

# Preface & Acknowledgements

 <https://doi.org/10.1075/cilt.92.01pre>

Pages xiii–xiv of

**Paralanguage: A linguistic and interdisciplinary approach  
to interactive speech and sounds**

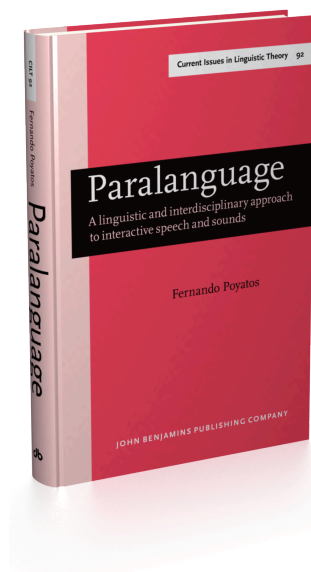
**Fernando Poyatos**

[*Current Issues in Linguistic Theory*, 92] 1993. xii, 478 pp.

© John Benjamins Publishing Company

This electronic file may not be altered in any way. For any reuse of this material written permission should be obtained from the publishers or through the Copyright Clearance Center (for USA: [www.copyright.com](http://www.copyright.com)).

For further information, please contact [rights@benjamins.nl](mailto:rights@benjamins.nl) or consult our website at [benjamins.com/rights](http://benjamins.com/rights)



## Preface

There would be no doubt in the reader's mind that a comprehensive book on paralanguage has been long overdue. Different areas in nonverbal communication studies have been proliferating in the last thirty years, offering a great number of research and pedagogical avenues, many practical applications in very diverse aspects of life, and a general awareness of how people and their environment communicate beyond words. But it seems that paralanguage has proven too great a challenge to be dealt with because of the difficulties involved and its inherent elusiveness. Thus, there being no ground-breaking interdisciplinary work on the subject — for interdisciplinarity cannot be avoided today without detriment to one's knowledge in any single field — a common source of data and a useful theoretical and methodological model was necessary for phoneticians, linguists, anthropologists, sociologists, psychologists, psychiatrists, counselors, doctors and nurses, speech therapists, anyone else engaged in professional interaction, foreign-language instructors, writers, students or readers of novels or plays, and those engaged in theater and film productions.

I trust this book will serve that purpose. I also hope that its readers will read also between the lines and recognize in these pages many undiscussed implications and research suggestions. My fellow researchers are encouraged to carry my task much further.

### Acknowledgements:

I would like to express my gratitude

- to those pioneers in paralinguistic studies mentioned in the Introduction
- to the many colleagues and students with whom I have discussed my work in paralanguage and nonverbal communication at lectures in the last ten years, firstly, those of the Hungarian Linguistic Society and

the Copenhagen Linguistics Circle, then, in one or more visits to their institutions, to those in different disciplines at universities in West Germany (Berlin, Essen, Heidelberg, Mainz-Germersheim), Finland (Vaasa), Holland (Tilburg, Amsterdam), Hungary (Budapest, Debrecen, Pecs), Yugoslavia (Ljubljana), Turkey (Bogazici [Istanbul], Akdeniz [Antalia]), Japan (International Christian University), France (Lyon, Paris V), Belgium (Mons) and Spain (Barcelona, Tarragona, Valencia, Murcia, Oviedo, Pais Vasco).

- to audiences at international conferences of Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology, Applied Psychology, Crosscultural Psychology, Linguistics, Applied Linguistics, Psycholinguistics, and Semiotics for those comments and ideas I could not waste.
- to the Canada Council and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for their support in the past, and to the University of New Brunswick for its continuing support.
- in a very special way, to Konrad Koerner for inviting me to write this book, and to John and Claire Benjamins and Editors Bertie Kaal and Yola de Lusenet for their kindnesses.

Fernando Poyatos  
University of New Brunswick  
September 1991