Contemporary approaches to second language acquisition in social context: Crosslinguistic perspectives Ed. by Vera Regan (review)

Susan Meredith Burt

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the corpus includes the poetic works of such authors as Svayambhudeva, Puspadanta, and Haribhadra). As can be gleaned from its title, the study reported in this volume investigates the syntax of the languages involved, treating such topics as word order, cliticization of pronominal objects, epistemic and deontic modality, evolution of aspect, causativization, passive constructions, and the emergence and evolution of the ergative construction. In addition, morphosyntax and morphophonology are touched on.

Part 1 (Chs. 1–4) lays out the methodology of the study and explains the sociolinguistic background of the Apabhraṃśa corpus, including a chapter on evidence from the medieval Indian grammarians. Part 2 is the real meat of the study, with chapters devoted to specific topics in the evolution of Indo-Aryan syntax. Topics include the restructuring of the nominal and pronominal systems and the evolution of phrasal case (Chs. 5 and 6)—the earlier system of eight cases reduced to four, with the concomitant emergence of postpositions marking oblique cases, while the restructuring of the pronominal system led to a double-oblique system (seen today in Pashto and Kashmiri).

Ch. 7 shows that the aspectual system was completely rebuilt from earlier MIA. Chs. 8 and 9 explore the emergence and development of the ergative construction which co-existed with the old synthetic and new analytic passives. Bubeník argues that among other factors the appearance of the absolute case and cliticization of pronominal suffixes must be taken into account in the proper characterization of the ergative construction. Ch. 10 discusses the causative, including variation in the passivizability of its arguments. The remaining chapters cover modality and mood, absolute constructions, and subordination and relativization, including correlatives.

B's monograph should be of interest both to students of the history of the Indo-Aryan languages and to those researching such typological matters as ergative-absolutive systems (and their historical development, with connections to passive constructions). B also addresses topics of importance for historical linguistics generally, making the work relevant to historical linguists outside Indo-Aryan studies. Besides its impressive coverage, the book includes bibliographies and no fewer than five indices (of, e.g., ancient grammarians, modern authors, quoted passages). [BENJAMIN BRUENING, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*.]

Contemporary approaches to second language acquisition in social context: Crosslinguistic perspectives. Ed. by VERA REGAN. Dublin: University College Dublin Press (Dufour editions), 1998. Pp. 172.

The papers in this volume were presented at the 1995 meeting of the European Association for Sec-

ond Language Research and reflect the reality that in sociolinguistic second language acquisition research, according to Regan, 'no central theory has all the answers' (3). There is a central concern, however, for explaining the variation found in most interlanguage, and that concern brings together nine papers which use a variety of different approaches.

TERESA PICA, in 'Second language learning through interaction: Multiple perspectives', (9–31) reviews claims that have been made for the usefulness of interaction in developing second language ability and finds that while focused instruction is needed as well as interaction, interaction can contribute to both cognitive and social development in interlanguage.

' "Aha" as communication strategy: Chinese speakers of Hungarian' (32–45), by JULIET LANGMAN, focuses on strategies used by five learners as they encounter and overcome communication difficulties. Results of a questionnaire study lead TINA HICKEY, in 'Early immersion in Ireland: The Naíonra experience' (46–61), to conclude that in Irish-medium preschools, small class size has the greatest positive effect on children's successful learning of Irish. Textual analysis of story retellings by native speakers of English, native speakers of French, and French learners of English prompts MONIQUE LAMBERT ('Temporal reference in story retellings: Comparison between French and American native speakers and French advanced learners of English', 62–73) to conclude that native language influence accounts for differences between texts by native speakers and those by learners. PETRA BOS, in 'Development of L2-acquisition of Moroccan children in the Netherlands' (74–88), describes a longitudinal project researching stages in acquisition of anaphoric reference and relative clause comprehension in Dutch.

In 'What makes us think that students who study abroad become fluent?' (89–112), BARBARA FREED discusses the variety of measures associated with the notion of fluency (speech rate, pauses per T-unit, pauses following T-units) and notes that fluency at sentence level should be separated from fluency at discourse level. Acknowledging the complexity of the notion, Freed tests whether judges can distinguish between students who have studied abroad and those who have not. Except for speech rate, the distinction turns out to be elusive. JEAN-MARC DEWAELE ('Speech-rate variation in two oral styles of advanced French interlanguage', 113–23) pursues the factor of speech rate with Flemish learners of French, finding that the same factors emerged in explorations of fluency in native speakers: informal styles or situations, extroversion, and gender (female) all seem to favor increased speech rates.

NORBERT DITTMAR, BERNARD SPOLSKY, and JOEL WALTERS ('Language and identity in immigrant language acquisition and use: A framework for integrat-

ing sociological, psychological and linguistic data', 124–36) propose a large-scale longitudinal project on immigrant identity and language choice, planning several sociolinguistic interviews for each of 100 subjects.

Probably the most satisfying article here is that by SHANA POPLACK and SVITLANA BUDZHAK-JONES, 'The visible loanword: Processes of integration seen in bare English-origin nouns in Ukrainian', (137–67). With the goal of distinguishing codeswitching and borrowing, the authors compare grammatical treatment of English nouns in the Ukrainian discourse of first- and second-generation Ukrainian speakers in Canada. First-generation speakers treat English nouns as if they were Ukrainian, which argues for a borrowing rather than codeswitching analysis. Second generation speakers, in contrast, 'have not fully acquired either the presciptive details or variable conditioning of Ukrainian inflection' (159), suggesting that the vexed question of borrowing versus codeswitching may not be the most perspicacious approach to this generation's grammar.

Only a loose thematic unity brings this volume together, but the variety of approaches attests to the widespread interest in second language acquisition and the likelihood that this book will interest a large audience. [SUSAN MEREDITH BURT, *University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.*]

The contemporary theory of metaphor: A perspective from Chinese. By NING YU. Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 1998. Pp. vii, 278.

Metaphor follows George Lakoff's view that 'figurative language lies at the core of communication and cognition' (2). Yu's stated goals in this book, a revision of his PhD dissertation, are to describe the mapping of the concrete and physical onto the abstract and nonphysical and to compare the Chinese with the English conceptual system. He says he wishes to 'call attention to the importance of metaphors in Chinese', and their 'considerable similarity' to their English counterparts (241).

Y concentrates on three main types of metaphors: (1) those expressing anger and happiness, often as a liquid or gas in a container; (2) time as space, with objects moving toward or past a stationary observer, or with an observer walking through a stationary location; and (3) events as attributes with a physical location ('I'm *in* trouble.').

Y observes that while 'anger is heat' in both English and Chinese—following the metonymic principle of describing the physiological effects of emotions (237)—anger is often imagined as a 'hot liquid in a container' in English but as a 'gas' in Chinese. He also notes that Chinese tends to mention body parts explicitly in expressions involving emo-

tion, e.g. 'spleen gas' means 'temper/anger', while English metaphors like 'he is seething with anger' mention no body part names.

The book offers convenient summaries at the end of each topic-centered chapter plus a summary of the summaries in the conclusion. These may be a bit repetitive to an attentive reader, but they are useful for anyone who wants a quick, minimum-effort overview of Y's main points.

Y certainly would have made things easier for most of his readers if he had incorporated the Chinese characters for the examples into the main text instead of relegating them to an appendix in the back of the book. There are a few minor typos, mostly in the Pinyin Romanizations, which very inconveniently lack tone markings.

Y collected his data from the official PRC party organ, the *People's Daily*, various other publications, and Chinese dictionaries. Y does point out that metaphors exist at different levels of awareness and intentionality. He may be right that more consciously-created metaphors are usually extensions of the relatively established ones in the language, but it might have been useful to clearly identify the 'basic' metaphors first, perhaps from a corpus of SPOKEN rather than written Chinese. Many of the examples from the *People's Daily*—which tends to employ a relatively stilted, bureaucratic style to report officially approved content—were 'sore thumb' metaphors that stood out as such in a text (example: 'The economy needs soft braking and soft landing.'); while in fact probably few people are conscious of 'gas' being a metaphor when they say someone 'got angry'. Some of the dictionary examples cited, like *qián chén*, 'previous dust' meaning 'past experience', are low frequency, literary, or dated items, though Y acknowledges this where called for.

The author does manage in this work to distill some interesting observations about Chinese metaphors, thus offering an interesting starting point for further studies on metaphor, analogy, and conceptualization of the world in human language. [KAREN STEFFEN CHUNG, *National Taiwan University.*]

Concise encyclopedia of syntactic theories. Ed. by KEITH BROWN and JIM MILLER. Oxford, New York, & Tokyo: Pergamon (Elsevier Science Ltd.), 1996. Pp. xxxv, 459.

Concise encyclopedia of philosophy of language. Ed. by PETER V. LAMARQUE. Oxford, New York & Tokyo: Pergamon (Elsevier Science Ltd.), 1997. Pp. xix, 599.

These two useful volumes present, with some updates and additions, selected articles from Perga-