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Essen on December 2–3, 1983. An introductory article, ‘Instead of an introduction: Conceptual issues in analyzing intercultural communication’ (1–13) by Karlfried Knapp and Annelie Knapp-Potthoff, briefly summarizes the papers, primarily with regard to their different methodologies.

In ‘Socio-political influences on cross-cultural encounters: Notes towards a framework for the analysis of context’ (17–33), Alan Murray and Ranjit Sondhi attempt to construct an analytical framework for intercultural communication failure due to dominant (white) and minority (black) power relations. The next two papers are grouped together under the heading ‘Socio-psychological perspectives’. Mansur Lalljee, in ‘Attribution theory and intercultural communication’ (37–49), demonstrates that socioculturally determined evaluation is crucial for cross-ethnic misunderstanding. Gesel Apitzsch & Norbert Dittmar, in ‘Contact between German and Turkish adolescents: A case study’ (51–72), attribute miscommunication between young Turkish migrants and native German youths in West Berlin to inequality between the two groups in social status and career prospects.

The following category, ‘Language choice’, also contains two articles. Sherida Altehen-Smith’s ‘Language choice in multilingual societies: A Singapore case study’ (75–94) is a sociolinguistic study of the relationship between English, a dominant official language, and the micro-level languages used for interethnic communication. ‘Why speak English?’ (95–107), by Florian Coulmas, is an ethnographic explanation of the Japanese preference for English as a lingua franca to circumvent the complex linguistic etiquette required in the use of Japanese. In the ‘Discourse processes’ section we find three papers. Celia Roberts’ & Pete Sayers’ ‘Keeping the gate: How judgements are made in interethnic interviews’ (111–35) concerns crosscultural training for British gatekeepers. In ‘Foreigner talk, code switching and the concept of trouble’ (138–80), Volker Hinnenkamp reveals the negative-stereotyping function of codeswitching in native German and migrant Turkish encounters. ‘The man (or woman) in the middle: Discoursal aspects of non-professional interpreting’ (181–211), by Annelie Knapp-Potthoff & Karlfried Knapp, focuses on mediator discourse failure between German and Korean speakers.

The last group of papers is headed ‘Selected elements of discourse’. Jochen Rehbein, in ‘Multiple formulae: Aspects of Turkish migrant workers’ German in intercultural communication’ (217–48), deals with the pidginization of German by Turkish migrants through untutored second-language learning. Judith Stalpers’ ‘The use of alors in French–Dutch negotiations: A case study’ (249–68) attempts to measure the impact of the foreign use of alors on intercultural business talk. Werner Enninger, in ‘What interactants do with non-talk across cultures’ (269–302), investigates the culture-specific roles of silence from the perspective of crosscultural interaction research.

Although the papers in the volume vary in quality, they share the heuristic value of initiating the reader into the vast subject of intercultural communication from discrete points of orientation. [Kumiko Takahara, University of Colorado.]


In this excellently prepared volume K&T provide solid, detailed, and fully reliable bibliographical information on the works of Noam Chomsky. Although they did not—and indeed felt that they could not (they include blank pages for addenda)—achieve an exhaustive listing, the compilers have managed to put together a reasonably complete bibliography (though Salvatore Sgroi’s 1983 Noam Chomsky: Bibliografia 1949–1981 is, as the compilers acknowledge on p. ix, more comprehensive). The full range of Chomsky’s writings are covered, those ‘in linguistics and related fields’ (Part I) as well as those ‘on political issues and other nonlinguistic subjects’ (Part II). A third section is also included in which ‘interviews and discussions with Noam Chomsky’ are catalogued. Moreover, the entries for individual works contain a listing of reviews and translations—for in-

Why do second-language learners have so much trouble understanding the spoken L2, even after extensive training? Koster's book addresses this question by studying second-language learners of Dutch and English in a series of language-processing experiments. K begins by noting two generally agreed-upon difficulties with foreign-language aural comprehension—that of interpreting the great phonetic variability of speech segments, and that of identifying word boundaries. In order to examine these issues in depth, K presents a set of eight gating and response-time experiments which test the influence of context effects and of sound assimilations on spoken L2 comprehensibility.

The book's seven chapters can be divided into four sections. In the first section (Ch. 1) K introduces speech recognition and particularly studies of word recognition, reviewing important speech-recognition research with both native and L2 speakers.

Section Two (Ch. 2) is an examination of context effects on word recognition. After a clear introduction to word-recognition research, K describes three experiments. These experiments, comparing word-recognition abilities of L1 and L2 English speakers, provide evidence for a Verification Model of word recognition, particularly as opposed to a Cohort Model. K further shows that context effects become very complex when nonnative variables are added to the data collection. He argues that one cannot always generalize about whether nonnative speakers make greater or lesser use of context, though he recognizes the tendency for nonnatives to make greater context use in his experiments.

Section Three (Chs. 3–6) examines the influence of assimilation phenomena on word recognition. K reviews current (and on his view often superficial) research on phonetic assimilation; he then reports on five experiments comparing L1 and L2 speaker responses to spoken English and Dutch. These experiments explore different combinations of phonetic assimilation across word boundaries and resulting differences in subjects' comprehension abilities. K's findings indicate that statements about assimilation and its effects on processing cannot be reduced to a simple set of generalizations, as is often done, either for native speakers or for non-native speakers.

The fourth section (Ch. 7) reviews the results of K's experiments and places these results within the context of other recent research findings. K concludes by noting a number of differences between native and nonnative listeners, and suggests that these findings indicate a need for a more abstract applied linguistics.

This book has a number of important strengths. First, it demonstrates, in a series of carefully-performed experiments, that there are processing differences between native and non-