

A PLEASURE OF LIFE IN WORDS

A Festschrift for Angela Downing

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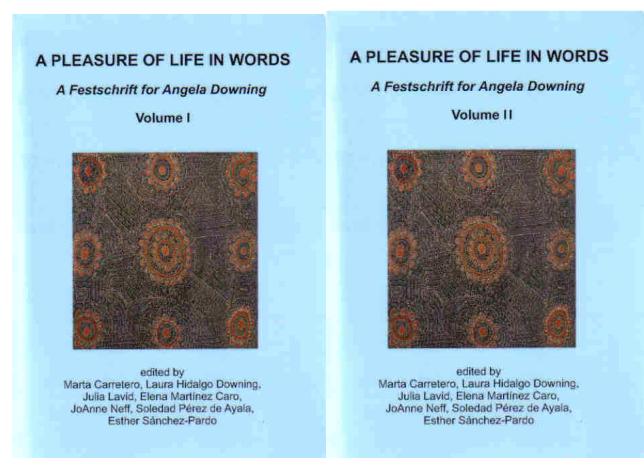
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The present volume is a tribute to Professor Angela Downing's life-long dedication to academic life, and, in a very special way, to the more than thirty years she has been a teacher and researcher at the Department of English at the Universidad Complutense of Madrid.

Angela's career started with a degree in French and Spanish at Oxford University. Later she moved to Spain, and obtained a degree in English at the Universidad Complutense, Madrid, where she would develop her academic career. In 1986 she became Professor of English at the English Department of this university, a position which she held until 2003 when she was appointed Emeritus Professor. [...]

Her research concentrates on English grammar, pragmatics and discourse analysis, corpus linguistics and English-Spanish contrastive analysis, although she has also covered other areas, such as English language teaching, dialectology, translation and stylistics. Angela's breadth of views has also led her to be open to different approaches to linguistics, within an overall functional perspective. She is highly influenced by Halliday's systemic functional model, but is well aware of the strengths of alternative perspectives, such as, to mention just a few, the work on information structure proposed by Firbas and Danes, Simon Dik's Functional Grammar, Givon's functional-typological approach and Langacker's cognitive linguistics. [...]

Angela's openness to new perspectives in linguistics may be seen in the extensive revision and updating she carried out on the new version of this grammar, *English Grammar: A University Course* (2006).

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