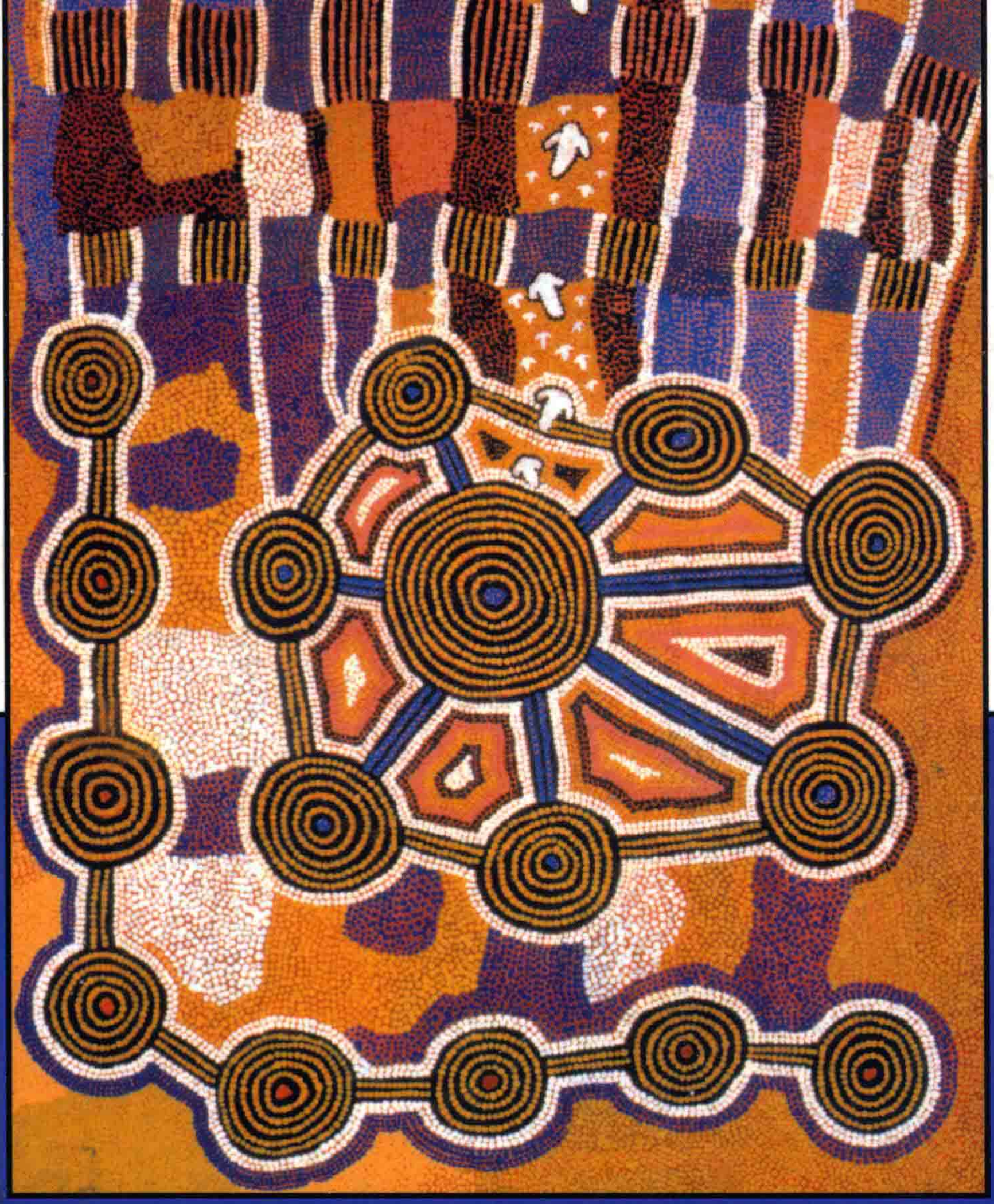

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Contemporary Linguistics

Fifth Edition

AN INTRODUCTION

Contemporary Linguistics is the gold standard of introductory linguistics textbooks. Meticulously prepared, it is one of the most comprehensive, up-to-date introductory resources available. The book's extensive examples and exercises help students master the course material, and its lucid writing style makes complex concepts easy to understand. The fifth edition, thoroughly updated and revised, features the following:

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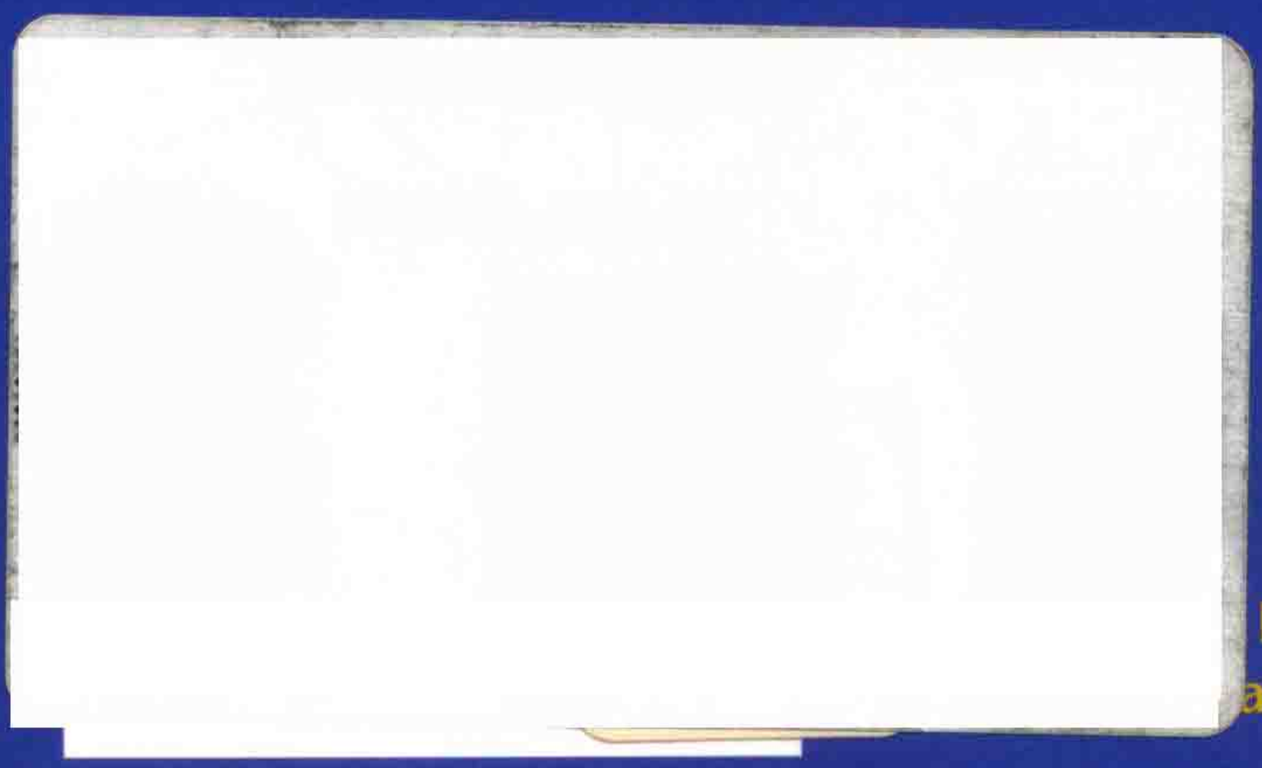

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CONTEMPORARY LINGUISTICS

AN INTRODUCTION

Fifth Edition

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To the memory of
our friend and colleague
Ewa Iwanicka
1950–1986

Convinced at once that, in order to break loose from the beaten paths of opinions and systems, it was necessary to proceed in my study of man and society by scientific methods, and in a rigorous manner, I devoted one year to philology and grammar; linguistics, or the natural history of speech, being, of all the sciences, that which best suited the researches which I was about to commence.

–PIERRE-JOSEPH PROUDHON, *What Is Property?* (1840)

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PREFACE

It has been our goal since *Contemporary Linguistics* was first published in 1989 to provide a comprehensive introductory linguistics textbook that conveys the fascinating aspects of language study to students in a way that is accessible and enlightening. By including up-to-date coverage of all the important areas of linguistics—from phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics to cross-curricular topics such as sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics—we aim to prepare students for further work in the subject. At the same time, we strive for a clear, direct presentation of the material so that students at differing levels, and with differing goals for taking the course, can come to understand and appreciate how language works. To our gratification, feedback from users of previous editions indicates that *Contemporary Linguistics* has succeeded at both tasks.

In updating both presentation and content of the material in the text, we have retained those features that have proved themselves over time in a variety of classroom settings, providing:

The most comprehensive introductory text available. *Contemporary Linguistics* provides the best coverage of core concepts of any introductory text—phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics—while exploring cross-curricular issues as diverse as sociolinguistics, sign language, and computational linguistics.

A flexible organization to match instructors' teaching needs. The subject of linguistics is treated as a cohesive whole, yet each chapter can also stand alone—a feature that enables instructors to teach the topics in the order they prefer.

The knowledge of working experts in the field. Each chapter is written by an expert or a team of experts on a particular topic in linguistics, providing the most current and in-depth information available.

Language students understand. The direct writing style makes complex concepts accessible to students at different levels of learning.

Extensive support for students. To help students master concepts, each chapter begins with a list of bulleted objectives and concludes with a summary, a list of key terms and ideas, recommended readings, and exercises that test and reinforce material presented in the chapter. Each chapter is broken down into carefully numbered subsections for students'—and instructors'—ease of reference.

"For the Student Linguist" boxes. Written by actual students, these boxes highlight linguistic problems and help other students gain a richer perspective on each subject.

New to This Edition

One of the joys of working on *Contemporary Linguistics* through its various editions has been charting new developments in the field and adding material that reflects the expanding research in its various subdisciplines. As linguistics has expanded, so too has the size of this textbook, and with each expanded edition has come the risk that the book would grow into an unmanageable tome. For the fifth edition, the Canadian editors of *Contemporary Linguistic Analysis,* the book on which *Contemporary Linguistics* has always been based, have taken the bold step of moving more advanced and detailed information and exercises online, an innovation that we have embraced in the U.S. version. In this way, we can take advantage of the exciting possibilities

of multimedia technology while controlling the physical size of the book. In fact, the Web site will extend the book's offerings not only with advanced material online but also with audio and video interactivity, bringing this introductory linguistics textbook into the twenty-first century.

In addition, all chapters in *Contemporary Linguistics* have been revised to reflect recent research, to include or expand material of current interest to instructors, and to streamline the presentation. Highlights include:

Core chapters updated to reflect current scholarship. All chapters that introduce the fundamental concepts of linguistics (Chapters 1–6) have been thoroughly updated—particularly the chapters on phonetics and syntax. The syntax chapter has moved to X' structure (with a simplified structure available in the Appendix of Chapter 5 for those instructors for whom that is more appropriate).

A new chapter on sign language. In response to instructors' requests, we are pleased to include a new chapter on sign language, authored by Wendy Sandler and Diane Lillo-Martin, who are in the forefront of linguistic research in this field.

An updated computational linguistics chapter. Thoroughly revised by Amanda Stent, a specialist in computational linguistics, the chapter reflects advances in speech recognition, parsing, and natural language generation.

***Expanded Web Features at* bedfordstmartins.com/linguistics/**

- ***Advanced material available.*** Students who have progressed beyond the introductory level will find all advanced lessons and exercises on the companion Web site.
- ***Audio added to Web features.*** Students will be able to listen to actual audio related to chapters that deal directly with sound—phonetics, phonology, sign language.
- ***Streaming video for sign language.*** Students will find streaming media that demonstrate signing and other issues in the field of sign language.

Ancillaries

The Study Guide, updated for the fifth edition, offers summaries of the most important concepts from *Contemporary Linguistics'* core chapters, as well as a range of supplemental exercises with an answer key. ***The Instructor's Resource Manual*** provides teaching advice and includes answers to the exercises at the ends of chapters, while the ***Transparency Masters*** provide more than 100 key charts, images, and other teaching aids from the main text for use in the classroom.

Acknowledgments

A book such as this one, with four editors and eighteen contributors, is clearly a team effort. However, the success of such a team effort rests on how well the book fulfills its purpose for the instructors and students who use it. We are indeed fortunate that our colleagues have been generous in providing us with valuable feedback and suggestions based on their experiences using the text in a wide variety of settings, and we express our heartfelt thanks to them.

Many individuals contributed comments and suggestions to the first four editions of the book, and their assistance continues to be reflected in this edition:

Howard Aronson, Peter Avery, Derek Bickerton, Robert Blust, Patrick Bruke, Vit Bubenik, Gary Byma, Lyle Campbell, Steven Carey, Andrew Carnie, Jack Chambers, Shuji Chiba, Vanna Condax, Eung-Do Cook, Lynda Costello, John Davison, John DeFrancis, Nicole Domingue, Elan Dresher, Matthew Dryer, Sheila Embleton, Robert Fisher, Michael Forman, Donald Frantz, Donna Gerdts, John Haiman, John Hewson, Joyce Hildebrand, Robert Hsu, David Ingram, Ricky Jacobs, Kazue Kanno, Brian King, Uptal Lahiri, Margaret Larock, Gary Libben, Anatole Lyovin, Joyce McDonough, Barry Meislin, Marianne Mithun, Yves-Charles Morin, Woody Mott, Robert Murray, Michael O'Grady, Douglas Parks, George Patterson, Mary Pepper, Marilyn Phillips, Thomas Purnell, R. Radhakrishnan, Laurence Reid, Lori Repetti, Keren Rice, Lorna Rowsell, Lynn Santelmann, Yataka Sato, Coral Sayce, Albert Schütz, Peter Seyffert, Patricia Shaw, Ronald Southerland, Stanley Starosta, the students in Terry Pratt's linguistics course at the University of Prince Edward Island, Allison Teasdale, Charles Ulrich, Tim Vance, Theo Venneman, Douglas Walker, Lydia White, Norio Yamada, Mehmet Yavaş, and Nava Zaig.

For this fifth edition, we are especially grateful for the meticulous reading and detailed comments provided by our reviewers: Barbara Abbott (Michigan State University), Andrew Carnie (University of Arizona), Janet Cowal (Portland State University), Suzanne Flynn (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Glenn Gilbert (Southern Illinois University), Lynn Guinden (University of Kentucky), Sharon Hargus (University of Washington), Darya Kavitskay (Yale University), Saundra Wright (California State University, Chico), and Doug Wulf (George Mason University).

Taking the cue from our reviewers' requests, we added a new chapter on sign language to *Contemporary Linguistics,* Fifth Edition. We were fortunate to have Wendy Sandler revise and update the excellent chapter she coauthored with Diane Lillo-Martin on this topic from Blackwell Publishing's *Handbook of Linguistics* (2002).

We are delighted to have worked once again with Bedford/St. Martin's. Nancy Perry, now editor in chief, was instrumental in getting the first edition off the ground and has given unflagging support throughout the history of the book. President Joan Feinberg and editorial director Denise Wydra also lent their support to this edition. We are grateful to Erica Appel, managing editor, for her patience and knowledge as the book went through production. Lucy Krikorian, art director, helped design the book's bold new cover. We are particularly delighted to have Harold Chester, senior project editor, working with us again; Harold distinguished himself on the fourth edition with his meticulous attention to detail. His eagle eye has not dimmed.

Perhaps our greatest debt at Bedford/St. Martin's is to Joelle Hann, the developmental editor for the fifth edition. Joelle joined Bedford/St. Martin's at about the time we began work on the fifth edition; she has taken the reins with professionalism and good cheer and guided us and the book through all stages from the beginning to the finished product. We gratefully acknowledge her efforts and thank her most sincerely.

Finally, we acknowledge our students, without whom this endeavor would be meaningless. In their questions and in their joy in discovering the elegance and beauty of language, they remind us why we have become linguists and why we are teachers.

Mark Aronoff
Janie Rees-Miller

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

Thanks to the application of rigorous analysis to familiar subject matter, linguistics provides students with an ideal introduction to the kind of thinking we call "scientific." Such thinking proceeds from an appreciation of problems arising from bodies of data, to hypotheses that attempt to account for those problems, to the careful testing and extension of the hypotheses. But science is more than a formal activity. One of the great pleasures offered introductory students of linguistics is the discovery of the impressive body of subconscious knowledge that underlies language use. This book attempts to emphasize the extent of this knowledge as well as to introduce the scientific methodology used in linguistic analysis.

Although this is the first linguistics textbook designed primarily for a Canadian readership, we have tried to do much more than simply provide coverage of linguistic phenomena peculiar to Canada. As the title suggests, we have attempted an introduction to linguistic analysis as it is practiced at this stage in the development of our discipline. While we do not ignore or reject other fruitful approaches to linguistics, we have taken the generative paradigm as basic for two reasons. First, generative linguistics provides a relatively coherent and integrated approach to basic linguistic phenomena. Phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics are viewed within this framework as perhaps in no other as fully integrated and interrelated. Secondly, the generative approach has been widely influential in its application to a broad range of other linguistic phenomena over the past twenty years.

The extent of our "contemporariness" has been limited by the inevitable compromise between the need to present basic concepts and the demands of sophisticated and competing recent approaches. In many cases, early versions of our chapters were judged "too contemporary" by instructors who were not specialists in the subfields in question. This led to substantial revisions and a somewhat more traditional approach to certain issues than was originally intended. Where possible, however, later sections of the chapters are used to present more contemporary material. In this way, we have attempted to provide what is promised by the title—an introductory text that provides a solid grounding in basic linguistic concepts, but one that also prepares the student to go on to current work in the discipline. For this reason, the student is introduced to multilevelled phonology (in preparation for further tiered analysis), allophonic/morphophonemic distinctions (in preparation for lexical phonology), interaction among components of the grammar (in preparation for a more extended modular approach), word-formation rules in morphology, and examples of parametric variation in syntax.

To the extent possible, we have attempted to integrate the basic mechanisms outlined in the first five chapters of the book into our discussion of phenomena in later chapters. Thus, our discussion of semantics, historical linguistics, first and second language acquisition, and neurolinguistics draws to some degree on the notions presented in our introduction to generative grammar.

No textbook can be all things to all users. We hope that this book will provide students not only with a springboard to the realm of scientific linguistic analysis,

but with a greater appreciation for the wonder of human language, the variety and complexity of its structure, and the subtlety of its use.

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Jack Chambers and Sheila Embleton, both of whom read the manuscript in its entirety and provided invaluable comments. Thanks are also due to those who have read and commented upon individual chapters and sections, including Steven Carey, Matthew Dryer, David Ingram, Gary Byma, Gary Libben, Robert Murray, R. Radhakrishnan, Ronald Southerland, Mary Pepper, Derek Bickerton, Robert Blust, Ricky Jacobs, Don Frantz, John Haiman, John Hewson, Nicole Domingue, Lydia White, George Patterson, Donna Gerdts, Elan Dresher, Keren Rice, Robert Fisher, Marilyn Philips, Lorna Rowsell, and Joyce Hildebrand. For assistance in the planning, editing, and production of the manuscript, we are grateful to Coral Sayce, Lynda Costello, Joyce Hildebrand, Brian Henderson, Patrick Burke, Les Petriw, and our project editor at Copp Clark, Margaret Larock.

CONTEMPORARY LINGUISTICS

AN INTRODUCTION

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CONTENTS

Preface *vii*
Preface to the First Edition *xi*
List of Technical Abbreviations *xxv*

o n e

LANGUAGE: A PREVIEW **1**

1 Specialization for Language 1
2 A Creative System 2
3 Grammar and Linguistic Competence 5
3.1 Generality: All Languages Have a Grammar 6
3.2 Parity: All Grammars Are Equal 7
3.3 Universality: Grammars Are Alike in Basic Ways 8
3.4 Mutability: Grammars Change over Time 9
3.5 Inaccessibility: Grammatical Knowledge Is Subconscious 10
Summing Up 11
Key Terms 11
Recommended Reading 11
Exercises 12

t w o

PHONETICS: THE SOUNDS OF LANGUAGE **15**

1 Phonetic Transcription 16
1.1 Units of Representation 17
1.2 Segments 17
2 The Sound-Producing System 18
2.1 Glottal States 19
3 Sound Classes 20
3.1 Vowels, Consonants, and Glides (Syllabic and Nonsyllabic Elements) 20
4 Consonant Articulation 21
4.1 The Tongue 22
4.2 Places of Articulation 22
5 Manners of Articulation 24
5.1 Oral versus Nasal Phones 24
5.2 Stops 24
5.3 Fricatives 26
5.4 Affricates 27

5.5 Voice Lag and Aspiration 28
5.6 Liquids 29
5.7 Syllabic Liquids and Nasals 30
5.8 Glides 31
6 Vowels 32
6.1 Simple Vowels and Diphthongs 32
6.2 Basic Parameters for Describing Vowels 33
6.3 Tense and Lax Vowels 34
7 Phonetic Transcription of American English Consonants and Vowels 35
8 Suprasegmentals 37
8.1 Pitch: Tone and Intonation 37
8.2 Length 41
8.3 Stress 42
9 Speech Production 43
9.1 Coarticulation 43
9.2 Articulatory Processes 43
9.3 Some Common Articulatory Processes 44
10 Other Vowels and Consonants 48
Summing Up 49
Key Terms 50
Recommended Reading 52
Exercises 52
For the Student Linguist: "Don't Worry about Spelling" 55

three

PHONOLOGY: THE FUNCTION AND PATTERNING OF SOUNDS **57**

1 Segments in Contrast 59
1.1 Minimal Pairs 59
1.2 Language-Specific Contrasts 61
2 Phonetically Conditioned Variation: Phonemes and Allophones 62
2.1 Complementary Distribution 62
2.2 Phonemes and Allophones 63
2.3 Classes and Generalization in Phonology 64
2.4 Canadian Raising 65
2.5 English Mid Vowels and Glides 67
2.6 Language-Specific Patterns 68
3 Phonetic and Phonemic Transcription 69
3.1 Phonetic and Phonemic Inventories 71
4 Features 72
4.1 Why We Use Features 72
4.2 Feature Representations 76
5 Above the Segment: Syllables 83
5.1 Defining the Syllable 83
5.2 Onset Constraints and Phonotactics 85
5.3 Language-Specific Phonotactics 86

5.4 Setting Up Syllables 87
5.5 Syllabic Phonology 89
6 Derivations and Rules 91
6.1 The Form and Notation of Rules 92
6.2 Derivations 95
6.3 Rule Application 96
6.4 Processes and Rules: A Last Word 97
Summing Up 97
Key Terms 98
Recommended Reading 99
Appendix: Hints for Solving Phonology Problems 99
Exercises 101
For the Student Linguist: "The Feature Presentation" 108

four

MORPHOLOGY: THE ANALYSIS OF WORD STRUCTURE **111**

1 Words and Word Structure 112
1.1 Morphemes 113
1.2 Analyzing Word Structure 114
2 Derivation 118
2.1 Some English Derivational Affixes 119
2.2 Two Classes of Derivational Affixes 122
3 Compounding 123
3.1 Properties of Compounds 124
3.2 Endocentric and Exocentric Compounds 125
3.3 Compounds in Other Languages 125
4 Inflection 127
4.1 Inflection in English 127
4.2 Inflection versus Derivation 128
4.3 How Inflection Is Marked 130
4.4 Other Inflectional Phenomena 133
5 Other Morphological Phenomena 133
5.1 Cliticization 134
5.2 Conversion 134
5.3 Clipping 135
5.4 Blends 135
5.5 Backformation 136
5.6 Acronyms 137
5.7 Onomatopoeia 137
5.8 Other Sources of New Words 137
6 Morphophonemics 138
Summing Up 139
Key Terms 139
Recommended Reading 140
Appendix: How to Identify Morphemes in Unfamiliar Languages 140

Exercises 142
For the Student Linguist: "Bambification" 147

five

SYNTAX: THE ANALYSIS OF SENTENCE STRUCTURE **151**

1 Categories and Structure 152
1.1 Categories of Words 152
1.2 Phrase Structure 155
1.3 Sentences 160
1.4 Tests for Phrase Structure 161
2 Complement Options 162
2.1 Complement Options for Verbs 163
2.2 Complement Options for Other Categories 164
2.3 Complement Clauses 165
3 Move 167
3.1 *Yes-No* Questions 167
3.2 Deep Structure and Surface Structure 171
3.3 *Do* Insertion 172
3.4 *Wh* Movement 173
4 Universal Grammar and Parametric Variation 177
4.1 Verb Raising 178
5 Some Additional Structures 182
5.1 Coordination 182
5.2 Relative Clauses 184
5.3 Passives 186
Summing Up 188
Key Terms 188
Recommended Reading 190
Appendix: How to Build Tree Structures 190
Exercises 195
For the Student Linguist: "Backwards" 198

six

SEMANTICS: THE ANALYSIS OF MEANING **201**

1 The Nature of Meaning 202
1.1 Semantic Relations among Words 202
1.2 Semantic Relations Involving Sentences 204
1.3 What Is Meaning? 206
2 The Conceptual System 209
2.1 Fuzzy Concepts 210
2.2 Metaphor 211
2.3 The Lexicalization of Concepts 212

2.4 Grammaticization 216
3 Syntax and Sentence Interpretation 217
3.1 Constructional Meaning 217
3.2 Structural Ambiguity 219
3.3 Thematic Roles 221
3.4 The Interpretation of Pronouns 225
4 Other Factors in Sentence Interpretation 228
4.1 The Role of Beliefs and Attitudes 228
4.2 Setting 229
4.3 Discourse 230
4.4 Conversational Maxims 232
Summing Up 234
Key Terms 235
Recommended Reading 236
Exercises 236
For the Student Linguist: "Elvis's Biggest Fan Cleans Out Bank—Accomplice Launders the Dough" 241

s e v e n

HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS: THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE CHANGE 245
1 The Nature of Language Change 246
1.1 Systematicity of Language Change 247
1.2 Causes of Language Change 247
2 Sound Change 249
2.1 Sequential Change 249
2.2 Segmental Change 256
2.3 Auditorily Based Change 257
2.4 Phonetic versus Phonological Change 257
3 Morphological Change 260
3.1 Addition of Affixes 260
3.2 Loss of Affixes 261
3.3 From Synthetic to Analytic to Synthetic 263
3.4 Analogy 263
3.5 Reanalysis 264
4 Syntactic Change 265
4.1 Word Order 265
4.2 Inversion in the History of English 267
5 Lexical and Semantic Change 268
5.1 Addition of Lexical Items 268
5.2 Loss of Lexical Items 272
6 Language Reconstruction 272
6.1 Comparative Reconstruction 273
6.2 Techniques of Reconstruction 274
6.3 The Discovery of Indo-European 279

Summing Up 282
Key Terms 283
Recommended Reading 284
Exercises 284

e i g h t

THE CLASSIFICATION OF LANGUAGES **291**
1 Some Preliminaries 291
1.1 Dialect and Language 292
1.2 Types of Classification 294
2 Typological Classification 295
2.1 Phonology 296
2.2 Morphology 303
2.3 Syntax 306
2.4 Explaining Universals 310
3 Genetic Classification 313
3.1 The Indo-European Family 314
3.2 Some Other Families 318
3.3 Language Phyla 321
Summing Up 321
Key Terms 321
Recommended Reading 322
Exercises 322

n i n e

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF NORTH AMERICA **325**
1 Origin and Classification 326
1.1 Ultimate Origins 326
1.2 Historical Relationships in North America 327
2 Phonetics and Phonology 329
2.1 Velar, Uvular, and Pharyngeal Articulations 329
2.2 Lateral Fricatives 329
2.3 Glottalized Stops and Affricates (Ejectives) 330
2.4 Vowels and Suprasegmental Features 330
2.5 Sounds Not Frequently Found 331
3 Morphology and Syntax 331
3.1 The Structure of Words 331
3.2 Grammatical Categories 334
3.3 Noun Classification 337
4 The Future of Indigenous North American Languages 340
Summing Up 341
Key Terms 341
Recommended Reading 342

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