

# International Linguistic Association

## *Monthly Lecture Series*

**Kathleen O'Connor-Bater**  
**SUNY College at Old Westbury**

**An analysis of Victor Hugo's "Les Raisons du Momotombo" and Ruben Dario's "Los motivos del lobo" applying a Hallidayan framework of "field, tenor, mode"**

In Victor Hugo's epic masterpiece "La Légende des Siècles", he places a poem titled "Les raisons du Momotombo" (1858), which relates the failed attempt of the Spanish priests to baptize the ferocious Nicaraguan volcano, Momotombo, who explains his refusal to accept the sacrament based upon the cruelty he observed that the colonists inflicted upon the natives. In 1913, Rubén Darío, an admirer of Victor Hugo, writes, "Los motivos del lobo", a poem in which the narrator establishes the setting and then introduces a dialog between St. Francis of Assisi and the Wolf from Gubbio in which the Saint hopes to convert the Wolf from wild to tame, only to learn similar conclusions from the Wolf to those offered by Momotombo. While the message of the two poems is largely the same, an analysis of the discursive elements particular to each of them reveals a study in contrast in monologue or dialogue in the poetic genre, which I analyze according to a Hallidayan system of field and tenor in the allegoric mode.

Works cited:

Dooley, R. and S. Levinsohn. (2000) Analyzing Discourse: A Manual of Basic Concepts. SIL International and University of North Dakota.

Halliday, M.A.K. and R. Hasan. (1976) Cohesion in English. London: Longman

**Saturday, December 2, 2017**  
**11 AM - 12 PM**  
**Borough of Manhattan Community College**  
**Room: N452**  
**199 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007**

*NOTE: All attendees will be asked to show some form of ID in order to enter the college.*