



Intervention de Ph. De Brabanter

Titre : Hybrid quotations and grammar. Some consequences of the theory of quotations as iconic communicative acts

Abstract:

In this paper, I consider the grammatical implications of the theory that quotations are, in essence, iconic (as opposed to linguistic) communicative acts (Clark & Gerrig 1990; Recanati 2001; De Brabanter 2016). In particular, I examine so-called hybrid quotations of a peculiar kind, in which the quoted string occurs in a language different from the 'host' sentence, as in (1):

(1) This Constant, "athlète de la liberté", stands out as the most able critic of those who would revive "la liberté des anciens". (Times Literary Supplement)

If quotations are nothing but iconic acts, they should not normally have an impact on the grammatical acceptability of the utterances that they are superimposed on. In other words, a sentence like (1) should be just as acceptable (grammatically) with or without quotation. I look to syntactic accounts of code-switching for an attempt at establishing the grammaticality of examples like (1).