here in terms of a theoretical construct of vantage, which is a specific arrangement of fixed coordinates (in the case of the color category of hue, brightness or saturation) and mobile coordinates of attention to either similarity or difference. The stronger attention to either similarity or difference gives rise to two different vantages, namely, the dominant or recessive vantage respectively. In the color domain, a category may consists of one, two or three vantages. A category is thus a sum of all its vantages. To the reader's advantage, Głaz provides a number of useful figures to enhance comprehension of quite often abstract theoretical constructs underlying VT.

In Chapter 2, which is also theoretical in nature, the author focuses on the variety and extent of VT application in linguistic analyses. He surveys a number of studies of linguistic data primarily within the field of lexical semantics, color semantics in particular, and sociolinguistics. The author mentions also a number of other studies relating to, for example, song lyrics or Japanese orthographic conventions, which might leave the reader with an impression that the chapter lacks structure and coherence and the studies under discussion, as

Głaz himself acknowledges, "have little affinity with the analytic focus of this book, namely the English articles" (p.57).

The four remaining chapters are devoted to the English articles. Specifically, Chapter 3 is a literature review of the uses of the English articles. Głaz discusses here a plethora of approaches to the definite, indefinite and nil article from a variety of perspectives, including cognitive linguistics, notably Langacker's Cognitive Grammar, but also Construction Grammar and Mental Spaces theory. Chapter 3 provides a backdrop for the author's account of the English articles in terms of the EVT framework developed in Chapter 4.

As Głaz explains, EVT stems from the original version of VT but makes use of its constructs to varying degrees. In the EVT model presented in the book under review, Głaz gives primacy to viewing modes, namely, *non-discrimination*, *analysis* and *systemic synthesis*, which may assume various values of *strength*, namely, regular, reduced or augmented. They constitute a range of conceptualizations underlying article uses in English. The reminder of Chapter 4 is an EVT-oriented discussion of numerous examples of article uses derived from contemporary comprehensive grammar books. The chapter closes with a Synopsis, where the reader can find a table presenting a convenient summary of a skeletal classification of article uses in English. The table clearly shows the correlation between the type of vantage, namely, the non-discriminatory mode of the dominant vantage, the dominant vantage and the recessive vantage, and the uses of the nil, indefinite and definite articles respectively.

Chapters 5 and 6 propose further extensions of the EVT framework to account for a wide spectrum of both general and more idiosyncratic conceptual processes underlying language use. Addressing a number of issues, such as the notion of coreferentiality or the reference-point phenomenon, Chapter 5 attempts to extend the application of the EVT framework onto the uses of the English articles modulated in various discourse contexts. The analyses carried

out here undeniably gain in value as Głaz discusses examples taken not only from grammar textbooks but also from authentic language use, news articles for example. Chapter 6 is definitely more ambitious in that it attempts to provide an account of very diverse article uses in a selection of conceptual phenomena ranging from conceptual units larger than words to conceptual replication as well as in a number of special cases which defy easy classifications within any theoretical model. The author himself admits that it is such cases that "constitute a major challenge and a testing ground" (p. 227) for the EVT theory. Clearly, to be able to deal with unique article uses, Głaz extends and modifies some of his basic formulae introduced in Chapter 4. Such is the case of, for example, the reference-point phenomenon or conceptual replication.

All things considered, it needs to be said that *Extended Vantage Theory in Linguistic Application: The Case of the English Articles* is a crucial self-contained contribution by one of the leading (E)VT scholars in Poland. With meticulous care and a remarkable skill, Adam Głaz takes the reader through a step by step account of the uses of the English articles. Apart from the obvious merit of being the first monograph-length account of the English articles in respect of the EVT framework, the book should be also recognized as a major contribution to the vast body of cognitive linguistics literature relating not only to categorization but also to such subtle aspects of construal as subjectivity and objectivity as understood in Langacker's Cognitive Grammar, for example. In general, the book is definitely worth reading not only by scholars interested in language but also in other related disciplines.

Głaz, Adam. 2012. *Extended Vantage Theory in Linguistic Application: The Case of the English Articles*. Lublin: Wydawnictwo Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej. 295 pages. ISBN: 9788377842300

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