

antigay or progay. This chapter is an excellent synthesis of various discourses in both camps.

Chapter 4 gets at the heart of Smith and Windes' thesis – it discusses the 'influence of adversarial symbolic action on identity and strategy within interpretive packages' (p. 56). In addition to treating disagreement within both the progay and antigay camps, Smith and Windes provide a case study of same-sex marriages, which delves into the way in which interpretive packages play off each other. In the final chapter of the book, Smith and Windes soundly chastise both groups. In particular, they claim that one of the biggest problems in the war over sexuality is that both progay and antigay advocates have stopped listening to each other. Even though each camp co-opts and manipulates the other's discursive production for their own use, they do so not for true communication and resolution of the disagreement but for singular victory and annihilation of the opposition.

I highly recommend this book for all scholars in rhetoric and discourse studies who have interests in social theory and change. The war over sexuality has taken a heavy toll on 20th and 21st century America. Smith and Windes go a long way in helping us to understand the nature of the illness, and they help point us toward a cure.

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AGNES S.M. KU, *Narratives, Politics, and the Public Sphere: Struggles Over Political Reform in the Final Transitional Years in Hong Kong (1992–1994)*. Aldershot: Ashgate, 1999. 283 pp.

As suggested in the title, the book explores the relationship between narratives, politics and the public sphere based on a study of the struggles over political reform in the final transitional years in Hong Kong. By politics is meant the cultural and political processes in this period, and by public sphere is simply meant the public opinion embedded in non-state-run mass media. Hence, the book develops a narrative theory of a politics of public credibility to explain how cultural and political processes shape public opinion on the one hand, and how public opinion influences political action in a continuous manner on the other hand.

The book consists of 12 chapters that fall into two parts. Chapters 2–4 constitute the theoretical part of the book and Chapters 5–11 the empirical part. In the introduction, the author describes the event under study. It started on 7 October 1992 when Governor Patten released a blueprint for political reform, then developed through a number of episodes involving intense social conflicts over the legislation of the reform package, and finally ended with its successful legislation on 30 June 1994. At the same time, a process of narrative progression took place,

which changed the public meanings of the event in terms of the public's experiences with it. The narrative process could be conceived as one of de-heroization and de-romanticization, taking place through the interplay between the discursive force of the heroic-romantic construction, cultural-political conflicts among the local political actors, and also a number of contingent episodes involving Sino-British politics.

Chapters 2 and 3 are devoted to the elaboration of the theory dealing with the concepts of 'public' and 'narrative' respectively. In Chapter 2, reviewing three different kinds of interpretation of the concept of the 'public' in Western literature, the author argues that a more adequate theorization of the 'public' requires: (i) a critical integration of the second interpretation into the third one and (ii) a reconceptualization of the role of culture in the public sphere of politics. In Chapter 3, the author proposes a theory of cultural politics, which looks at the narrative contexts of the 'public'. She incorporates the three concepts of intertextuality, interpretation and relationality into a theory of narrative progression. The theory is conceived in terms of three inter-related narrative components: thematic plots, characters and mood. Thematic plotting, mood creation and characterization are matters of interpretation by means of relational categories. She further delineates a classification scheme of four genres, namely romance, tragedy, comedy and irony/satire. Chapter 4 is concerned with a narrative methodology, which relies on the method of textual interpretation to analyze public opinion. With this methodology, the idea of genre – narrative genre, in particular – is used to capture the changing part-whole relationship in public discourse.

Chapters 5–11, the empirical part of the book, analyze the political-cultural situation in Hong Kong. In Chapter 5, the author traces the historical development of the public sphere in Hong Kong society. It is found that a more general and inclusive public sphere did not develop in the society until the 1980s. This is attributed to the growth of a capitalist economy. The increasing mobilization of the middle class and the development of a new culture of the 'public' enhanced the role of the media as the public sphere, and set in force the politics of public credibility. Chapter 6 delineates the immediate political-cultural context in the society wherein the politics of public credibility over the reform proposals were to unfold. Chapter 7, serving as an introduction to the empirical analysis, outlines the event in terms of Sino-British politics. Chapters 8 and 9 reconstruct the public discourses on democracy and stability in their respective narrative modes and chart their course of development in the early stages of the event. Chapter 10 analyses the empirical case as it developed over three stages.

There have been books that deal with the relationship between culture and politics, or, as is often termed, between language and politics (e.g. Beard, 2000; Holborow, 1999). What deserves special attention in this book is that it has as its general theoretical aim an explanation of the interplay between culture and politics in the public sphere. Through the public sphere, a common communication space within a political community, a public is formed. A large part of public discourse takes the form of narrative, in which public opinion is embedded.

Narrative is a discursive form which is meaning-laden in itself, and narrative analysis provides a much overlooked clue to unraveling a society's cultural formation and the actor's experience with a specific event. As an attempt to explain the continuous interaction between culture and politics, the author integrates the theory of the public with a theory of narrative progression that attends to both the structural quality and the experimental dynamics in the development of the event in Hong Kong.

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RICHARD D. LAMBERT AND ELANA SHOHAMY (eds), *Language Policy and Pedagogy: Essays in Honor of A. Ronald Walton*. Philadelphia, PA: Benjamins, 2000. xii+279 pp. \$72.00 (hbk)

This edited collection commemorates A. Ronald Walton, and in particular his work at the National Foreign Language Center (NFLC) in Washington, DC. The authors of the 14 articles in the collection have all been associated with the work of the NFLC in some way. The articles address a wide range of issues that affect foreign language teaching, from language planning and policy to classroom practice.

Each article is an interesting and worthwhile contribution to its own part of the foreign language teaching field, but the collection suffers from a problem that occurs with many edited collections, namely that links between articles are limited, so the whole lacks coherence. Lambert and Shohamy's introduction to the book provides a brief summary of each article, and points out some obvious links between them, but they do not take up the opportunity to explore any overarching and/or connecting issues that would develop a deeper level of coherence.

The opening chapter, by Spolsky and Shohamy, presents an overview of concepts and issues in language policy, drawing on examples from Israel and many other parts of the world. They address status, corpus and acquisition planning, but I was disappointed that they did not explore acquisition planning in greater depth than status and corpus planning, given that language teaching is the focus of this book.

In Chapter 2, Fishman questions his earlier claim that status planning is the driving force in language planning, and suggests that corpus planning may often be leading, particularly in situations in which overt status planning (which is obviously a political undertaking) may not be possible. He demonstrates that corpus planning is not socially neutral, and that it may be used for less overt (than