

BOOK NOTICES

DOI: 10.1017/S0272263104213067

PHONOLOGY AND LANGUAGE USE. *Joan Bybee.* New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001. Pp. xviii + 237. \$80.00 cloth, \$32.00 paper.

Bybee is concerned with providing an understanding of a vast amount of evidence from language use that remains unaccounted for in the usual models of generative phonology, including its currently popular descendant, Optimality Theory.

It may seem surprising, but it is true nonetheless, that much evidence of language use is missing in the generative tradition, which has typically—some will say necessarily—been satisfied with presumptive facts intuitively available to generative phonologists—for example, the replacement of syllable-final [s] by [h] in Cuban Spanish. Just part of Bybee's evidence concerning this example (p. 140) is that [s] occurs more often than not before a pause, has been typically replaced by [h] only within morphemes, and 48% of the time is replaced by [h] even before vowels. Bybee would replace the generativist analysis with a connectionist account of the facts, which she shows is better able to deal with the pervasive evidence of variation and the crucial role of frequency in determining this.

The trend of laboratory phonology begins to weaken the generative phonological reliance on intuitions, and perhaps the time is ripe for appreciation of Bybee's thorough review of the variationist facts and for her formal theory in which, basically, all simple and complex words known to memory appear in allophonic detail in the lexicon. This is true for many phrasal units as well, and there are no phonological rules, only schemas, or frequency-weighted generalizations over memory traces in which form and meaning co-occur.

Generative phonologists may say that such lexical complexity is unreasonable, that linguistic theory is not ready to deal with variation, that dealing with it must await better understanding of the grammar of an ideal speaker-hearer, and that schemas remain a vague notion. However, Bybee has made clear the extent of the problem and how ridiculously far short of the facts the generativist account falls. She has made apparent the fundamental role of frequency in determining variation, and how variation can at least begin to have influence—if not formal expression—in phonological theory.

(Received 1 January 2003)

Grover Hudson
Michigan State University

DOI: 10.1017/S0272263104223063

THE COGNITIVE SCIENCES: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH. *Carolyn P. Sobel.* Mountain View, CA: Mayfield, 2001. Pp. xx + 327. \$101.00 cloth.

As suggested by its subtitle, this volume looks at issues in cognitive science from varying perspectives, given in the five parts to the book: psychology, neuroscience, linguistics, artificial intelligence, and philosophy. Each part contains two chapters, the first of

ing such problems to the realm of the ethical masks their actual cause and makes less likely the achievement of clarity and consensus on how they are to be addressed by the profession—a prerequisite for such a determination.

Nonetheless, readers with classroom experience will attest to the authenticity of the cases, and both novice and experienced teachers would benefit from discussing them, as the authors suggest. Such a joint reflection would suggest practical strategies for handling such situations and help teachers become aware of and perhaps question the values that shape their behavior. Thus, the book would be a valuable contribution to faculty development and graduate programs in ESL.

(Received 18 July 2003)

Anita Wenden

York College, City University of New York

DOI: 10.1017/S0272263104273065

TURN-TAKING, FINGERSPELLING, AND CONTACT IN SIGNED LANGUAGES. Ceil Lucas (Ed.). Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press, 2002. Pp. ix + 163. \$55.00 cloth.

The *Sociolinguistics in Deaf Communities* series published by Gallaudet University Press is, first and foremost, the leading collection of published work dealing explicitly with sociolinguistic issues in Deaf communities around the world. It is also more than this, however. Arguably, the series constitutes the foundation of one of the most exciting and promising areas of contemporary sociolinguistic research writ large. There can be little question that much of the very best work in sociolinguistics in the United States today is being done on issues related to sign language and the Deaf, and this series has provided us with a remarkable number of significant contributions to the general sociolinguistic literature. This volume edited by Ceil Lucas is the most recent publication in this series, and it carries on the impressive tradition of the earlier works in the series.

The chapters address a wide range of topics that should be of interest not only to sign language researchers but also to anyone interested in sociolinguistics, applied linguistics, language policy, and educational linguistics. The chapters include a fascinating study of variation in American Sign Language (ASL) fingerspelling, a most interesting discussion about the role and nature of ASL-English interpreting entitled “So, Why Do I Call This English?”, two chapters that address issues of discourse and turn-taking mechanisms in the Belgian context, and finally, a very intriguing chapter on the Deaf in the majority bilingual speaking community of Barcelona. The issues raised are, in spite of the book’s title, areas of concern for the study of language broadly conceived: language variation, language identification, language contact, discourse processes and characteristics, and language attitudes. This is a timely and significant work, and one that deserves a substantial reading audience.

(Received 1 August 2003)

Timothy Reagan

University of Connecticut