Profiling Discourse Participants
Forms and functions in Spanish conversation and debates

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The construction of discourse is a challenging field where many discourse structures and interactional effects remain poorly understood. This analysis provides a systematic explanation for the way in which discourse participants (speaker and hearer) are construed in Spanish through a corpus-driven analysis of informal conversation, TV-debates and parliamentary debates. It deals not only with person deixis, but with the full range of possibilities speakers choose from when profiling their self or their relationship with the interlocutor. This analysis also offers new insights into the operationalization of the concepts of subjectivity and intersubjectivity as tools for the analysis of person reference and genre comparison. The comparative and corpus-driven approach offers methodological tools for genre analysis that can be transposed to other languages and/or genres. The detailed description of three socially highly relevant discourse types from a cognitive-functional perspective makes this book a useful resource not only for pragmatists but also for researchers in political and media discourse.

Hb 978 90 272 5651 5  EUR 99.00
E-book 978 90 272 7021 4  EUR 99.00

“Barbara De Cock’s book makes an important contribution to our understanding of discourse in different interactional text types, showing the way participant profiling shapes discourse structure through personal deixis and other resources. A must-read for anyone interested in discourse linguistics.”

Joaquín Garrido Medina, Universidad Complutense de Madrid