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The system of projection in the British press: Packaging voices in the popularization of science

An analysis has been carried out on how the system of projection is realized in science popularization articles from the British press. Taken as the phenomenon by which we (re)construct a previous (linguistic) representation of the real world, studies on projection have focused on the range of structural options used for projecting (e.g. Semino and Short 2004; Elorza and Pérez-Veneros 2014) or also on the types of participants whose voices are projected (Hawes and Thomas 2012; Hawes 2014). Thompson (1994) has suggested that we can study projection in two different ways: by tracking a meaning to see whether it appears as Proposition, Fact, or nominalization; or by having a look at the distribution and function of a single meaning and how it is projected along the text. He points out that typically what we find in texts is that propositions develop along a cline of projection from first appearance in text until their meaning can be completely packaged into a nominalization which, in turn, can also function as a participant (see also Halliday 1994: 115, 266; Moyano 2015).

In order to study the dynamics of projection in the dissemination of science in the written media, my analysis delves into the question of how scientific knowledge is constructed in texts as projection (either as Proposition, Fact or Thing, in line with Thompson's 1994 taxonomy) by looking at whether (and to what extent) material participants typically present in this text-type (e.g. *the study, the research, etc.*) are a result of the 'packaging' of a previous projection, and which type of projection is favoured in those cases. To this aim, a corpus consisting of 100 cases of projection has been compiled and manually analysed. The results show that projection is mainly realized through Propositions and Facts in popularizations, although there are also cases in which the words of others are projected as Things, thus taking the role of participants of a new projection. Besides, in this corpus these fully-packaged projections tend to appear at the beginning of the text to evolve later into either Propositions or Facts, which contrasts greatly with previous results (cf. Thompson 1994).

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