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ANNA MONGIBELLO

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN CANADIAN TV NEWS

A Corpus-based Analysis of Mainstream and Indigenous News Discourses

PAOLO LOFFREDO
INIZIATIVE EDITORIALI

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Acknowledgements

This book is the result of a long process of critical awareness that started one afternoon in July 2013, in a rented apartment on Palmerston Gardens, in Toronto, when I turned on the TV and found out about the existence of the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network. It was only after years of study that I could fully grasp the potential of what I had first seen as a viewer, and look at it from the perspective of an analyst of the language. I would have never been able to walk down this path without the guidance of Oriana Palusci, who showed me Canada for the first time and taught me how to work with words. I am also grateful to Giuseppe Balirano for his insightful comments and suggestions that helped me move forward when I was stuck, and to my friend and colleague Katherine E. Russo for her inspiring ideas and unconditional support of my research. I dedicate this book to my parents and my sister, Alba, for encouraging me to pursue my professional goals, and to Antonella, for being such an attentive listener of my critical thoughts, whose presence in my life has provided me with the tranquillity I needed to write this book.

No work can claim to be exhaustive and this one is no exception; much more could have been said on the topic and many other directions may be explored. This study offers one possible outlook and tries to de-center the attention from what we are used to seeing and hearing in mainstream news towards other narratives. These narratives not only question the authority to speak that the national networks generally detain, but also talk to the audience in ways that inevitably affect the spectators' perceptions of the world. What is at stake is not just the right to represent but also the possibility to break the chain of assumptions and stereotypes. I like to think of this book as a witness to the true potential of language, in its ultimate attempt to raise awareness about how words are not just words. On the contrary, linguistic choices have a huge political impact and say a lot about who we are, what we think and where we want to go. We should handle them with care.

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