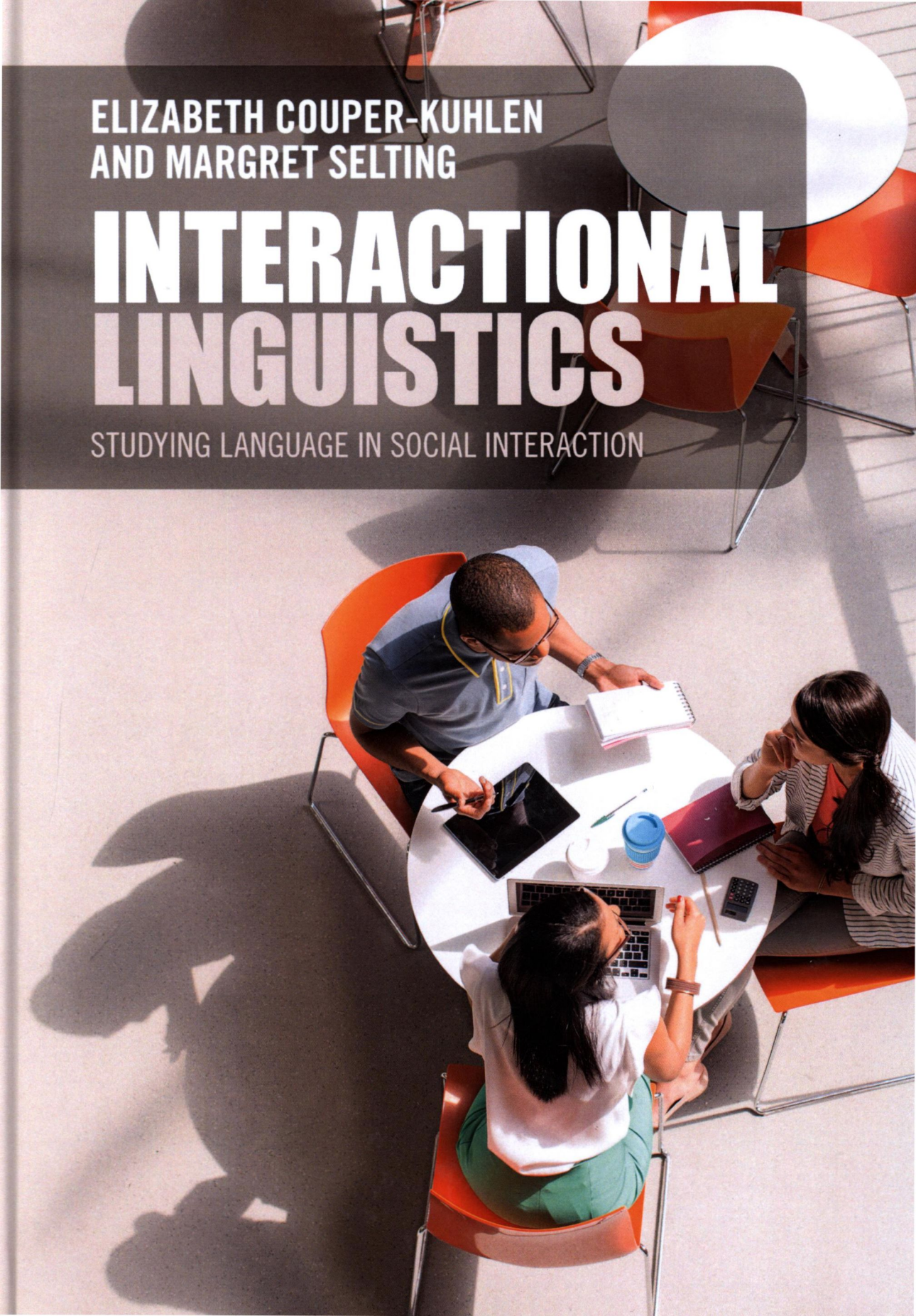


ELIZABETH COUPER-KUHLEN
AND MARGRET SELTING

INTERACTIONAL LINGUISTICS

STUDYING LANGUAGE IN SOCIAL INTERACTION



The first textbook dedicated to interactional linguistics, focusing on linguistic analyses of conversational phenomena, this introduction provides an overview of the theory and methodology of interactional linguistics. Reviewing recent findings on linguistic practices used in turn construction and turn taking, repair, action formation and ascription, sequence and topic organization, the book examines the way linguistic units of varying size - sentences, clauses, phrases, clause combinations, particles - are mobilized for the implementation of specific actions in talk-in-interaction. A final chapter discusses the implications of an interactional perspective for our understanding of language, as well as its variation, diversity, and universality. It is an essential resource for advanced undergraduate, and postgraduate, courses on language in social interaction, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, and linguistic anthropology.

Features:

- Summary boxes provide synopses of the most important points in sections, allowing students to focus on the central issues in each chapter.
- Transcripts from recordings of everyday conversation enable students to apply abstract concepts to familiar real-life situations.
- Supplementary online chapters explore additional topics, such as the linguistic organization of preference, stance, footing, and storytelling, as well as the use of prosody and phonetics, and further practices with language.

ELIZABETH COUPER-KUHLEN is Distinguished Professor (Emerita) at the University of Helsinki, Finland.

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INTERACTIVE LINGUISTICS

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STUDYING LANGUAGE IN SOCIAL
INTERACTION

ELIZABETH COUPER-KUHLEN AND MARGRET SELTING



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ELIZABETH COUPER-KUHLEN is Distinguished Professor (Emerita) at the University of Helsinki, Finland. She has published widely on prosody and grammar in interaction; in addition to numerous journal articles, she has authored, co-authored, and co-edited many volumes on interactional linguistics, including *Prosody in Conversation* (with Margret Selting, 1996) and *Studies in Interactional Linguistics* (with Margret Selting, 2001).

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Preface

Putting this book together has been a long and arduous journey, but we have had help along the way from many friends and colleagues around the world. Our special thanks go to Peter Auer (University of Freiburg), Dagmar Barth-Weingarten (University of Potsdam), Auli Hakulinen (University of Helsinki), Kobin Kendrick (MPI Nijmegen), Maxi Kupetz (University of Potsdam), Marja-Leena Sorjonen (University of Helsinki), and Sandra A. Thompson (University of California Santa Barbara) – all of whom have spent precious time talking through the issues with us and reading pre-versions of the chapters. We have profited tremendously from their input and hope that the final version will do justice to their concerns. All remaining errors are our own.

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We are grateful to the VolkswagenStiftung, who generously funded the writing of this volume with an *opus magnum* grant (“Interactional Linguistics”, AZ.: 86 281) to Margret Selting.

We dedicate our book to instructors and students alike, who will hopefully be as excited as we were to discover the extraordinary power of studying everyday language through a social interactional lens.

Helsinki and Potsdam, September 2016

Elizabeth Couper-Kuhlen and Margret Selting

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