

Edited by Claudia Ortu, Francesco Bachis

Languaging Class

Reflecting on the Linguistic Articulations of Structural Inequalities

SERIES IN LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

About the editors

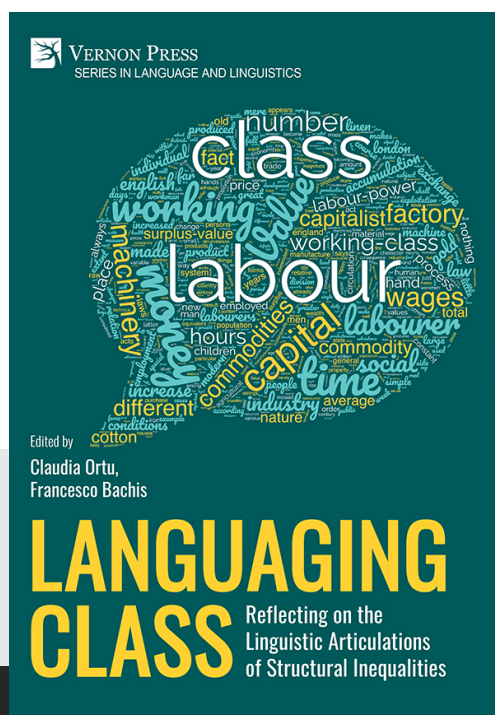
Claudia Ortu (Ph.D., University of Naples, Federico II) is a researcher in English Language and Translation at the University of Cagliari in Italy. She worked as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Johannesburg for two years. She has studied British and South African political and neoliberal discourses, with a special focus on the discourse of neoliberal governments on trade unions. She is the author of the monograph 'Industrial Relations and Conservative Governments in the Eighties' (Arcane, 2012) and of various articles, among which: "At the Intersection of Class and Race: Languaging and Picturing Diversity in Post-Apartheid South Africa" (2015); "Trade Unions in South Africa and the Discourse of the Neoliberal State" (2015); and "Saps-Speak: The Language of the South African Police in the Postapartheid Era" (2019). Her main research interests are Critical Discourse Analysis, Systemic Functional Linguistics, multimodality, and the language of Neoliberalism and trade unions.

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in the Mediterranean" (2014); and 'Sull'orlo del pregiudizio. Razzismo e islamofobia in una prospettiva antropologica' (2018). His main research interests are Symbolic Boundaries in Transnational Migrations, Racism and Islamophobia in Europe, Visual Ethnography, and Mining Anthropology.

Summary

This volume explores the issue of social class from the point of view of its linguistic articulations. Indeed, as Machin and Richardson (2008) stated, "discourses may be variously approached as (often simultaneously) reflecting class structures, as a site of class inequalities, as expressive of class identities or class consciousness and/or as a constituent part of more performative class action." Some of the contributions that make up the volume were presented at a conference held at Cagliari University, Italy, in 2017 and responded to the call for analyses on the role of language in reflecting, maintaining, enacting, and inculcating ideas on social class in literary and non-literary texts and discourses in any cultural or linguistic setting. This volume aspires to encourage scholars in disciplines and academic fields that have shied away from reflections on structural inequalities in favor of studies on ethnic, gender, and cultural identities in the last decades to take back on board the concept of social class and to engage with it in a novel way. The variety of approaches – ranging from the more traditional sociolinguistic one, anthropology, to literary and discourse studies – and cultural settings – with case studies coming from 3 continents – represented in the chapters show that social class is a productive and illuminating concept for trying to (re)make sense of social reproduction and change.



February 2023 | Hardback 236x160mm | 192 Pages | ISBN: 978-1-64889-586-9

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