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Daniela Francesca Viridis, Elisabetta Zurru, and Ernestine Lahey, eds. *Language in Place: Stylistic Perspectives on Landscape, Place and Environment*, Linguistic Approaches to Literature (LAL) 37 (Amsterdam, John Benjamins, 2021), 258 pp.

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How do writers represent the more-than-human world in their work? How do their readers, in turn, make sense of these texts and the physical landscapes and places described therein? How are we to imagine these processes of encoding and decoding in theoretical terms, and how can we test these theories about linguistic representations of environments and its (non)human inhabitants? The introduction to and the eleven chapters collected in *Language in Place: Stylistic Perspectives on Landscape, Place and Environment* (2021), edited by Daniela Francesca Viridis, Elisabetta Zurru, and Ernestine Lahey, provide original answers to these questions. While this volume may seem, at first, to be of interest to only a small community of researchers also committed to exploring the intersection of ecocriticism and stylistics after the spatial turn (as well as, in the case of Viridis's chapter, animal studies), *Language in Place* is likely to be relevant for scholars not only in these two fields but also beyond. To ecocritics in particular and literary scholars in general, this wide-ranging volume can serve as an inspiration for and as a point of departure for future explorations. Moreover, the objective of and approaches brought together by the editors seem very much in line with those of emerging subfields such as econarratology (e.g. James 2015, 2023; James and Morel 2020) or empirical ecocriticism (esp. Schneider-Mayerson et al. 2023).

The contributions examine, for the most part, very different genres, national and cultural contexts, periods, or media, suggesting the potential of this general approach to analyzing representations of physical landscapes, places, and the environment. While some contributions gravitate toward the exploratory and experimental, such as Jennifer Smith's rich, multi-layered side-by-side reading of Iain Sinclair's *London Overground* (2015) and London's Shoreditch neighborhood, other chapters adopt what could best be described as a traditional empirical approach. Consider, for example, Nigel McLoughlin's "Liminal Islands: A Cognitive Stylistic Analysis of 'Beyond the Pale' and 'Rathlin' by Derek Mahon." This chapter draws on Text World Theory, which is also used by some of the other contributors, as well as Stockwell's model of literary resonance and combines methods used in stylistics and literary studies. McLoughlin's contribution is exemplary

both for the accessibility, linearity, and rigor of the study's design (in theoretical, methodological, and analytical terms) and the insights derived from close readings of Mahon's lines. For these reasons, this chapter could also be used as a template for similar analyses or as a model to teach this kind of approach, probably both at the undergraduate and graduate level.

Whereas McLoughlin's engaging contribution does not seem to explicitly promote what the editors describe in their introduction as the "social and political agenda of ecocriticism" that may come to the fore in their field (4-5), other chapters demonstrate how the theories and empirical methods used in *Language in Place* can be used to challenge naturalized hierarchies and patterns of domination, marginalization, and abuse. These approaches can also reveal, as shown in Viridis's chapter, agency of nonhuman animals where one would least expect to find it. Adopting a framework including Hallidayan functional grammar and human-animal studies, Viridis examines "animal agency in a corpus of texts from the website of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, an English charity rehoming dogs and cats, more precisely from the cat rehoming gallery" (189). For many readers, this kind of data may seem somewhat unusual and overly specific, and yet Viridis, like the other contributors to the volume, shows that her systematic approach to collecting and analyzing data and to interpreting her result in light of her theoretical assumptions allows her to achieve the three main aims of her study (190). With its emphasis on human-animal studies, Viridis's chapter is somewhat of an outlier, and it appears that one of the next steps for the field mapped in *Language in Place* would be to explore, to use Derrida's well-known phrase, "the question of the animal" (2008, 8) to a greater extent.

The collection by Viridis, Zurru, and Lahey features other compelling chapters, for example Kristin Berberich's corpus-based study of the Boston Marathon Bombing (2013) and its aftermath or Karin Christina Ryding's exploration of Arabic (or Arabic-sounding) names in Frank Herbert's sci-fi classic *Dune* (1965). As noted about, each chapter is well worth reading, even if it is only for the theories and methods used. These, it seems, have considerable potential for future scholarship, especially by ecocritics who are interested in interdisciplinary collaborations with researchers in fields that work empirically or those who seek to move beyond the linguistic representations covered here to also consider, for example, visual data (film, photography, and so on). *Language in Place* provides several excellent roadmaps for this kind of work and for future explorations of landscapes, places, and the environment.

Works Cited

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