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journalism -- Double-possessive nominalizations in English -- Pragmatics, word order and cross-reference. Some issues with pronominal clitics in Bulgarian -- Patterns of multiple theme and their role in developing English writing skills -- Interactive solution-problems: A set of structures in general and scientific writing -- The English Contrastive Discourse Marker instead -- Global and local attention in task-oriented conversation: An empirical investigation -- Metadiscursive and interpersonal values of pronominal topics in spoken Spanish -- Phatic communion and small talk in fictional dialogues -- Mister so-called X: Discourse functions and subjectification of so-called -- 'Sorry to muddy the waters': Accounting for speech act formulae and formulaic variation in a systemic functional model of language -- The discourse functionality of adjectival and adverbial epistemic expressions: Evidence from present-day English -- Modality across World Englishes: The modals and semi-modals of prediction and volition -- Name index -- Subject index -- Language index. The series Studies in Language Companion Series.

Sommario/riassunto

This paper reports a corpus-based study which examined the uses of the modals and semi-modals which express meanings associated with prediction and volition (will, shall, be going to/gonna, want to/wanna, and be about to) in British, American and Australian English. Quantitative findings relating to regional and stylistic variation are presented, and consideration is given to the possible influence upon the relative popularity of modal uses of 'Americanization' and 'colloquialization'. It is suggested that these socially-driven dissemination processes provide possible explanations for, inter alia, the differing fortunes of the moribund shall on the one hand and on the other those of the popular semi-modals be going to/gonna and want to/wanna.
