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Linguistics Inside Out: Roy Harris and his critics

Edited by George Wolf and Nigel Love

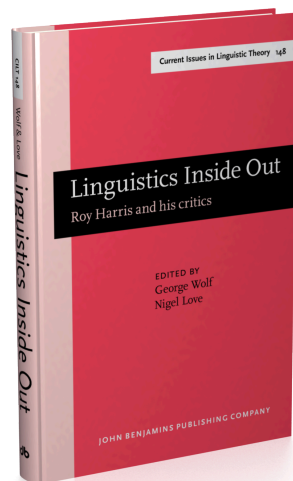
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Roy Harris

[He] has many of the traits of the best English pamphleteers: courage, an individual mind, vehement opinions, an instinct for stirring up trouble, the arts of appealing to that imaginary creature the sensible man and of combining original observation with sweeping generalisation, of seeing enemies everywhere and despising all of them... he writes a lucid conversational style which wakes one up suddenly like cold water dashed in the face. The sting of it is sometimes refreshing; sometimes it makes one very angry... in the name of common sense [he] is capable of exaggerating with the simplicity and innocence of a savage...

– V.S. Pritchett, on George Orwell

...the fact that missionary linguists sometimes end up in tribal cooking pots is no more surprising than the fact that even well trained troops sometimes end up as casualties.

– Roy Harris

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