

Preface

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Page v of

Foundations for a Science of Language

Gustave Guillaume (1883–1960)

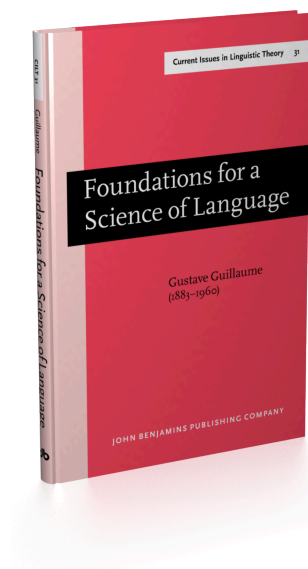
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PREFACE

This volume presents, for the first time in English, a representative view of Gustave Guillaume's thought. The texts, drawn mainly from Guillaume's manuscript notes for lectures at the *Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes* in Paris, were selected as far as possible for their accessibility, as requiring no prior knowledge of his work. Furthermore, the fact that the passages chosen deal with questions of general interest to the linguist and the man of science gives them added significance even in translation. The result is a panorama of the far-ranging and often provocative thought of one of the twentieth century's most original linguists, a fitting commemoration to mark the centenary of Guillaume's birth.

The grouping of the passages, as well as headings and sub-headings, are those of the editor of the French volume. Any notes and marginal comments in the original manuscript have been integrated into the text so that all footnotes in the present volume have been added by the editor or the translators. Inevitably, some of the verve of Guillaume's style has been lost in translation. However, if the result is a text where the ideas of the original are faithfully portrayed, the aim of this book will have been achieved. To help the reader keep them in the right perspective, a brief outline of the author's career and guidelines for approaching these texts are given in the Introduction. A list of technical terms and a brief bibliography are also included at the end of the volume.