

Sketch

Judith Turnbull is Associate Professor of English Language and Translation in the Department of Studies on Language and Culture at the University of Modena e Reggio Emilia, where she teaches courses in English linguistics, translation, legal English and scientific English.

Her research interests lie in the field of specialised discourse and the research methodology adopted is primarily discourse analysis and genre analysis. One of the main areas of interest has been the analysis of computer-mediated communication, namely websites, blogs and forums. Recently she has undertaken studies on the dissemination of knowledge from expert to non-expert which involves the intra-linguistic and inter-semiotic translation of knowledge, focusing on the linguistic characteristics of popularization and the rewriting of economic, legal and medical information in a more accessible language for the empowerment of citizens of different age groups, from adults to children. In particular she has investigated the strategies adopted in two fundamental dimensions, the cognitive and the communicative.

Education and training

In 1978 Judith Turnbull was awarded a B.A. in Modern Languages (Italian and German) at the Cambridgeshire College of Arts and Technology, Cambridge, U.K. and she later graduated in Foreign Modern Languages and Literature at the University of Rome “La Sapienza”, on 15.3.1989. After working for thirty years as a mother tongue lecturer at the Faculty of Economics at Sapienza University of Rome she was awarded the National Academic Qualification as Associate Professor Language and Translation – English SSD L-LIN/12 in the 2013 session.

Research

Over the last 15 years Judith Turnbull has taken part in various research groups and also in national PRIN and COFIN research projects.

She has worked on specialised communication in the economic, corporate, legal, medical and academic fields. These studies have been developed in comparative, cross-linguistic and cross-cultural perspectives, in order to identify the different English and Italian rhetorical strategies adopted in various genres and texts.

A multi-methodological approach has been adopted, which combines qualitative tools typical of discourse analysis with the quantitative tools of corpus linguistics. In particular, Martin and White's

Appraisal Theory has been applied to different types of texts, whilst a number of software (ConcApp, WMatrix, UAM CorpusTool3) have been used for the quantitative analyses.

Research activity

Judith Turnbull is a member of the following associations and research groups:

- Associazione Italiana di Anglistica (AIA) – Association of English Studies in Italy
- CLAVIER (Interuniversity Research Centre on Corpus and Language Variation In English Research)

She has acted as referee of articles to be published in a number of international journals.

Teaching activity

Judith Turnbull runs courses in four different Departments of the university.

Firstly, she teaches the phonetics module of the first year English exam of the Degree in European Languages and Cultures at the Department of Studies on Language and Culture. She also teaches English Specialised Communication and Translation in the Master's Degree in Languages for Communication in International Enterprises and Organizations – LACOM.

She also holds the English Language course at the Law Department for the Master's degree in Law and the three-year degree in Law for Firms and the Public Administration.

In addition, she teaches Technical English for the Master's Degrees in Chemistry and in Geosciences, Georisks and Georesources at the Department of Chemistry and Geology and lastly, she teaches Advanced Scientific English for the Master's Degree in Mathematics at the Department of Physics, Computer Technology and Mathematics.