

Language in Society 43 (2014)
doi:10.1017/S0047404514000475

BETTINA MIGGE & MÁIRE NÍ CHIOSÁIN (eds.), *New perspectives on Irish English*. (Varieties of English around the world G44.) Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 2012. Pp. xvii, 361. Hb. \$143.

Reviewed by MARIO SERRANO-LOSADA
Department of English and German, University of Santiago de Compostela
Santiago de Compostela, 15782, Spain
mario.serrano@usc.es

This is the second volume in the collection entirely devoted to Irish English (the first was *Focus on Ireland*, G21, edited by Jeffrey Kallen, 1997). The book stems from a conference by the same name, ‘New Perspectives on Irish English’, held at University College Dublin in 2010. As stated in its preface: ‘The aim of the conference, and now the volume, was to assess the directions of research on varieties of English spoken on the island of Ireland since the publication of *Focus on Ireland ...* in 1997, and to highlight how that research has developed in the last fifteen years’ (xi). *New perspectives on Irish English* comprises a selection of sixteen papers that offer a current survey on a wide range of topics revolving around the varieties of English spoken in Ireland. The volume stands out for its contemporary methodological and theoretical approaches to the study of Irish English and its emphasis on new trends in linguistic research.

Most of the articles in this book are corpus-based studies that follow either a broad sociolinguistic or a pragmatic approach using both qualitative and quantitative methods. As the editors suggest, the papers in the volume can be ascribed to five main categories: phonetic and phonological features (e.g. rising intonation in Belfast English; schwa epenthesis e.g. [‘fíləm] *film* in Galway English), morpho-syntactic structures (e.g. *it*-cleft sentences; *after*-perfect in Newfoundland), discourse-pragmatic features (e.g. discourse markers *like* and *now*; the use of vocatives; the responsive system in Irish English), corpus compilation (e.g. A Corpus of Irish English Correspondence, CORIECOR) and language and identity (e.g. the use of discourse marker *like* by Polish speakers of L2 Irish English).

It is noteworthy that some of the papers included in the volume have a contrastive focus. Some articles examine features of Irish English and compare them with other varieties of English (e.g. the use of the modal auxiliary with the progressive in Irish English and British English). Features of both local varieties of Irish English (e.g. Bóthar Mór English; Dublin English) and transplanted varieties of Irish English (e.g. the English spoken by the Argentine-Irish community) are considered in the volume. Even though most of the articles explore synchronic phenomena, there is some space for diachronic linguistics in the book (e.g. modal verbs and past-time reference in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Irish English).

Alongside approaches to the English of the Irish diaspora, the English of incoming migrants in contemporary Ireland is also examined (e.g. the attitudes of migrants towards Irish English). Interestingly, the volume succeeds in reflecting a major social change that Ireland has undergone in the last decades: Ireland, traditionally a country of emigration, has become a destination for immigration.

As is suggested in its title, this volume is a state-of-the-art contribution to the study of Irish varieties of English. It will certainly be appealing to linguists, particularly to those scholars interested in varieties of English, sociolinguistics, and language variation and change. Undoubtedly, *New perspectives on Irish English* lays down guidelines for the research on Irish English that is to come.

(Received 19 September 2013)

Language in Society **43** (2014)
doi:10.1017/S0047404514000487

PAUL MANNING, *The semiotics of drink and drinking*. New York: Continuum, 2012.
Pp. 245. Pb. \$44.95.

Reviewed by JONATHAN L. LARSON
Grinnell College
1205 Park Street, Room 107
Grinnell, IA 50112, USA
larsonj@grinnell.edu

Drink and drinking lubricate social interaction. Paul Manning argues in his new book that to attend to this process properly might require an ethnographic and historical approach that breaks down binary distinctions between studies of language and studies of material form and brings the two into a common field of inquiry through an innovative approach to semiotics. Manning draws on a range of materials including blogged and semifictional interactions between patrons and Starbucks baristas, observations from fieldwork in the Republic of Georgia, and a well-sampled secondary literature on drink and drinking, to offer a flight of beverage studies across contrasting North American capitalist and Caucasian postsocialist modernities.

The introduction (chapter 1) offers a theoretical model for the study of signs and their material properties that draws heavily on the work of Marx, Charles Peirce, Bruno Latour, and the recent writings of several North American anthropologists. The other chapters, in the words of the author, ‘are each devoted to a different aspect of a different drink whose material properties mediate sociality to such an extent that an entire ethnography of a certain time and place can be written with that drink as the “hero” of the story’ (29–30).

Equal parts conversation analysis, political economy of a Starbucks latte, and meditation on theories of the public sphere, ‘Coffee’ (chapter 2) uses baristas’ rants about interactions with customers to inquire into the scaffolding of phatic