insights. It is also clearly not intended as a step-by-step guide, although parts of the book certainly read like a textbook introduction.

The introductory chapters (chs 1 and 2) explain the motivation for Latin computational linguistics and provide a brief overview of existing work. M. then turns to three case studies. The case studies are based on real linguistic research questions and to some extent replicate research that has been done manually. In the first case study (ch. 3) she constructs a valency lexicon of Latin verbs by extracting argument frames from manually annotated Latin corpora. In the next case study (chs 4 and 5) she uses the valency lexicon and statistical methods to model selectional preferences in terms of more abstract semantic classes. The final case study (chs 6 and 7) evaluates the correspondence between Latin pre-verbs and the morphosyntactic realization of verbal arguments.

It is challenging to write about this topic in a manner that is accessible both to computational linguists and classicists. Presumably with this in mind, M. has organized two case studies so that one chapter explains the method in general terms while the following chapter provides the statistical background. This does make it easier for the reader to skip the more technical parts if so inclined, but it sometimes leaves the reader with questions that are not answered properly until the second chapter. Problems of a similar nature arise throughout the book. For example, technical terms, like 'the synset score' and 'F', are used before they are defined, others, like 'shared verb-slot', are never explained, and quantitative data given in tables do not always match data given in the text, as on p. 154 and table 6.2. This is frustrating for the reader who wonders if s/he has misunderstood something crucial about the method.

Of more serious concern is M.'s attitude to the linguistic analysis of her data. The Latin corpus is inherently diachronic, and existing techniques in computational linguistics do not usually take this into account. M. is, of course, aware of this and discusses the need to adapt existing techniques to this scenario. It would clearly be beyond the scope of this book to tackle this problem, so M. instead controls statistically for diachronic effects and makes a few unavoidable compromises along the way. This is a reasonable method, but, in a book like this, one would expect the author to discuss the effect of such compromises and thus also the linguistic relevance of the results.

M. deserves much praise for devoting an entire book to this emerging field and for including three advanced case studies that address non-trivial research questions. It is possible for readers with very different backgrounds to gain an up-to-date overview of the field and appreciate some of the challenges and trade-offs involved. However, to convince classicists and linguists that computational linguistic methods can be fruitfully applied to Latin one has to approach the subject matter with more linguistic sophistication and demonstrate that the methods can produce results that are meaningful to Latin linguists as well as computational linguists.

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O. SPEVAK, *THE NOUN PHRASE IN CLASSICAL LATIN PROSE* (Amsterdam Studies in Classical Philology 21). Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2014. Pp. xiii + 377, illus. ISBN 9789004264427 (bound); 9789004265684 (e-book). €134.00.

This book addresses possibly the most troublesome aspect of Latin word order: the ordering of words within the noun phrase. As Olga Spevak herself points out, 'the internal ordering of Latin noun phrases and its variability is a very complicated topic. This book by no means pretends to explain everything' (337). As in her earlier book, *Constituent Order in Classical Latin Prose* ((2010): see *BMCR* 2011.06.30), S. adopts the theoretical framework of Functional Grammar. Latinists without specialist training in linguistics will find S.'s treatment easier to follow than, for example, the generativist treatment in Devine and Stephens (*Latin Word Order: Structured Meaning and Information* (2006)), and a glossary of technical terms is included.

S.'s main contention, if it may be summarized briefly, is that order within the noun phrase cannot be fully accounted for either by syntactical rules or by logical and pragmatic ones; the main emphasis in her investigation is in fact on semantics, and in this respect her approach appears as a continuation and refinement of that of Marouzeau, the most influential (though not always the most systematic) researcher on Latin word order in the last century. Marouzeau famously posited a distinction between adjectives with 'subjective' meaning, which precede the noun, and 'objective' ones which

follow; thus, for example, *bonus vir* expresses a subjective judgement about the man while *navis triremis* conveys an objective classification of the ship. It is easy to find examples where this neat distinction appears to break down; nevertheless, S.'s rather more complicated table of factors involved in the position of modifiers (335), while based on a detailed study of a large number of examples, still looks something like an expansion of Marouzeau's principle, with the addition also of logical factors (generic versus specific, contextually given versus contextually new) and pragmatic ones (emphasis and contrast; though bewilderingly, 'contrast' appears as a factor making for both anteposition and postposition).

The main material of the book is a series of case studies of the way modifiers of different types are ordered with certain specified nouns. S. starts with a typology of nouns and their modifiers based ultimately on that of John Lyons, *Semantics* (1977). Among the modifiers, some are given less attention as they are 'not very problematic' (for example, demonstrative and indefinite pronouns and possessives) but other categories are treated fully. Quantifiers (*omnis/nullus, multus, magnus* etc.) are rightly distinguished from ordinary adjectives, although not all their peculiarities are highlighted (for example, their tendency to appear widely separated from their nouns). Ch. 2 covers the most common types of single-word modifiers (for example, quantifying, classifying, descriptive, evaluative, possessive, and 'valency complements' such as objective genitives). Ch. 3 covers prepositional phrases, both in their own right and in terms of their integration into a larger noun phrase, while ch. 4 covers apposition of various kinds. The examples are largely taken from a defined corpus of pre-Augustan prose texts (selected texts of Cicero, Caesar and Sallust) which, though limited, is not inadequate for the purpose; as in the earlier book, comparatively little attention is given to differences of style and register.

S.'s consideration of the examples chosen is alert and sensitive to nuances which are not always immediately obvious, for example, the distinction between attributive and predicative adjectives (does *milites omnes occisi sunt* correspond to 'all the soldiers were killed' or 'the soldiers were all killed'?), and, as one would expect in a functionalist account, to the various pragmatic functions such as topic, focus, contrast etc. Even so, the linguist's almost inevitable convention of taking examples out of context makes it not always easy to check up (without turning away to look up individual passages) on what wider contextual or rhetorical factors may lie behind the word order in any particular case (take as a typical example the variation between *dies comitiorum* and *comitiorum dies* (204–5)). Occasionally S. resorts to explanations that do not convince fully; for example, it seems hard to see a valid semantic distinction between *dies* + numeral expressing 'how many days?' and numeral + *dies* answering the question 'how much time?'. However, even where the hypotheses advanced seem uncertain or speculative, the questions are always interesting and will provide material for further research.

The overall conclusions are perhaps more tentative than some might expect, but the absence of clear-cut rules is itself to some extent a salutary conclusion, and the greatest value of the exercise undoubtedly lies in the detail. Commentators on Latin texts will find the book particularly helpful, as it is a mine of information (not always obvious or well-known) on Latin usage, including facts about other things than word order. For example, S. was the first to bring it clearly before this reader's mind that 'a lot of money' is virtually never **multa pecunia* but rather *magna pecunia*. The grammarian's myth that Latin prepositional phrases do not typically function as modifiers of nouns is decisively seen off in ch. 3; as in other areas, it depends on the semantics of the noun. And some editors of Latin texts will echo, while others may learn from, S.'s plea: 'there are close and free appositions in Latin, so please punctuate them properly!' (330). The only major regret is that there is no index verborum, which makes the book unnecessarily difficult to use for reference; could Brill be persuaded to include one if they reprint?

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J. M. SEO, *EXEMPLARY TRAITS: READING CHARACTERIZATION IN ROMAN POETRY*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013. Pp. xi + 220. ISBN 9780199734283. £74.00.

Modern critics express dissatisfaction with major characters in Roman literature with surprising frequency: the Virgilian Aeneas, for example, has been denigrated as a colourless and uninspiring