Book of Abstracts

SdC IWoDA

International Workshop on Discourse Analysis
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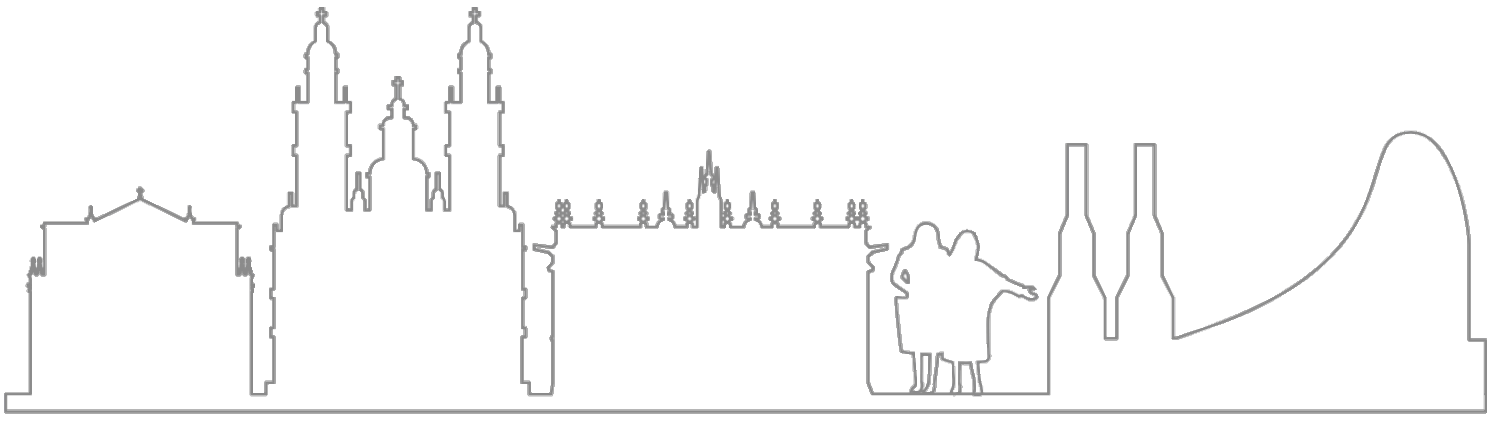

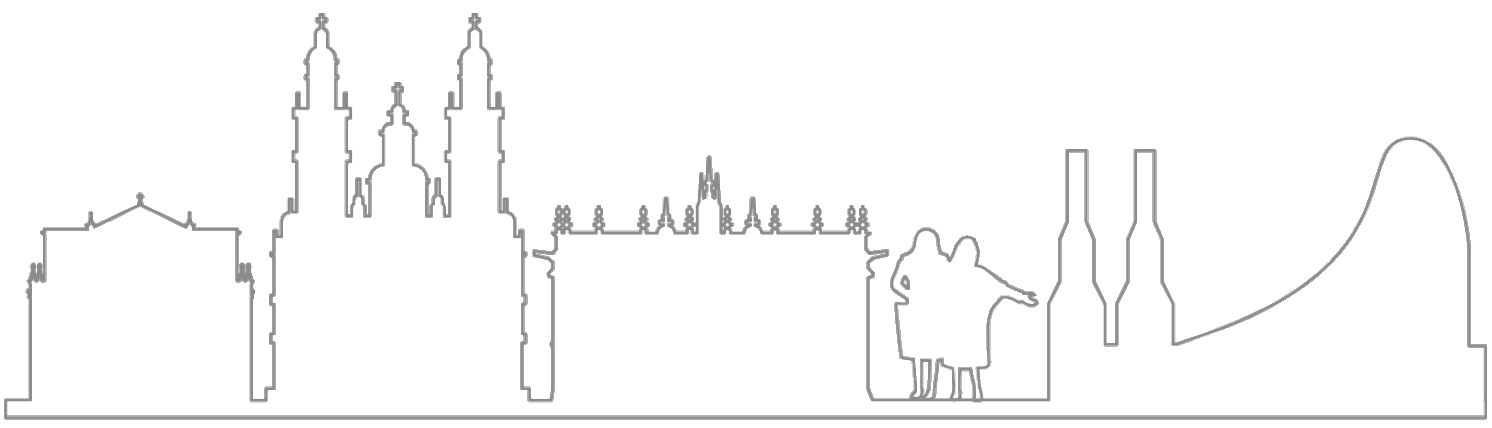

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Genre types and modal meanings in Modern English texts written by women

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This paper is about the use of modal meanings as realized by modal verbs in late Modern English history texts written by women, as in *The Corpus of History English Texts* (Crespo and Moskowich 2015a), a subcorpus within the *Coruña Corpus of English Scientific Writing*. Our analyses follow from earlier considerations of modal meanings in early English (Crespo and Moskowich 2015b; Alonso-Almeida 2015), as well as studies dealing with modal verbs in scientific writing (Gray et al. 2011). In this context, our notion of modality mainly transpires Palmer's ideas in this respect (1986 and 2001), although current literature on the topic is very much needed in order to account for specific contemporary uses identified in scientific writing (Carrió-Pastor 2014). Our notion of genre is that included in Martin (1984) within the framework of functional-systemic linguistics. Interrogation of the texts includes the use of the *Coruña Corpus Tool*, as this software allows the retrieval and excerption of data with a focus on modal verbs and their occurrences in specific textual genres and sex variables. Statistic figures on modal meanings are obtained to show generic variation, and these are normalized to 10,000 in order to evaluate and contrast results. Our working hypothesis, and expected outcome, is that the use of modals with a hedging function (Hyland 2005; Moskowich and Crespo 2014) will appear in genres exhibiting empirical contributions, and modals indicating authoritative nuances greatly qualify instructive genre types, say *textbooks*.

Keywords: *modality, history texts, hedging, genres, women*

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A Corpus-based Approach to Posthumanism in Fiction and Non-fiction Texts

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One of the most interesting issues regarding science fiction lies in its use of language, due to its stylistic and narrative development. Thus, and as it also happens with non-fiction texts, the explicit and implicit material can become the writer's ally when it comes to persuading the reader. After verifying that the use of specific lexicon regarding *posthumanism* seems to be avoided in science fiction novels, and also considering that in non-fiction texts the authors express themselves more openly, the aim of this paper is twofold. Firstly, it aims at offering an overview of how *transhumanism* and *posthumanism* appear in science fiction and non-fiction texts published between 1950 and 2017. Secondly, it is intended to contribute to a better understanding of how certain "patterns of repetition" (Toolan 2016: 39) might constitute an act of persuasion. To this end, the work will revolve around two main points. On the one hand, the idea that pragmatics is an indispensable source for discourse analysis because of its study of 'invisible' meaning or how we infer what is meant (Yule 2010: