Review Of "Les Prédicats Nominaux En Français: Les Phrases Simples À Verb Support" By J. Giry-Schneider

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Review

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Les prédicats nominaux en français:

Les phrases simples à verb support.

By JACQUELINE GIRY-SCHNEIDER.
pidly makes a slip' and Marie fait un faux pas
stupide 'Marie makes a stupid slip', in contrast
to the lack of synonymy in analogous pairs
which do not involve a complex predicate. Psy-
chological and aspectual adverbs show this pat-
tern of near synonymy with complex predicates
in general, not just with faire complex predic-
cates.
G-S continues with one piece of data after
another, to some extent merely cataloguing par-
ticulars of faire constructions, but quite often
giving brief analyses which, while certainly not
argued for in the tradition of modern syntactic
and semantic work, are, I believe, often pro-
vocative and deserving of more attention than
we might give to mere conjectures. Some of the
most interesting points for me were discussions
of faire plus N versus faire plus NP, where she
enters into the semantics of the definite article,
the indefinite article, the partitive, and the use
of an anarthrous N. She points out more cases
of the well-known fact that the addition of an
AP or modifying relative clause can allow an
NP where otherwise an anarthrous N is required
(Paul fait [carême]*un carême/un carême pro-
longé) 'Paul keeps [fast [lent]/a fast/a pro-
longed fast'). She looks at the possible range
of cleft sentences corresponding to faire con-
structions, and she has a fascinating discussion
of the process or manner sense found in Max a
fait une bonne traversée 'Max has made a good
crossing' but not in Max a traversé un océan
'Max has crossed an ocean'. Because of the
process focus of the faire construction with the
nominal traversée, it is ridiculous to say *Max
a fait une traversée du couloir 'Max made a
crossing of the hall', although it is quite ac-
ceptable to say Max a traversé le couloir 'Max
crossed the corridor.' G-S identifies adjectives
can't be used in copular sentences but that do
occur in fixed faire constructions, and PPs
acting as modifiers with the same property: she
also makes many other interesting observations.

The book ends with over one hundred pages
of lists of various types of faire constructions
and tables giving examples with indications of
the possibilities for types of determiners and
types of complements that co-occur.

This book does not seriously enter into syn-
tactic or semantic analysis, however, in spite of
the many fascinating side comments on the data
we find here. Rather, it catalogues construction
types and gives copious examples. It could
serve as a good resource for someone interested
in beginning a more analytical study. [DONNA
JO NAPOLI, Swarthmore College.]

La semiótica del diálogo. Ed. by HENK
HAVERKATE. (Diálogos hispánicos
de Amsterdam, 6.) Amsterdam: Ro-

The editor of this collection has previously
published a number of books and articles on
pragmalinguistic aspects of Spanish. In the
present collection he brings together five papers
presented at a round table discussion of the se-
miotics of dialogue held at the University of
Amsterdam, and three additional contributions
on related themes. This volume, as expected
given the interdisciplinary nature of semiotic
studies, incorporates articles which may be of
interest to pragmatics as well as to those con-
cerned with literary studies.

The volume opens with a contribution by
WALTER MIGNOLO, 'Diálogo y conversación'
(3–26), which serves as a general theoretical
introduction. Mignolo proposes clear defini-
tions for these two discourse genres, charac-
terizing DIALOGUE as a written manifestation
and CONVERSATION as an oral mode of com-
munication, with further differences between
them stemming from the fact that dialogues are
imitations of conversations. M develops a fairly
simplified typology of qualitative differences be-
tween oral and written communication based on
a historical review of the concept of dialogue,
as well as on current approaches to the analysis
of conversation.

The following three articles are intended to
represent a more linguistic approach, Henk
Haverkate, 'La cortesía como estrategia con-
versacional' (27–63), is a pragmalinguistic analy-
sis of the semiotics of politeness written within
the framework of Searle's speech act theory.
He proposes a taxonomy of expressions of
politeness (including three systems: paraling-
guistic, metalinguistic, and linguistic), and il-
lustrates the linguistic categories with examples
taken from conversational Spanish. Even
though not much is new in the analysis of how
certain grammatical devices (e.g. verb mor-
phology and impersonal se) may contribute to
the establishment of degrees of politeness, he
makes an interesting attempt to explain polite-
ness on the basis of three parameters: (1) the
difference between negative and positive polite-