

## BOOK REVIEWS

Editor: James Neelley

PALERMO, DAVID S. **Psychology of Language**. Glenview, Illinois: Scott, Foresman and Company (1978). 261 pp., \$9.95.

— Reviewed by JAMES C. McNUTT

The author states in the Preface that, "The focus of this book is on the formulation, testing, discarding, and reformulation of theories about how humans acquire and use language" and that the book is intended as a text for beginning students in psycholinguistics.

The Introduction presents a view of the development of scientific revolutions and changes in psychology within the philosophical framework of physicist/philosopher Thomas S. Kuhn. The introduction is extremely thought provoking and presents the orientation which is followed throughout the book. No reader should skip the introduction in this book.

The title headings and subheadings readily identify the contents of each of the chapters. In Chapter 1, The Linguistics in Psycholinguistics, the influences of a number of schools are outlined (behaviorial, general linguistics, Bloomfieldian linguistics, and Chomsky's linguistics) as well as giving background information relative to semantics, phonology and distinctive features which is necessary for understanding later chapters. Research and theories of The Biological Bases of Language are presented in Chapter 2. Investigations and theories are outlined in animal communication with specifics relative to communication in bees, birds, dolphins and apes. Additional topics concern the evolution of human language, the neuroanatomical basis of language and lateralization of brain function. These sections are of necessity short, but contain excellent reviews of the pertinent findings and arguments in each area. Chapters 3 through 5 focus on The Sound System of Language, The Syntax of Language, and The Meaning in Language. Language development is discussed in Chapter 6, Language Acquisition: Morphophonemics and Syntax, and Chapter 7, Language Acquisition: Semantic Development. The outline of the chapters is quite similar in giving an overview of research and theory from a number of viewpoints, identifying the strengths and weaknesses of these viewpoints, and making a statement attempting to formulate a theory or position. The author presents his biases quite clearly yet information is presented as objectively as possible. Each chapter has a lengthy list of references which extend through 1977 and a summary which may be described as a "state of the art" or position for that topic.

**Psychology of Language** is an excellent introductory textbook and should certainly fulfill the objectives as stated by the author. The book is well written and organized and reads very easily. The number of topics discussed is quite large and probably at a maximum before confusion. Although some areas appear slighted (Piagetian psychology, cognition) the author has integrated basic information from a profusion of research in psycholinguistics. Because the book summarizes a great deal of psycholinguistic research it may assist the nonpsycholinguist as well as the beginning student in appreciating some of the more current research and in understanding the change which has taken place in much psycholinguistic research. From this viewpoint the text would be quite useful for professionals dealing with communication disorders. Although the text does not deal with communication disorders or remediation, an

understanding of phonetic, syntactic, and semantic theories is certainly necessary for the development of remedial programs.

HARTBAUER, R.E. **Counseling in Communicative Disorders**. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas (1978). 323 pp., \$16.50.

— Reviewed by SEPPO K. TUOMI

The stated purpose of this book is to aid the therapist in handling "routine and emergency situations requiring psychological counseling." It does not claim to be a comprehensive textbook on counseling but rather a source of practical guidelines for handling the psychological-emotional problems associated with a variety of communicative disorders.

The edited format of the book is appropriate for giving in-depth information on counseling procedures relating to specific disorders. However, some problems are apparent with the organization of the material and sequencing of the topics.

Chapter one offers general guidelines on various interviewing and counseling techniques. The second chapter elaborates on this topic while more specifically relating to counseling parents of the preschool child with a language problem. Chapter three discusses the impact of congenital and early adventitious deafness on the child and his family. Chapter four deals with the problems of families receiving financial aid, and appears to have limited value for those living outside the U.S.A. In chapter five the discussion revolves around how to deal with clients who, due to misinformation or lack of information, revert to "shopping around" or to criticizing previously contacted professionals. Chapter six consists of extensive and useful coverage of counseling with the new hearing aid user. Chapter seven tackles the complex problems of counseling the family of an aphasic adult. Although the main points are covered, this chapter appears to lack depth. In chapter eight the specific problems of a deafened adult are described. In addition, the author presents an interesting comparison of two theoretical frameworks, "stages in mourning" and "phases in self preservation" as methods of coping with a deficit such as hearing loss. In chapter nine guidelines for interviewing and counseling parents of stutterers are presented, which are almost completely based on Wendell Johnson's ideas. The following three chapters dealing with counseling of the laryngectomees and their families, parents of children with cerebral palsy, and with cleft palate, are well written and offer valuable information beyond the needs of counseling sessions. The final chapter, although brief, offers interesting and potentially embarrassing ideas concerning the methods and reasons of terminating and/or continuing therapy.

Most of the chapters of the book are well written and offer useful advice on how to handle commonly occurring counseling situations. The frequent use of anecdotal material further clarifies the material. Organizationally, the book gives the impression of being a collection of readings rather than a well organized textbook. The chapters covering adult aphasia and stuttering are quite general and need elaboration. In addition, the chapter on financial aid is not very useful for people outside the U.S.A.

I feel that this book is very useful for a beginning therapist. I would also recommend it as a textbook for a course in counseling. However, it should be used in combination with other texts giving more detailed descriptions of general interviewing and counseling techniques and of the various theoretical issues involved in counseling.

JONAS, GERALD. **Stuttering: The Disorder of Many Theories.** Toronto, Ontario: McGraw-Hill Ryerson Ltd., 1976. 68 pp., \$10.25 hardcover; \$3.75 paperback.

— Reviewed by EINER BOBERG

The author, an ex-stutterer, is a staff writer for the *New Yorker* magazine. This book is the result of an attempt to satisfy his curiosity about the causes and treatment of stuttering. Jonas begins with a colorful description of the daily tribulations of a stutterer. Many of the experiences he describes will be familiar to other stutterers. In talking about the difficulties generated by frequent word substitutions he says:

“. . . my situation was not so different from that of a writer in a totalitarian country who tries to communicate under the constant threat of censorship. The fact that I carried the censor around inside my head did not make the situation any less oppressive.”

In the next section Jonas provides a brief but well-balanced, non-technical review of the major theoretical approaches to stuttering. He also summarizes the clinical procedures developed by Johnson and Van Riper and provides thumbnail sketches of some current approaches such as desensitization, DAF and airflow technique. Unfortunately, he omitted the work based on operant procedures developed by Perkins, Ryan, Ingham and Andrews. Throughout the book Jonas stresses the transitory nature of our information on stuttering and displays a healthy cynicism toward exaggerated claims of therapeutic success.

In this excellently written book Jonas has provided a valuable overview aimed primarily at the lay person. I would certainly recommend the book to teachers, parents, and those stutterers who want some background information about the disorder. The book may also be useful as a quick introduction for students before they tackle the technical texts in the area. The fact that the author is a professional writer is clearly evident in the lucid, flowing style. It is indeed a pleasure to read a book that is not weighed down with the usual clichés and heavy prose we often encounter when speech pathologists try to be writers.

FRY, DENNIS. **Homo Loquens: Man As A Talking Animal.** Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press. (1977). 177 pp., \$12.95 hard cover, \$4.25 paper back.

— Reviewed by HERBERT A. LEEPER, JR.

The author dedicates his book to the “intelligent layman”, a mythical creature whose information about the processes underlying speech production and perception is enhanced by Fry's elementary, yet comprehensive writing. Without quoting references, the author follows the “origin of the speech(ies)” in man, the talking animal, as a chain of interrelated events.

The book is divided into eleven chapters. The first seven deal with the “speech chain” concept as it moves from speech as brain work, as tongue work, as acoustic information, as an auditory-perceptual event to its termination as a complex neurophysiological event. Fry indicates the necessity for integration and feedback of each level of speech activity in the total processing of the speech event. These chapters are reminiscent of portions of an earlier text, **The Speech Chain**, by Denes and Pinson, one of the references noted by the author, but presented by him in a more flowing, novelistic style. The last four chapters of the book deal with the learning of speech, neurological

dominance (brain sidedness), speech disorders, and thought and emotion as reflected in the verbal output of man.

The book is structured so that the last four chapters deal with special topics often of interest to the layman. Questions asked by most parents concerning handedness and speech learning, relationships of parental attitudes and stimulation to speech difficulties, and the effects of deficits of the sensory-motor mechanism to the final verbal output are covered in a professional and interpretable manner.

The strengths of the text involve Fry's understanding of the topics he discusses, the organization of each topic, the implications to special nuances of communication, and the delightful manner in which he mixes professional terminology and concrete examples from a "folk-physics" approach. While not shying away from descriptions of resonance, sound intensity, auditory processing, or information theory, his numerous reflections upon everyday communication patterns should aid the lay reader in a solid understanding of the total speech process.

A reordering of the last four chapters would make the transition from the "orderly" chain of speech events to the "disorderliness" of speech defects clearer. In addition, an equalization of the amount of information could be given to certain disorders of speech only casually mentioned in Chapter 10 "When Speech Goes Wong".

One should not let these few shortcomings cloud the overall impression of the book. The author writes in a splendid style with the flair of a professional who has had to explain many complex ideas to less complex listeners over the years. The text is very readable and the development of the topic within and across most chapters should keep the reader interested, if not enthused.

This book could be used for other health professionals interested in an overview of the speech processes, by the beginning student in communicative disorders, or by the layman who wishes to know why speech is special to him.