

**APPLIED LINGUISTICS AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER:
EMPLOYABILITY, INTERNATIONALISATION
AND SOCIAL CHALLENGES**

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To date, applied linguistics has been discussed at length from different perspectives. The field has witnessed the publication of many research papers and books that have inquired into some of its common sub-fields (for a review of the research trends and needs in applied linguistics, see Lei and Liu 2019). Evidently, we need new books that delve into new grounds of applied linguistics or at least look at it from a new perspective. What is needed is more interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary books to expand the horizon of applied linguistics and meet the stakeholders' newly arisen needs in this field.

A newly published book to bridge this perceived gap is *Applied Linguistics and Knowledge Transfer: Employability, Internationalisation and Social Challenges* edited by Ana Bocanegra-Valle and published by Peter Lang in 2020. The book's title speaks for itself: it aims to shed light on knowledge transfer and the interwoven issues of employability, internationalisation, and social challenges in applied linguistics. The book is divided into three parts, namely "Knowledge Transfer", "Internationalisation", and "Employability and Social Challenges", and starts with an introduction by Ana Bocanegra-Valle, who gives operational definitions of keywords from the book and then provides an overview of the chapters. Like almost all books in this field, the book has a list of figures and tables and notes on contributors in the final section.

The first part of the book is devoted to the contributions by Ricardo Mairal-Usón and Pamela Faber, Sven Tarp, Jonás Fouz-González, and Carmen Sancho Guinda.

Ricardo Mairal-Usón and Pamela Faber discuss the issue of linguistic research in the current era. They aim to offer insights into the potential ways in which linguists contribute significantly, as key players, to knowledge dissemination. They focus on artificial intelligence and its multidimensional aspects in language-related research scopes. Also, the interrelationship between health science and biology with linguistics is discussed. The authors aim to bring attention to the wide scope of opportunities for linguistics experts to undertake interdisciplinary research projects. Sven Tarp focuses on integrated digital writing assistants and their role in writing instruction. The tool *Write Assistant* is explained in detail, and the related issues, challenges, and prospects are discussed. The chapter ends with an emphasis on more experimental research projects to fill potential gaps and come up with solutions for better integration of technologies in writing instruction in foreign language-learning classes. In the next chapter, Jonás Fouz-González studies the potential role of technology in teaching pronunciation. More specifically, a study on learners' perceptions about using apps in language learning, in particular the English File Pronunciation (EFP) app, is discussed. The chapter concludes with the study's positive findings and the limitations and challenges of using apps in pronunciation instruction for foreign language learners. In the last chapter of the first part of the book, Carmen Sancho Guinda throws light on entrepreneurship and the importance of discourse in entrepreneurial proposals by engineering students. The results of a case study are given, and the importance of discourse studies in interdisciplinary research and language education is highlighted.

The second part of the book is devoted to internationalisation. Elspeth Jones investigates the role of languages in transformational internationalisation. Jones untangles the primary importance of internationalisation for students if they aim to keep pace with the advancement of technology. It is argued that language proficiency should play a key role in this endeavour. The chapter covers transformational internationalisation and its effect on education. Furthermore, the role of languages, particularly English as a lingua franca and medium of instruction, in the success of internationalisation is explained. Carmen Carracelas-Juncal goes into detail about the challenges of service-learning and social networks in study abroad contexts, especially students' preparation. What is especially worth reading in this chapter is the section titled "Current study abroad reality: 'Abroad is less abroad than it once was'" as it sheds an interesting light on the experience of studying in other countries in the age of globalization. This is coupled with a discussion of the study abroad curriculum and the interaction-related issues which students encounter. The related findings are presented in detail.

Similarly, in the next chapter, Vasi Mocanu and Enric Llorca elucidate constructing and reconstructing attitudes towards language learning in study abroad

programmes. More specifically, they explore the way attitudes towards language learning are shaped and reshaped during a study abroad experience. In the last chapter of part two, Oana Maria Carciu and Laura-Mihaela Muresan inquire into academics' views on internationalisation in higher education. Presenting the findings of a qualitative single-case research project that examined Romanian faculty members' perspectives on the internationalisation of higher education, the authors stress that this phenomenon is not limited to just one or two aspects but has a multidimensional nature.

The book's most intriguing part is the third section as it opens the door to a very important topic, namely employment and related social issues in applied linguistics. This last part of the book includes four contributions by Martha C. Pennington, Troy B. Wiwczarowski and Mária Czeller, Penny MacDonald and Llum Bracho, and Silvia Molina-Plaza and Samira Allani.

In a well-written and much-needed chapter, Martha C. Pennington particularises the undeniable role of pronunciation in finding employment internationally. She explains how pronunciation-related defects at segmental and suprasegmental levels can harm communication and interaction, especially in professional and job-related episodes. Also, the controversial issue of 'accent' and its over- and under-estimated importance in communication is discussed. The chapter concludes with some compensatory strategies to improve the pronunciation and intelligibility of language learners. Troy B. Wiwczarowski and Mária Czeller discuss the gap between what language skills are taught in higher education and the needs of the job market in real life. They clarify the 'authenticity' criteria in employment and attach importance to teaching marketable skills to students to enable them to get recruited.

Penny MacDonald and Llum Bracho report the findings of a corpus-based study of university students' ideas and attitudes about immigration in EFL classes. In the last chapter of the book, Silvia Molina-Plaza and Samira Allani explain women engineers' multimodal identity construction. They inquire into how linguistic and visual semiotic resources are used to depict women engineers in their professional identities. It is worth noting that they shed light on multimodality in discourse studies.

The book is recommended for inclusion in the syllabus of graduate and postgraduate studies to familiarise students with new avenues of research and application in applied linguistics. However, this does not mean that the book cannot be improved in a future edition. A purely conceptual introductory paper would enhance the theoretical richness of the book and should also reflect the depth and the importance of the contribution of this book to the field of applied linguistics. More importantly, if it were possible, a meta-analysis of the related studies in each

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part could give a valuable insight into the issue under investigation. Last but not least, more contributions (experimental, and especially mixed-methods, studies) from different language learning contexts (i.e. Asian, American etc.), focussing on less-investigated languages or language learners and immersion programs, would be welcome. That being said, the book is very much worth reading as it expands the scope of applied linguistics to new, inter- and multidisciplinary areas of inquiry.

Works Cited

LEI, Lei and Dilin LIU. 2019. "Research Trends in Applied Linguistics from 2005 to 2016: A Bibliometric Analysis and Its Implications". *Applied Linguistics* 40 (3): 540-561.