The trouble with diverse books, part II: an informational pragmatic analysis

E.E. Lawrence (Department of Library and Information Science, Rutgers University School of Communication and Information, New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA)

Journal of Documentation
ISSN: 0022-0418
Publication date: 12 August 2020

Abstract
Purpose
Diverse books is a fundamentally political concept that performs particular normative work in discursive space. Part I of this project demonstrated that this was the case, further claiming that descriptive conceptual analysis was therefore methodologically inadequate to the task of defining the term. The purpose of this paper – Part II of II – is to advance a universal account of diverse books using an alternative form of conceptual analysis designed to suit the needs and commitments of LIS scholarship.

Design/methodology/approach
This paper proposes and deploys a new method called informational pragmatic analysis, through which one develops accounts of political concepts in terms of their legitimate aims and benefits vis-à-vis informational justice.

Findings
Diverse books are those systematically devalorized literary works we must make an ameliorative effort to promote in order to advance informational justice for oppressed persons in particular. These works exist on a contextually specific spectrum of moral urgency. A critical task for the diverse books movement is therefore to determine through democratic deliberation which (types of) books are most urgently in need of promotion under varying sociopolitical conditions.

Originality/value
In addition to proposing a new analytical methodology for LIS, the paper articulates and defends a pragmatic account of diverse books that resists regressive misappropriation. This further lays the groundwork for future critical interrogations of the activities of various agents and agencies of print, both within and beyond the library.

Keywords
Diverse books, Social justice, Conceptual analysis, Research methods

Citation
https://doi.org/10.1108/JD-06-2020-0112

Download as .RIS

Publisher: Emerald Publishing Limited
Copyright © 2020, Emerald Publishing Limited

To read the full version of this content please select one of the options below

You may be able to access this content by logging in via Shibboleth, Open Athens or with your Emerald Account.

If you think you should have access to this content, click the button to contact our support team.
highlighting their similarities and detecting their differences through surveying the relevant literature about and conducting a comparison between them to arrive at conclusions grounded at the findings of that comparison. Linguistic pragmatics is an extension of semantics and propositional logic. It studies the meaning of utterances (words, phrases and sentences used for communication) and tries to define the rules that govern their interpretation. For example, how uttering the sentence "It's hot in here." is interpreted not just as a factual statement but as a request to open the window. One model to describe this conversational logic is Searle's Speech Act Theory. Discourse analysis studies meaning too but focuses on larger scale units (articles, conversations, ...) and their overall interpretation. Chapter Two Literature Review 2.1 Introduction This chapter offers a review of the main pertinent research to the present topic, which is analyzing the pragmatic functions of idiomatic expressions in the conversations in the Egyptian novel Taxi. This chapter reviews the relevant literature, and it is divided thematically into four sections. The first section discusses the definitions of idioms; the second section discusses categorization of idiomatic expressions with respect to their features and functions; and the third section provides an investigation of pragmatics and speech act theory as...