

gitimized by the myth of England, its workings also furthered the process by which Richard III was maligned by historians. The myth of England thrived in the Tudor century, reinvented by Elizabeth, who, with her Tudor Welsh ancestry, identified herself with England, and reinforced by Shakespeare, whose patriotic rhetoric and strong rhythm "quickens the collective English heart-beat." But it is the Tudors' and Shakespeare's myth of 'this sceptered isle' that Duffy sees as the root of English isolationism, the wish "to go it alone." Furthermore, under the Stuarts, the firmly established myth of proud England shifts somewhat towards the myth of embattled Protestant England reflected in Guy Fawkes Day and, more significantly, in Orange marches in Northern Ireland to this day. As Protestantism becomes increasingly part of the myth, the distance between England and the mainly Catholic Continent widens. The events of the Civil War pose a problem for the myth, which negotiates and absorbs the twists and turns of the support for the warring sides to emerge into the era of English expansion further away from Europe. Duffy says that the English are still "dogged by the myth of [their] empire" and debates how, paradoxically, the Empire also added to the sense of the freeborn Englishman. Similarly, she deflates the 19th-century myth of the English as a quiet and respectable people by clustering images of not so quiet and respectable life in 18th-century London. With facts and figures she undermines the myth of England as a great manufacturing nation and bursts the bubble of the myth of fairness and kindness to the weak by presenting child labour records and unemployment figures. The Great War and its aftermath changed the traditional concepts of Englishness and the general disillusion allowed the myth of Harry of England's bowmen to fall into disuse only to be revived by the Second World War. Duffy's hugely enjoyable chapter on women's issues argues that until Victorian times, the Englishwoman was probably freer than her Continental counterparts, Abbess Hilda of Whitby being Duffy's favourite medieval example and Shakespeare's temperamental women another powerful proof. The myth of the Englishwoman as the traditional tame and frigid English Rose is a more recent image, but one that in Duffy's account still lingers on. This is partly due to the typically English matter of class and language, which Duffy treats candidly, ending her comments on the latter with the regretful observation that its richness seems to have dwindled to the ubiquitous 'Fuck'. She is equally scathing about the continuing English isolationism, which she compares to a sulking child in the playground if it cannot get it its way. Here Duffy comes full circle with the thesis of her *England*: it was as part of Europe that England's history began and it is with Europe that, in Duffy's opinion, the future of England should lie and it is towards Europe that the important aspects of the myth should be directed. For Maureen Duffy does not eventually emerge as a detractor of the myth of England, far from it. After having examined the rise and fortunes of its individual facets, their uses and abuses, glory and failures, Duffy offers her own vision of how to cultivate the myth for the good of England. She wants a benign myth of fairness and tolerance that will encompass social justice, ecological concerns and respect "for the cultural rainforest of diversity that is the European ideal."

Milada Franková

Pamela B. Faber and Ricardo Mairal Usón: *Constructing a lexicon of English verbs*. Berlin, New York: Mouton de Gruyter, 1999, 335 p.

The aim of the book is impressively ambitious—to give an account of English verbs in a hierarchical framework which not only systematizes the meanings of verbs but also shows the interrelationships between semantics and syntax on the one hand, and the patterns of conceptualization in the human mind on the other.

The research is based on Martín Mingorance's Functional Lexematic Model, combining the Functional Grammar of Simon Dik and the lexematics of Eugene Coseriu.

The verbs are organized into sets of coherent classes sharing certain semantic, syntactic and pragmatic features. The information carried by each class is represented in its predicate schema, or the set of synsem regularities specific to the members of the class, integrating both paradigmatic

and syntagmatic information. Semantic and syntactic parameters are shown to be closely related, to such an extent that the syntactic behaviour of verbs is conditioned by (and thus can be predicted from) the semantic information built into them.

The book reflects the growing attention in linguistics being paid to the centrality of the lexicon as an important source of information about sentence structure. The inquiry into the synsem interface sheds a new light on the structuration of lexical information carried by the verbs and presents new research questions.

This book provides a valuable, empirically and theoretically rich contribution to the analysis of English verbs and can be recommended to any reader interested in this field of research.

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