

BOOK REVIEWS

Byrne, Margaret C. and Shervanian, Chris C. **Introduction to Communicative Disorders**. New York: Harper and Row, 1977. 261 pp. plus Appendixes, Glossary, Author Index, and Subject Index.

Reviewed by Jim Neelley

In their Preface, the authors say that they have written this book primarily for those who are looking for a potential professional field and for teachers or teachers-in-training. In writing for this audience, the stated purposes of the authors' are (1) to present a system for studying an individual's language and communication skills; (2) to discuss factors that contribute to normal and abnormal communication; (3) to show how certain people contribute to the development and maintenance of communication; and (4) to encourage the development of a positive policy about our relations with and responsibilities to those with communication deficits.

In my estimation, the authors have produced an excellent book which meets their purposes in a thorough, well-organized volume. It is not a textbook in the fashion of the Van Riper books, where there is a relatively deep look at rehabilitation techniques; Byrne and Shervanian, however, provide a readable, scholarly approach that will give the student a good foundation for further study.

Chapters Two and Three carry a heavy information load in the discussion of language structure and function and of language acquisition and deficit. To the reviewer, these chapters seemed to be broadly oriented in that several schools of thought are represented. Some readers, including the reviewer, may wonder about the appropriateness of including the O.C. Irwin "early phoneme" data in the phonology section. This, however, is a niggling observation. Chapters Two and Three, devoted to the **Code**, contribute a great deal to the value of the book.

In Chapter Four, titled The Physical Determinants, **Production** is written about. Again the organizational scheme will facilitate learning by the student. Each of the "physical determinants" (i.e., the neurological system, respiration, phonation, articulation, resonance, hearing) are discussed in a section of a few pages; then each section concludes with a consideration of communication problems encountered in that system. The section headed "Stuttering Viewed As A Physical Pathology" is up-to-date and does not leave the new student with the belief that research has been uniformly well-designed or exhaustive in this area. (Stuttering is also considered in the sections on Learning Theory and on Psychoanalytic Theory.)

The remaining chapters are Chapter Five: The Psychological Determinants; Chapter Six: The Social Determinants; Chapter Seven: Approaches to Intervention; and Chapter Eight: Speech Programs in the School. Every chapter in the book concludes with a bibliography. The bibliography to Chapter Five on psychological factors is especially generous in length. This may be related to the authors' statement: "As the student of communicative disorders will soon discover, speech pathologists do not speak from a unified theoretical point of view. Our divergent approaches to the problems become most evident when we deal with the psychological determinants."

No doubt some specialists in the many areas explored in this book will find errors here and there, and there may be complaints that some important theoretical

positions have been ignored. Recalling the purposes of Byrne and Shervanian, however, I say that the authors have been extremely successful. This book would be an excellent choice as the basic text in an introductory course in speech pathology and audiology.

Answers to JUMBLED WORDS

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. formant | 14. voicing |
| 2. transition | 15. subglottic pressure |
| 3. bandwidth | 16. place |
| 4. spectrogram | 17. synthesizer |
| 5. Hertz | 18. larynx |
| 6. resonance | 19. velopharyngeal closure |
| 7. Sonograph | 20. amplitude |
| 8. Peterson | 21. oscillogram |
| 9. resonators | 22. perception |
| 10. pitch | 23. phonellegraph |
| 11. formant three | 24. tongue |
| 12. antiresonance | 25. human |
| 13. lowpass filter | |



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