

# Preface

 <https://doi.org/10.1075/cilt.56.preface>

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**Refurbishing our Foundations: Elementary linguistics from  
an advanced point of view**

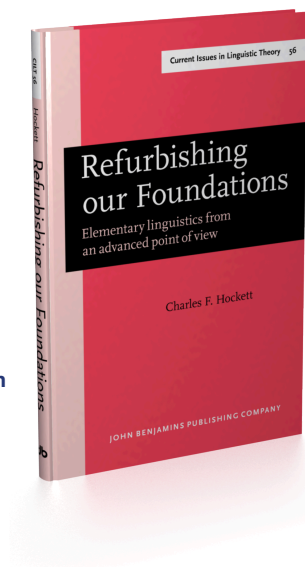
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[*Current Issues in Linguistic Theory*, 56] 1987. x, 181 pp.

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## PREFACE

This essay is a sort of inverted Festschrift (a *Schriftfest*? a *Tfirhcstsef*? a *Feetsefchift*?) in honor of my most exacting instructors: my students. It is intended especially for my colleagues—many of them former students (\*)—Frederick B. Agard, Edward L. Blansitt Jr, \*Ann Bodine, Dwight L. Bolinger, \*J. Marvin Brown, William M. Christie Jr, \*James E. Copeland, \*Ronald Cosper, \*Philip W. Davis, \*Robert J. DiPietro, \*James W. Gair, Paul L. Garvin, Toby D. Griffen, Robert A. Hall Jr, Michael A. K. Halliday, Eric P. Hamp, Henry M. Hoenigswald, Dell Hymes, \*Ashok Kelkar, Gerald B. Kelley, \*James Kilbury, \*D. Robert Ladd Jr, Adam Makkai, Valerie Becker Makkai, \*William R. Merrifield, \*Rocky V. Miranda, William B. Moulton, \*David L. Olmsted, \*Dennis E. Peacock, \*Velma B. Pickett, Kenneth L. Pike, Ernst Pulgram, \*Albert J. Schütz, Hugh M. Stimson, Lenora A. Timm, the late W. Freeman Twaddell, \*Ralph Vanderslice, the late Carl F. Voegelin, Florence M. Voegelin, \*Willard Walker, \*Stephen Wallace, Linda R. Waugh, Roger W. Wescott, and \*John U. Wolff, as a token of my appreciation for their recent joint enterprise in my behalf [*Essays in Honor of Charles F. Hockett* (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1983)].

In October of 1984 an earlier version of this material was presented as a lecture series entitled "Refurbishing the Foundations of Linguistics," under the auspices of the Department of Linguistics and Semiotics of Rice University, Houston TX. Those in attendance at some or all of these lectures included Sydney M. Lamb (the chairman of the department), Lily Chen, James E. Copeland, Philip W. Davis, Lane Kauffmann, Douglas Mitchell, Stephen Tyler; Stephen Wallace; Katharina Barbe, Elizabeth Cummings-Culliton, Cynthia Edmiston, Don Hardy, Lillian Huang, Daniel Mailman, Alan Rister; and, on one happy occasion when he was able to fly down from Austin, Winfred P. Lehmann. Their questions and comments proved invaluable both in revealing errors and gaps of which I had been unaware and in suggesting ways to correct them. It goes almost, but not quite, without saying that remaining deficiencies are all my own.

In writing this essay I have proceeded somewhat as though preparing a new course for my old students, treating afresh, with the benefit of more experience and further pondering, many of the topics we discussed during their apprenticeships. In keeping with that, and reflecting the atmosphere we used to establish together in the classroom, throughout the essay the pronoun "you"—conveniently ambiguous as to number—means the reader(s), and "we" is the INCLUSIVE first-person plural. In the same spirit, through all stages of preparation the subtitle appeared as *Elementary Linguistics*

*from an Advanced Point of View Out*, not just an allusion to but also a takeoff on Felix Klein's famous *Elementarmathematik von höheren Standpunkte aus* (Leipzig: B. G. Teubner, 1908-9). But at the last moment I could not quite muster the audacity to put it into print that way, so *out* dropped out. In either form the subtitle is appropriate. We deal here with elementary issues, but I am not addressing novices. I speak to my fellow sophisticates, asking that for the nonce they join me in setting aside a measure of that sophistication, that together we may explore a new and different path.

So as not to interrupt the flow of the exposition, most critical apparatus, together with a fair amount of subsidiary commentary, is relegated to the notes. The phenomenal expansion of the ranks of professional linguists in recent years makes it ever more likely that different investigators will independently think some of the same thoughts, but also increasingly difficult to know when that has happened — both because the volume of literature is unmanageable and because the terminologies of different schools of linguistics verge on mutual unintelligibility. I am sure that many of the ideas I present as my own in this essay will sound to some readers like echoes. I have no desire to slight anyone, and will be delighted to acknowledge, with apologies for my ignorance or oversight, any omissions of credit called to my attention.

C. F. Hockett

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July 1987