

Newmeyer, Frederick J., ed. 1988. *Linguistics: The Cambridge Survey. Volume IV, Language: The Socio-cultural Context*. Cambridge University Press. x+292pp. pb. AUS \$35.00

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This is the last of four joint volumes published by Cambridge University Press on linguistically related topics. The first three were on: (I) Linguistic theory: foundations; (II) Linguistic theory: extensions and implications; and (III) Language: psychological and biological aspects. Volume IV refers to articles in some of these volumes, but they were not available to me.

The articles in volume IV, as the series title indicates, are survey-like in nature, i.e. broad in scope and narrow in detail. Materials in each chapter are referenced up until about 1985, unless the author cites his or her own writings, in which case they are as recent as 1987.

The sociolinguistic aspects covered in this volume are language in relationship to: its socio-cultural context (B.R. Lavandera), culture and world-view (J.H. Hill), social class (G.K. Guy), race (J. Baugh), gender (S. McConnell-Ginet), bilingualism (B. Spolsky), dialectology (K. Walters), syntactic variation (D. Sankoff), pidginization and creolization (W.A. Foley), language death (W.U. Dressler), planning (D. Christian), the ethnography of speaking (A. Duranti), discourse (D. Blakemore) and conversational analysis (D. Schiffrin).

Foley's article alone contains any Papua New Guinea data: examples are drawn from Tok Pisin, Yimas and Hiri or Police Motu. He also recapitulates a number of Mühlhäusler's observations on how Tok Pisin has expanded its lexical and syntactic ranges.

There are several articles which are polemic in nature, i.e., the authors seem to have bones to pick: the chapters on race, gender and syntactic variation are most obviously cause-oriented. The latter is an attempt to show that variationism is superior to any concern for an autonomous syntax. Sociolinguists, it would seem, stand above those who are more interested in specific details about language.

A survey of this kind gives a good overview on the state of the art and those on language, culture and world view; bilingualism; dialectology; and the ethnography of dis-

course are especially helpful. Dialectology, in particular, has extended its scope far beyond the regional atlases in various countries.

Blakemore's work on discourse does not mention anything on nonIndo-European languages, although Pike, Longacre and Grimes have been writing on the topic for more than 20 years.

The authors give fairly complete bibliographies, but Hill (on culture and world-view), McConnell-Genet (on gender), Walters (on dialectology), Sankoff (on variation), Schiffrin (on conversational analysis), and Duranti (on the ethnography of speaking) are especially helpful and complete.

The volume serves as a useful introduction to the function of language in society. It is not intended as a reader in sociolinguistic research or theory.