Previous research on methodological triangulation, like Baker and Egbert (2016), has mainly focussed on triangulation within corpus linguistics (CL). This timely volume presents triangulation between corpus linguistic methods and other linguistic methodologies through nine empirical studies in discourse analysis, applied linguistics and psycholinguistics. The volume consists of an introduction, nine chapters grouped into three sections, and a ‘Synthesis and Conclusion’.

In the Introduction, the editors briefly introduce CL and methodological triangulation. A brief review of previous literature on triangulation between CL and other linguistic methods in the fields of discourse analysis, applied linguistics and psycholinguistics is then presented. It ends with a sequential introduction to the nine studies in the volume.

Part I (Chapters 2 to 4) falls into the area of discourse analysis. To analyse text structure in a corpus of twenty-four academic lectures, in Chapter 2, Erin Schnur and Eniko Csomay employ manual/automatic segmentation and qualitative/quantitative analysis. The first approach involves manual segmentation using Mechanical Turk (MT) and qualitative coding of the 1,056 segments identified based on eight functions. The analysis here focusses on the distribution of segment functions in the texts. In the second approach, 769 Vocabulary-Based Discourse Units are automatically identified with TextTiler and then subjected to quantitative analysis, identifying four text-types of segments with similar linguistic features. Thus, the second case study focusses on the distribution of linguistic patterns in text structure to illustrate the association between language variation and pedagogical purpose.

In Chapter 3, Tony McEnery, Helen Baker and Carmen Dayrell rely on an historical newspaper corpus to explore the reality of droughts in nineteenth-century Britain. To control the potential errors in the digitised
historical data and provide a better record of the reality of droughts in the nineteenth-century UK, close reading of the electronic data, historic hydrology and geoparsing are deployed before concordance analysis. The findings show that the common most frequently mentioned years correspond with hydrologists’ previous analyses. For those years not reported in hydrologists’ research, detailed concordance analyses are conducted to identify drought with evidence from the newspaper corpus.

In Chapter 4, Paul Baker compares corpus-based analysis with close reading of down-sampled articles to examine representations of obesity in the Daily Mail. Each analysis is centred on six research questions and the full analysis considers sequentially four sets of articles and the corpus three times. To illustrate the analysis, the author closely reads one article and conducts collocational analyses of the two search terms ‘obese’ and ‘obesity’. The results of the five types of analyses are then compared to identify which combinations of approaches elicit the most findings. The results indicate that combining the corpus analysis with one or two sets of down-sampled texts is effective in addressing research questions.

Part II (Chapters 5 to 7) concerns non-CL methods in applied linguistics. Geoffrey LaFlair, Shelley Staples and Xun Yan carry out multi-dimensional analysis in two learner corpora in Chapter 5 to evaluate evidence for the scoring inferences of speaking and writing assessments. In each analysis, linguistic features are identified across proficiency levels and reduced to several dimensions. One or two representative dimensions are then investigated to illustrate language use across proficiency levels. The findings reveal that as score levels increase, examinees in the writing and speaking tests use more features associated with writing, lexical variety and colloquial fluency. These findings show support for the relevant scoring inference. However, some mismatches are uncovered in comparing the dimensions of each test with the relevant rubric descriptors, indicating that corpus methods can improve language test rubrics.

In Chapter 6, Dana Gablasova employs the corpus-based approach to analysing word associations (WAs) to examine bilinguals’ vocabulary acquisition. Two groups of Slovak-English students are asked to read two texts containing twelve new words with definitions: the L1 group read Slovak texts and the L2 group read English texts. Participants are then asked to provide WAs of the target words. The analysis reveals that concrete words tend to produce more super-ordinate elicitations than abstract words. Moreover, the majority of the WAs are among highly frequent and evenly distributed words in a list based on four general English corpora, and low-frequency words tend to activate higher-frequency ones. The findings indicate that advanced bilinguals tend to learn new vocabulary in a similar way through their L1 and L2 when exposed to the same input.

Jesse Egbert and Mark Davies combine corpus data and semantic classification data in Chapter 7 to investigate the diachronic change in the use of noun+noun constructions (NNS) across semantic categories in American English. The authors develop a list of twelve semantic categories of NNS
and an instrument, which are then used by 255 MT workers to classify 1,535 most frequent NNS extracted from the Corpus of Historical American English. Each NN sequence is categorised by eight workers. The findings indicate that the relationship between NN frequency and inter-rater reliability is more pronounced for recent data sets than for older ones. Three patterns of diachronic change in the use of NNS are identified: Frequent to Frequent, Infrequent to Infrequent, and Infrequent to Frequent.

Part III contains three chapters triangulating CL and psycholinguistics. In Chapter 8, Jennifer Hughes and Andrew Hardie combine corpus-derived collocations with the event-related potential (ERP) technique to identify the way collocational bigrams are processed in the brain, compared with non-collocational bigrams. The authors extract collocational bigrams from the British National Corpus 1994 and devise corresponding non-collocational bigrams. The on-screen stimuli sentences containing collocates and non-collocates are presented to participants word-by-word with the amplitude of the N400 measured. Statistical analyses reveal that the second word of the non-collocational bigram triggers an increase in the amplitude of the N400. The findings also suggest that hybrid measures, like z-score and t-score, are more strongly correlated with the amplitude of the N400 while single-parameter measures, like MI and Log-likelihood, correlate more weakly with it.

Stefan Gries uses corpus and experimental data on the dative alternation between ditransitives and prepositional datives in Chapter 9 to explore the influence of structural priming effects on non-native speakers’ constructional choices. Sixty-four German learners of English are instructed to complete thirty-two sentence fragments containing verbs like give, hand and show. Each completion is then annotated based on eight variables. Meanwhile, the author obtains each verb’s constructional preference about the dative alternation within a native-speaker corpus. The analysis of experimental data indicates that non-native speakers of English prefer to complete the target fragment in the same way as they complete the prime fragment, exhibiting significant production-to-production priming effects. The comparison of experimental and corpus data reveals that the learners’ completion choices are strongly correlated with the verbs’ constructional preferences in the native-speaker corpus.

In Chapter 10, Nick Ellis uses naming latency tasks to examine processing of abstract verb–argument constructions (VACs). Twenty-eight participants are instructed to read pairs of Verb+Preposition aloud and their response time is recorded as the voice onset time (VOT). These word pairs, extracted from the British National Corpus 2007, are categorised in terms of their lengths in letters, Verb–Corpus Frequency, Verb–VAC Frequency, VAC–verb contingency, and Verb–VAC semantic prototypicality. Difference in word 2 VOT is estimated against the five predictors. The statistical analysis reveals that preposition naming of VACs is independently affected by verb length, Verb–Corpus Frequency, Verb–VAC Frequency, and Verb–VAC semantic prototypicality.
Egbert and Baker conclude the volume with a ‘Synthesis and Conclusion’ chapter. Based on the research questions of the nine studies, the editors classify the nine studies into correlational and convergent studies. According to the stages when the corpus methods are used, the nine studies are grouped into three categories: independent, sequential and cyclical. Then, the editors review and discuss the benefits, drawbacks and recommendations provided by the authors. The chapter concludes with the contributions of this volume to communities of scholars, and reflections on the future of triangulation and corpus linguistics.

Three characteristics of this book are worthy of particular mention. First, each chapter ends with an evaluation of methodological triangulation used in the study, presenting readers with a clear picture of the benefits and drawbacks of each triangulation. Second, the book arranges the nine studies in a well-organised and easy-to-follow way according to the area to which the non-CL methods used in the studies belong. Third, the editors synthesise the nine studies through classifying them into different types of triangulation in the concluding chapter, which deepens readers’ understanding of the relationships between CL methods and non-CL methods used in each study.

Overall, the volume fulfils its main goals through the nine exemplary studies and the concluding chapter, making itself an original and cutting-edge contribution to applications of methodological triangulation with CL. The book thus provides invaluable guidance and models for graduate students and researchers in discourse analysis, applied linguistics and psycholinguistics.

**References**