

ceded by an overview of the existing literature. This directs the reader to fundamental studies in pragmatics and in the related disciplines linguistic pragmatics draws on, such as linguistics, psychology, anthropology, philosophy, and sociology, as well to interdisciplinary approaches identified by a diversity of labels such as sociolinguistics, variationist linguistics, discourse analysis, systemic-functional linguistics, speech act theory, language contact studies, studies in cross-cultural and intercultural (mis)communication, studies of second language acquisition, and postcolonial studies. By acknowledging the sources providing the theoretical framework for their own investigations, by defining and manipulating a variety of concepts from different sources, and by critically evaluating previous works on the particular topics of this volume, each of the authors offers researchers and students in pragmatics an invaluable frame of reference and generous suggestions for future approaches.

As for the empirical part of each article, these are based on corpora of varying sizes and origins: questionnaires and interviews designed by the authors, other interviews and surveys, radio broadcasts, audio recordings using concealed microphones, and segments from the L-CIE (*Limerick Corpus of Irish English*). Various methods of qualitative and quantitative assessment are used in relation to a wide range of topics, and yet the volume appears as relatively homogeneous through this common effort of examining the use of Irish English as a reflection of sociocultural norms, detected in intra- and intercultural interaction. Certain studies reach the point of putting forward testable hypotheses (such as indirectness) at the macro-social level; others state the necessity of including broader segments in the population samples before reaching more general conclusions; together, they cover a wide range of pragmatic phenomena in a multitude of perspectives and contribute to outlining possible directions of "variational pragmatics" (Schreider & Barron) in the study of English as a pluricentric language.

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