

vela negra y policiaca. De aquí que el investigador se haya transformado en una seña de identidad del género y de la propia cultura con el que el público lector se puede identificar y en el que

puede confiar para solucionar los misterios. El libro reseñado constituirá, seguramente, una obra de referencia en el estudio de la novela negra española.

Review on: MORALES LÓPEZ, Esperanza & Alan FLOYD. *Developing new identities in social conflicts: constructivist perspectives*. Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2017. ISBN 978-902-7265-678. Jan Mrva.

Reseña recibida el / *Review received*: 2018-02-13
Reseña aceptada el / *Review accepted*: 2018-03-28

In today's multicultural world, which offers a myriad of perspectives and points of view, the individual often finds himself at the brink of uncertainty due to the vague definition of, not only, historical events. Previously, the black and white world has turned into a colorful one, and the yes-no dichotomy has not grown into a multiplicity of expressions used for consent or disagreement. The same applies to true or false claims. Is it really that easy especially in the context of modern technology to identify who claims the truth and who does not? Assessing individual facts requires a certain amount of time and experience, but in any conflict, in our case social, there is no room for slow reactions, and the rhetoric of an individual or

organization plays a crucial role in defining either winners or losers.

Such topic is being put into the center of attention in a new publication by John Benjamins called *Developing New Identities in Social Conflicts: Constructivist Perspectives*, edited by Esperanza Morales-López and Alan Floyd. Ten authors from various disciplines, including history, philosophy, biology and cultural studies, health communication, and above all a critical analysis of discourse, contributed to this exceptional interdisciplinary collection.

The book is divided into two part: the first one focuses on the theoretical definition of the subject in which authors contemplate different approaches to the studied topic.

American historian and literary theorist Hayden White deals with historical discourse as constructions of various narratives about specific historical events, and in his argument states that the stories do not faithfully represent reality, but represent fictional modes of an unobservable past treated as reality. This builds on his perception of historiography as a literary genre dependent on language and rhetorical tropes rather than objective scientific discipline. The Argentinian historian and philosopher of history, Veronica Tozzi, focuses on a comparative approach to historical constructivism, based on the theories of Hayden White and another well-known literary theorist Kenneth Burke. In her contribution, she stresses the importance of using literary tropes in the reconstruction of a historical event, with emphasis on the presence of Burke's basic *pentad* - act, scene, agent, agency, and purpose. In the third article, this time by the Spanish literary theorist David Pujante, the author deals with his own concept, which he calls *constructivist rhetoric*. As previously Pujante (2016) wrote, constructivist rhetoric constitutes a necessary step forward that frees rhetoric from traditional eloquent aspects and gives room for comparison with other constructivist disciplines that are based on subjectivism. Pujante's approach demands constant updating of information sources according to the date and place of discourse production, and especially tropologization and figuration, which

help us to perceive and consequently understand better everyday life. This approach is outlined by the theoretical and methodological framework on constructivist positions on knowledge and discourse. The last of the authors of the theoretical block of four papers is Simón Ramírez Muñoz, who focuses on the role of emotions in the formation of historical discourse. He underlines the role of mutual respect as the way to the conversation, which is the key to resolving disputes and mismatches. In his opinion, contemporary society is arrogant and at sixes and sevens and, instead, should return to respect and love, as the author himself states, it is the only natural state for *homo sapiens amans*.

The following eight articles focus on analyzes of various speeches and genres with regard to the constructivist approach. I am profoundly pleased by the selection of current European conflicts which I consider to be a significant bright side of this publication. David Pujante, following his theoretical interpretation, employs the concept of constructivist rhetoric in the example of the terrorist attack on January 7, 2015, at the editorial of the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo, which evoked a worldwide brouhaha. It is also the first event of its kind, followed by masses on social media such as FaceBook, Twitter or Instagram to express solidarity with the victims by using the hashtags #JeSuisCharlie. Pujante exquisitely analyzes the discourse of various periodicals and impartially balances the

European and Arabic interpretation of these events. The sixth article by Alan Floyd analyzes British periodicals and their responses to migratory waves and proves that their content often does not reflect reality, but falls into some ready-made contexts created by publishing houses to keep a consistent narrative. In the seventh article, Javier Nespereira García deals with the topic of swine flu pandemic that occurred in Mexico in March 2009. Nespereira presents an analysis of two different speeches which were held during the hearing in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the management of the pandemic by WHO by the German politician from the SPD party Wolfgang Wodarg and the “flu chief” and doctor Keiji Fukuda.

Of the eight practical articles, the last five are concerned mostly with Spanish national issues of the last decade. The article by Francisco Vicente Gómez deals with the text commenting technique model that was presented to students in Spain in the 1960s. Laura Filardo-Llamas presents an analysis of not only Spanish but also English songs in the light of feminism and highlights the patriarchal content of most of them. She examines the role of women in individual texts that aim to combat domestic violence and promote women’s emancipation. Sara Molpeceres analyzes the concept of so-called Smart City in Barcelona and the implications of public space as an ideological tool. The last two articles by David Pujante and Esperanza Morales-López deal with the M15 movement,

the anti-austerity movement in Spain, which began May 15, 2011, and developed into a set of demonstrations caused by unemployment, unfavorable economic conditions, welfare cuts, political corruption, participacy, unrepresentative bipartism, and democratic deficit. The authors focus primarily on the analysis of slogans and discourse practices.

Above all, I would like to highlight the following three advantages of the present compilation. The publication is thoroughly integrated by the constructivist perspective, which is applied by all the authors who contributed to it. Moreover, it provides a comprehensive overview of current knowledge from the theory of approach to the analysis of historical events, from a multidisciplinary point of view, which I consider to be extremely valuable and beneficial. The theoretical analysis undoubtedly will well serve the academic audience, but the practical part will surely be of interest to the general public as well.

In particular, however, the Spanish public, as the authors prefer to analyze their own home political and social scene. In this, I find the only minus of the publication. I think that a paper on the discourse of, for example, Eastern European countries would give the overall impression of reading a far more complex form.

However, this minor deficiency, as mentioned above, is being diminished by the perfect interconnectedness between the theoretical contributions on the one side and practical outputs

on the other. The authors are perfectly united by the same theoretical backgrounds, and some of them create their own. Finally, I also deeply appreciate their impartiality, which is to be obvious and natural when analyzing discourse, whether periodical or song, but still sometimes unattainable in the contemporary sequence of events and information.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

PUJANTE, DAVID (2016): Constructivist rhetoric within the tradition of rhetorical studies in Spain, *Res Rhetorica*. 2016, (1), 30-49.

Per què Fuster tenia raó, de Pau Viciano. València: Tres i Quatre, 2017, 142 pp., ISBN: 978-84-16789-82-5, 10 €. *Resenyat per Daniel P. Grau, Universitat Jaume I*

Reseña recibida el / Review received: 2018-02-16
Reseña aceptada el / Review accepted: 2018-03-21

Sempre he pensat que no calen excuses per a revisitar un gran escriptor. Amb tot, però, benvingudes sien les commemoracions si ajuden a aplegar nous lectors al voltant d'una figura cabdal i a llegir-la millor o a oferir-ne noves vies d'interpretació. El 2017, per motiu dels vint-i-cinc anys de la mort de Joan Fuster o per pura casualitat editorial, es van concentrar una bona sèrie de publicacions al voltant de l'assagista de les ulleres, el bigoti i la cigarreta. Hi trobem una mica de tot: des d'antologies i edicions anotades a monografies o llibres col·lectius de di-

ferent to, entre els quals no manquen homenatges que potser li haurien fet arrufar el nas.

A mitjan camí entre l'estudi monogràfic i la divulgació –un *gènere* delicat, perquè és difícil assolir l'equilibri en la dicció, però que resulta altament atractiu per al lector, en el qual Fuster mateix se sentia tan còmode– hi ha *Per què Fuster tenia raó*, de Pau Viciano, que fa arribar l'emblemàtica col·lecció «La Unitat» de Tres i Quatre al número 213. A Fuster, crec que no li hauria agradat el títol del llibre. I no ho dic pas per una qüestió de