

BOOK NOTES

Language in Society 37 (2008). Printed in the United States of America
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ANA DEUMERT & STEPHANIE DURRLEMAN (eds.), *Structure and variation in language contact*.
Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 2006. Pp.viii, 376. Hb €125.

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Structure and variation in language contact is a collection of 15 papers that were presented at a number of conferences held by the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics during 2003 and 2004. The editors have separated the volume into two manageable sections. Chapters in the first section focus on the phonetic, syntactic and morphosyntactic structures of several pidgins and creoles. The second part of the volume is dedicated to variation in a number of pidgin and creole varieties, with a focus on language contact as a mechanism for variation and change. The varieties covered in the collection include Surinamese creoles, Haitian French, Chinook Jargon, Sri Lankan Malay, Yiddish, African American Vernacular English (AAVE), Bahamian Creole, and Afro-Portuguese, Afro-Hispanic, and Iberian creoles. Eight of these papers examine tense, mood, and aspect, an area of particular interest in pidgin and creole studies. Other phenomena examined include tonal lexical contrast in phonosyntactic environments, verb-object ordering and affix positioning, syntactic features of negation, pluralization patterns, agglutination, serial verb constructions, and relexification.

While the main focus of the volume is on internal constraints on grammar, the effects of a number of social constraints on the patterns of variation within the different varieties are also considered. For example, the role of children and adults in the creolization process is investigated, with innovative syntactic constructions attributed to both generations where a single generation had previously largely been held accountable. Gender roles and social prestige are also highlighted as significant factors in the use of particular features in some varieties.

The papers in the volume draw on a range of data collection methods, including many typically used in variationist studies, dialectology, and historical linguistics. The data presented come from a range of sources, written and spoken, formal and informal, which provides for both synchronic and diachronic perspectives on fundamental issues in the field of pidgin and creole studies, as well as linguistics generally. Such issues include the contribution of substrate and superstrate languages to the development of pidgins and creoles, along with consideration of the effect of length of contact between varieties on the syntactic structures observed. Furthermore, close examination of the process of decreolization is shown to provide insight into the variation and change observed across languages in contact.

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MICHAEL BAMBERG (ed.), *Narrative: State of the art*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 2007. Pp. vi, 270. Hb \$114.00.

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The papers in this book were originally published in *Narrative Inquiry* in 2006 and represent work on narrative in a variety of disciplines discussed in Michael Bamberg's introductory chapter (chap. 1). Bamberg also develops one of the major themes of the book in chap. 17: a turn from "big stories" to "small stories," involving more attention to the roles and purposes of narrative in everyday interaction. This theme is developed in contributions by Liz Stokoe & Derek Edwards (chap. 8), Alexan-

dra Georgakopoulou (chap. 15), Amy Shuman (chap. 18), Paul Atkinson & Sara Delamont (chap. 20), and Eric E. Peterson & Kristin M. Langellier (chap. 21), who all focus on narrative as discourse and social action. Two chapters, in particular, point to the spirit of debate in the collection: Mark Freeman's (chap. 16), which offers a defense of "big stories," and Crispin Sartwell's (chap. 19), which disputes the centrality of narrative to the organization of experience.

The collection includes several overview chapters, including those by Ruthellen Josselson (chap. 2), outlining seven grounds for comparing narrative studies; James Phelan (chap. 11), reviewing five current issues in narratology; and Mary M. Gergen & Kenneth J. Gergen (chap. 14), reviewing work in three areas of narrative practice. Among the disciplines, psychology is the most strongly represented. Dan McAdams (chap. 3) proposes a three-tier conceptual framework using life stories to understand personality, and Brian Schiff points out the potentials and limitations of narrative psychology (chap. 4). Wolfram Fischer & Martina Goblirsch (chap. 5) focus on biographical memory, and Stephanie Taylor (chap. 12) and Wolfgang Kraus (chap. 13) on narrative and identity work. Literary perspectives are represented by Patrick Colm Hogan, who reviews Aristotle's *Poetics* to revisit the analytical development in narrative theory (chap. 9), and by David Herman, who analyzes scenes of talk in Virginia Woolf's *To the lighthouse* (chap. 10). Linguistics is also represented in contributions from William Labov (chap. 6), discussing the pre-construction of narratives of personal experience; Barbara Johnstone (chap. 7), discussing narratives of dialect variation in Pittsburgh; and Jan Blommaert (chap. 22), who uses ethnopoetics as a means of analyzing asylum-seeking stories.

While the majority of papers are concerned with analysis of narratives and their roles in discourse, the last four chapters cover applications in professional settings: Rita Charon (chap. 23) in health care, James McLeod (chap. 24) and Nairán Ramírez-Esparza & James W. Pennebaker (chap. 25) in psychotherapy, and Roger Schank & Tammy Berman (chap. 26) in education.

Overall, this collection fulfils the promise of its title to provide a "state-of-the-art" look at narrative research. It gives readers a sense of where narrative research has come from and raises the question: Where is it going next? The answer to this question is reflected in the kaleidoscopic nature of this volume.

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TOPE OMONIYI & GOODITH WHITE (eds.), *The sociolinguistics of identity*. London, UK: Continuum, 2006. Pp. vii, 239. Hb \$160.00.

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This book brings together a collection of 12 articles addressing current theoretical, methodological, and empirical issues in sociolinguistic research on identity. As described in the Introduction, the contributions to the book cast a critical eye on various poststructural tenets about the relationship between language and identity. Part I discusses existing and/or novel theoretical perspectives on the construction of identity through language. The rest of the book presents empirical cases that show how various sociolinguistic approaches may illuminate the study of identity in different settings. Each case examines how the deployment of either linguistic features (Part II) or different languages and language varieties (Part III) contributes sociolinguistic resources for identity work.

Chap. 1 proposes an innovative analytical framework, "hierarchy of identities." Centered on the notion of "moments," this framework enables one to analyze how several identities can be hierarchically co-produced during interaction. Chap. 2 provides a review and critique of current constructionist theories of identity. This chapter underscores the value of social constructionism while questioning the constructionist neglect of constraints and continuity in identity construction. Chap. 3 critiques the poststructural lack of attention to the psychological dimension of identity. The chapter assesses how psychoanalysis could be used to investigate "the psychological self" in applied linguistics.