**TV series and research in pragmatics**

Doing research in linguistics/pragmatics can be carried out using different methodologies. Clark and Bangerter (2004) for instance mention three ways that they refer to as ‘armchair’, ‘field’ and ‘laboratory’ research. These designations refer to the location where the linguist/pragmatician undertakes her research; the researcher can remain seated in her *armchair* and rely on her own intuitions, or move to the very location where data can be collected in natural settings, that is in a particular *field*, or else in the *laboratory* where empirical studies are carried out and data retrieved from suitable informants.

This paper is an attempt at demonstrating that TV series could be perceived as rich enough to combine these three types of research: they can serve as a *laboratory* of their own kind that enables the observer to investigate how people’s interactions are represented in a *field* – that I would rename “community of practice” after Lave and Wenger (1991) – and all this while remaining in an *armchair*.

The objections to this conception will quickly rise: TV series do not portray natural authentic language ‘out there’ in the field (Quaglio 2009). Despite the fact that mediated language definitely does tell us something about authentic language (see Bednarek 2018), we must agree that TV series are not linguistically speaking accurate when it comes to represent language in the future in science fiction series for instance. But for the pragmatician, TV series make it possible to observe phenomena that are difficult to observe in real life. I will therefore first try to show how TV series can bring the scholar to study phenomena that have not traditionally been investigated in pragmatic theories. Secondly, I will show that if science fiction/dystopic series seem to have little to contribute to linguistic studies, they can be interesting in their pragmatic staging of humanoid language (the language of ‘synths’ for instance in *Humans* – Channel 4 2015-2018), which by contrast foregrounds the specificities of human language and questions traditional philosophy of language.

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