

two additional chapters I would like to have seen here: one focusing on the role of translation/localization technology in projects (managing technology) and one looking at the systematization and standardization of processes in the industry. These are aspects of the ‘industrialization’ of translation and localization that could have borne a closer look from a project management perspective. On the other hand, I understand quite well the practical difficulties of assembling a volume hoping to take a comprehensive look at an emerging domain of practice. First, one has to locate and recruit the relatively rare authors who combine a scholarly attitude (and writing skills) with the relevant practical experience. Then one has to make sure that one finds these rare individuals in the areas one needs to address. That said, it is a minor miracle the Dunnes assembled the team that they did! Indeed, editing this book was an example itself of ‘the art of the possible.’

However, given the depth of coverage of the other chapters (and the fact that translation technology is a well-covered field) I do not see that this single ‘could be improved’ chapter is especially problematic. I definitely recommend this volume for scholars, practitioners, and students. It is accessible, well-written, and well-edited throughout. I see it as a solid contribution to the literature on applied translation studies. The volume has a solid introduction, a clear organization, and the topics and authors chosen represent some of the more important scholars and practitioners in the industry.

Gregory M. Shreve, Kent State University, USA

Peng, Hua, *Chinese PhD thesis acknowledgements. A communities of practice perspective*. Bern: Peter Lang, 2012, 255 pp., ISBN 978-3-0343-0567-9.

The monograph is an engaging report on an in-depth, innovative study of the social roles played by Chinese PhD thesis acknowledgement texts as reflected in their organization, content, and wording within the combined frameworks of communities of practice, politeness theory, and audience engagement. The book comprises 8 chapters (‘Introduction,’ ‘Background to the study,’ ‘Theoretical framework and research methodology,’ ‘The Classic Chinese acknowledgements,’ ‘The computer science acknowledgements,’ ‘The genetic engineering acknowledgements,’ ‘The world economics acknowledgements,’ and ‘Discussion and conclusions’), a list of tables, a list of figures, a bibliography with 168 references, four appendices (‘Semi-structured text-based interview questions,’ ‘Chinese terms of address,’ ‘Chinese expressions in the book,’ and ‘Interviewee information’), and an author index.

Chapter 1 clearly and succinctly identifies a niche for the study, which orients the reader. It sets out the aims of the research, summarizes its findings, highlights the originality of its contribution to acknowledgement research, and offers an overview of the book. Chapter 2 contextualizes the study, describes the social roles of acknowledgements, and identifies the goals of the research. It begins with a detailed review of the literature on acknowledgements especially with reference to a) the social roles of acknowledgement texts, b) the textual realization of the texts' social roles, and c) the characteristics of acknowledgements in China. The chapter then illustrates the social functions of acknowledgements (as an audience engagement strategy, as an embodiment of the writers' self-awareness, and a representation of social reality). Finally, it motivates the choice to study three aspects of acknowledgements (i.e., their generic structure, sequence of acknowledgees, and address/reference terms) as relevant to an examination of the textual construction of their social roles. This choice makes it possible a) to draw comparisons with previous research findings; b) to fill gaps in the literature; c) to explore disciplinary variation; and, especially, d) to systematically relate the selected textual features to aspects of context such as the authors' cultural-disciplinary backgrounds, social status, and community memberships.

Chapter 3 introduces the theoretical framework of the study, it presents the research questions, and it describes the research method and design. The author first characterizes in detail the key notions underlying the theoretical framework (i.e., communities of practice, audience, and politeness), and accurately explains why and how they are used to examine acknowledgement texts. Second, the author outlines both the general and the specific research questions addressed in the study, showing their relevance to the social functions of Chinese thesis acknowledgements, their textual manifestations, the writers' participation and situated learning in their communities of practice, the writers' self-awareness of their personal, social, and professional identity, and the writers' awareness of appropriate social and disciplinary norms and values. Third, the author specifies what kinds of texts were selected for the study, outlines the sampling strategy adopted, overviews the corpus, which comprises 80 texts representative of four disciplines, produced at one university in mainland China, and illustrates the method of analysis chosen, which examines the frequency and distribution of carefully coded textual features against the findings from semi-structured interviews with PhD graduates and professors. The coding scheme and the data analysis procedure are not only discussed but also graphically illustrated.

Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7 present the findings of the study. Each chapter a) offers contextualizing information on the department from which data was

collected (i.e., Classic Chinese, Computer Science, Genetic Engineering, World Economics), b) exemplifies sample data, c) provides frequency counts (both raw and percentage) of the features examined (i.e., moves, steps, sequencing of moves and steps, terms of address/reference identifying benefactors), d) explains and interprets the findings with reference to the interview data and, where applicable, to historical-cultural background information as well. The content and organization of the texts are skilfully accounted for through an exhaustive discussion of the factors influencing both shared discursive practices and disciplinary variation within them.

Seven moves are identified: reflective, thanking (including seven steps, i.e., thanking-supervisor, thanking-other-advisors, thanking-peer, thanking-family, thanking-all, thanking-grant, thanking-colleague, thanking-others), dedication, wishing, self-effacement, resolution, and ending. In addition, four types of address/reference terms are examined: those identifying supervisors, those prefixed by *shi* ('teacher'), those used for family members, and those used for strategic purposes (i.e., to politely identify supervisors after their first mention).

Each chapter illustrates and discusses at length the choice and sequencing of moves, steps and address/reference terms, and convincingly relates disciplinary variation in content and structure to the cultural conventions of specific communities of practice, especially their different ways of constructing, transmitting, and sharing knowledge.

Chapter 8 summarizes and evaluates the study. It reviews the research questions addressed, comments on the findings, comparing them to the literature and pointing out their limitations, and proposes areas for future research. The author highlights how the textual construction of the texts reflects the writers' peripheral and core participation in communities of practice at home, at work, and, especially, at university, where membership is defined by shared norms of learning as a social practice (i.e., as conformity to forms of construction, transference, negotiation, continuance of knowledge, sometimes also beyond their disciplines). Overall, the study shows that a situated understanding of the social roles of the acknowledgements considered is obtained through a communities of practice view of the writers' self and audience awareness as revealed in the generic structure, sequence of acknowledges, and reference/address terms of the texts.

The book's strengths include its motivated contextualization of the study, its thorough discussion of the findings, and its lucid presentation style. First, the author highlights the novelty of the study, which explores uncharted territory in acknowledgement research space, and shows the validity of the approach chosen (e.g., triangulation of data; congruence between research goals and research method). It includes a clear indication of the stages of the

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research and a rigorous justification of the methodological choices made in terms of previous findings and future research goals (see, e.g., the decision to identify moves in terms of the function rather than the ‘physical’ boundaries of text segments, p. 56). Next, the author also systematically links the findings from the text analysis to the interview data, which solidly supports the discussion of the factors that determine disciplinary variation (see, e.g., the academic microcosm of thankees as a family in Classic Chinese on pp. 80–81). Finally, the introductions, conclusions, and transitions between chapters and sections expertly guide the reader throughout the account of the stages of the research project. In this respect, chapters 4 to 7 are particularly reader-friendly because they reproduce the same structure, which makes it easy to follow the illustration of the findings and the line of reasoning, and because they present samples of original data side-by-side with their English translations so that their content can be immediately grasped. These chapters also contain footnotes which explain how the Chinese texts are rendered in English. One methodological drawback of the study is that, although moves are defined and criteria for their definition are inferable from the content and function specified in the definitions, criteria for their *identification* are not made explicit, although they seem to be intuitively clear. This may cause uncertainty in assigning given text segments to specific move types and in establishing move boundaries and may prevent an easy replication of the study. For instance, some of the sample data show that certain functions are found in more than one type of move (e.g., the dedication move in example 5.5 on p. 104 also realizes the functions of thanking and wishing); in addition, some moves realize functions that are not overtly signaled (e.g., ‘complimenting’ and/or ‘contextualizing’ in the thanking move in example 4.1 on pp. 68–70); moreover, there are occasional overlaps in content between supposedly different moves (e.g., compare the resolution, reflective, self-effacement, wishing, and dedication moves in examples 4.1 to 4.4 on pp. 69–70). Finally, the same functions are sometimes assigned to distinct text segments, and sometimes lumped together (e.g., cf. the separate thanking and dedicating moves in example 7.1 on p. 154 with the dedication-‘only’ move in example 6.3 on p. 130). It appears, therefore, that what distinguishes one move from another, and what holds each together is an *interplay* of factors including a main function, position in the text, and relevance to a shared (group of) benefactors (cf. Gesuato 2008), although from a different research perspective).

At the same time, the study offers interesting examples of unusual sequencing and combinations of moves or steps (e.g., the presence of a thanking-all step in a reflective move in example 6.1 on p. 125; the presence of fuzzy boundaries between steps in example 7.1 on p. 153; the typographic discontinuity of the thanking move in example 5.1 on p. 99), which illustrate additional forms

of genre-internal variability, namely the flexibility of the ‘generic structure potential’ (Hasan 1989), adaptable to the needs and goals of individual writers (Bhatia 1993).

Overall, the monograph offers valuable insights into the genre of PhD acknowledgement texts, showing how the instantiation of the genre to different degrees of prototypicality (Paltridge 1995) – in structure, content, and wording – across genre exemplars can be explained and interpreted as being related to the cultural, social, and interpersonal contexts in which they are produced and received. The book is of great interest to graduate students, scholars, and teachers in the fields of applied linguistics and language teaching, and can serve as a model for future research in genre/discourse analysis and pragmatics.

Sara Gesuato, University of Padua, Italy

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