The foreword, by Godfrey Vesey, Professor of philosophy at the Open University, serves as a guide to the contents. David Crystal, Professor of linguistics at the University of Reading, contributes a useful glossary of technical terms in addition to a paper of his own on the problem of language variety.

Contents:

Foreword by Godfrey Vesey. "The Translation Theory of Understanding", by G. H. R. Parkinson (University of Reading). "Locke, Steiner and Understanding", by M. A. Stewart (University of Lancaster). "On Talking Philosophy with Children", by G. B. Matthews (University of Mass., Amherst). "Non-Verbal Communication and Language" by Michael Argyle (Dept. of Experimental Psychology, Oxford). "Psycholinguistics: Competence and Performance", by Judith Greene (Open University). "The Place of Structure in Communication", by Timothy Potts (University of Leeds). "On Understanding a General Name", by Bernard Harrison (University of Sussex).
"Culture and Colour Coding", by Barbara Lloyd (University of Sussex). "The Simulation of Verbal Communication Activities", by J. J. Sparkes (The Open University). "Literature as Discourse", by Roger Fowler (University of East Anglia). 'The Problem of Language Variety: An Example from Religious Language", by David Crystal (University of Reading). "Symbols", by Karl Britton (Northumberland).

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