

Manel Lacorte, ed. *The Routledge Handbook of Hispanic Applied Linguistics*. New York and London: Routledge, 2014. 700 pp. ISBN: 978-0-415-81378-5.

The Routledge Handbook of Hispanic Applied Linguistics is an edited volume comprising an introductory chapter written by the editor, Manel Lacorte, and 36 thematic chapters written by 52 international experts. The variety of perspectives and traditions represented in this handbook, besides reflecting the maturity of the field, defines its truly international and interdisciplinary character, making it an excellent resource for students, teachers, and researchers who are interested in the field of applied linguistics and its professional applications.

The handbook is organized in five sections: 1) Perspectives and Learning Spanish, 2) Issues and Environments in Spanish Teaching, 3) Spanish in the Professions, 4) The Discourses of Spanish, and 5) Social and Political Contexts for Spanish. Far from being limited to the teaching and learning of Spanish, as the applied linguistics field is often understood, this publication aims at re-contextualizing and defining applied linguistics as an autonomous academic field from theoretical linguistics (p. 1). Even so, two out of five sections of the handbook are specifically dedicated to teaching and learning Spanish, while the other three, although not specifically classroom-oriented, contain articles that are still applicable to the language classroom.

All the chapters are theoretical and academic in nature, but they also outline concrete applications of the research to different professional sectors. The authors offer a good overview of each topic, integrating recent research trends and results, and providing an up-to-date perspective on the field.

The 36 chapters have a similar structure: after defining and contextualizing a specific subfield of applied linguistics in the “Introduction” to the chapter, the authors guide the reader through a comprehensive overview of its “Historical perspectives” and “Core issues and topics”. Finally, before the “Conclusions”, the reader is offered a selection of recent research trends in the section “Looking into the future.”

The organization of the chapters is straightforward in presenting a well-crafted historical overview culminating with open lines of research. This approach can be of help to graduate students or researchers who are approaching a given area or subject for the first time and need to have a gist of the field or topic they may decide to pursue. The amount of information and bibliographical references included in each chapter is exhaustive and well integrated in the text. Moreover, at the end of each chapter, the authors included a selection of related topics in form of keywords and a short list of further readings, which is in line with the purpose of the handbook and its multidisciplinary nature.

In the Introduction, the editor presents a brief history of Hispanic applied linguistics, since the very first use of the term in 1971, moving from a *linguistics-applied* conceptualization of the field as a subsection of linguistics, to the more recent *applied-linguistics* definition as an autonomous scientific field (p. 2). Lacorte goes through different ways in which applied linguistics is understood and practiced in the United States, Latin America and Europe, and advocates for a multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary field of Hispanic applied linguistics.

Section one comprises five articles regarding the sociocultural, pragmatic, discursive, cognitive, generative and sociolinguistic perspectives on learning Spanish. The authors discuss some of the major research paradigms on Spanish language teaching and adopt a theoretical and research-oriented approach, complemented by the mention of some classroom applications.

Section two is equally research-oriented, and focuses specifically on teaching and learning-related issues, such as teaching approaches and methods, teacher education, program

design and management, literature and culture, use of technology, assessment and evaluation, and teaching Spanish as a foreign, local, or heritage language. This section could be of interest to scholars who want to be updated on the most recent research findings as they apply to teaching and learning Spanish, and can be an appropriate resource to be used to train future Spanish teachers at graduate level.

Section three is dedicated to an important area of Hispanic applied linguistics that has not received all the attention it deserves. The chapters in this section focus on applied linguistics as it relates to different professional fields: translation, interpreting, lexicography, computational linguistics, corpus linguistics, publishing, forensic linguistics, the health professions and special education. These nine chapters, written by experts with recognized professional experience in each area and characterized as inherently hands-on, provide a practical introduction to different professional fields that may be helpful to graduate students interested in pursuing a non-academic career, or researchers looking for industry-oriented collaborations or projects.

Section four includes six articles embedded within a discourse analysis framework, each describing and examining a type of Spanish discourse in a specific context of use, and offering some practical applications and implications for its teaching. The discourses of Spanish included in this section are concerned with academic and professional contexts, institutional contexts, media, commercial contexts, intercultural communication and political contexts.

Finally, section five ties in with the last topic of the previous section, and closes the volume with five chapters that approach social and political contexts for Spanish in a critical perspective. The chapters discuss issues related to linguistic policies and planning of Spanish in the world, the United States and Latin America, and then consider issues related to migration and bilingualism. Overall, these chapters deal with complex matters related to globalization and language use and variety, while portraying the current situation of Spanish in the world and outlining future developments in this field.

In conclusion, *The Routledge Handbook of Hispanic Applied Linguistics* represents a huge effort to re-define and re-contextualize the field of Hispanic applied linguistics. This reference volume truly defines the scope of Hispanic applied linguistics by hosting in the same volume articles on different subfields written by scholars with international experience. The numerous contributions and the breadth of topics covered are purposely organized in order to offer a resourceful overview of theories, approaches and methods to current issues, together with practical examples and applications to a wide variety of professional settings, thus preparing the field for further systematic research.

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