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West African Journal of Modern Languages

Editor: C. M. B. Brann, University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri, Nigeria



SOCIOLINGUISTICS NEWSLETTER

Sponsored by the Research Committee on Sociolinguistics of the International Sociological Association, the *Newsletter*, as its name suggests, is not a repository for completed work, but a bulletin on work in progress. It aims to alert its readers scattered throughout the world, to new methods, important new bibliography, novel forms of inquiry, and breakthroughs of all sorts in language planning and sociolinguistic teaching and research. Articles are typically in English, less frequently in French; articles in German or Spanish are accepted on occasion.

PAST ISSUES HAVE DEALT WITH

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AND D. R. WATSON

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Non-verbal and Verbal Interactions between the Vancouver Police and Disputants during Domestic Crisis Intervention. JANE HOWELL

Arabic Sociolinguistics: A Selected Bibliography. RICHARD W. SCHMIDT

Language Planning in Afghanistan. M. ALAM MIRAN

Sociolinguistics at the Eighth World Congress of Sociology in Toronto

Each issue of the *Newsletter* also includes announcements of meetings, reports of the teaching of sociolinguistics, bibliographies, summaries of colloquia and symposiums held throughout the world, reviews and announcements of recently published books and monographs, and abstracts of research in progress.

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JON J. DRIESSEN, Managing Editor *Sociolinguistics Newsletter*, Scholars Press, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana 59812

Bilingualism

Psychological, Social and Educational Implications

edited by Peter A. Hornby

August 1977, 180 pp., £6.75/\$9.50 0.12.356350.X

Because of changing social values as well as federal legislation in both the United States and Canada, the need to understand the nature and effects of bilingualism has recently become more pronounced. This volume presents some of the historical developments, theoretical controversies, and major research findings and applications from the points of view of psychology, sociology, linguistics, and education, as they relate to various aspects of bilingualism. The focus throughout the book is on the crucial question of what effects bilingualism may have on the individual language user and on the society in which he lives. Because of the important role bilingualism plays in many societies throughout the world, the goal of the various contributors to the volume has been to determine which characteristics of the bilingual setting lead to its being a source of enrichment and diversity rather than a source of confusion, conflict, and frustration. Despite its position in some areas of the world as an explosive political question, multidisciplinary efforts to study bilingualism systematically are beginning to lead to increased awareness and understanding of this complex issue. The contributions to the book cover three distinct but overlapping focuses of concern: the consequences of bilingualism at the level of the individual, the effects of bilingualism on social interaction and society, and the significance of bilingualism at the national and international levels.

Sociocultural Dimensions of Language Change

A Volume in the LANGUAGE, THOUGHT AND CULTURE Series

edited by Ben G. Blount and Mary Sanches

May 1977, 320 pp., £15.60/\$22.00 0.12.107450.1

This important collection of original papers reveals new directions in the study of language change, with emphasis on the social, historical, and cultural factors that define and delimit change. The articles, presented within a framework of ethnographic and sociological research methodology, collectively demonstrate that language change is evolutionary and is embedded in social matrices. Included are studies of language change from numerous societies — Tzeltal, Japanese, Finnish-American, Apache, Belizian, etc. — and on a variety of topics — pidginization, writing systems, creolization, numeral classifiers, nomenclatural systems, language planning, and dialect formation. The inherent variability of language at diverse levels (lexicon, grammar, style, register) is viewed as both a consequence of and a cause for social change. The authors show how social factors such as relative age of individuals, generation differences, class status, and educational attainment act to produce stability within membership categories and to create diversity among those groups. It is demonstrated that the bases for stabilization and diversification are describable in cultural terms as abstract formal systems. Finally, the authors bring historical perspective to their analyses, illuminating the forces that act in an evolutionary manner upon the social and cultural dimensions of change.

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