Early Modern English Dialogues

Language is largely comprised of face-to-face spoken interaction; however, the method, description and theory of traditional historical accounts of English have been largely based on scholarly and literary writings. Using the Corpus of English Dialogues 1560–1760, Culpeper and Kytö offer a unique account of the linguistic features in several speech-related written genres, comprising Trial proceedings, Witness depositions, Plays, Fiction and Didactic works. The volume is the first to provide innovative analyses of several neglected written genres, demonstrating how they might be researched, and highlighting the theories which are needed to underpin this research. Through this, the authors are able to create a fascinating insight into what spoken interaction in Early Modern English might have been like, providing an alternative perspective to that often presented in traditional historical accounts of English.


Merja Kytö is Professor of English Language at Uppsala University. She was the co-editor for Nineteenth-Century English: Stability and Change (2006) and A Reader in Early Modern English (1998) and is co-editor of the ICAME Journal and Studia Neophilologica. She has also participated in the compilation of historical corpora including The Helsinki Corpus of English Texts.
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Early Modern English Dialogues
Spoken Interaction as Writing

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(c) Chapter 6 is based on “‘Good, good indeed, the best that ere I heard’: Exploring lexical repetitions in the *Corpus of English Dialogues 1560–1760*”. In: Irma Taavitsainen, Juhani Härmä and Jarmo Korhonen (eds.) *Dialogic Language Use / Dimensions du dialogisme / Dialogischer Sprachgebrauch* (Mémoires de la Société Néophilologique 66), 2006, 69–85. With kind permission of Société Néophilologique (Modern Language Society), Helsinki.


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