

Preface

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Language Transfer in Language Learning: Revised edition

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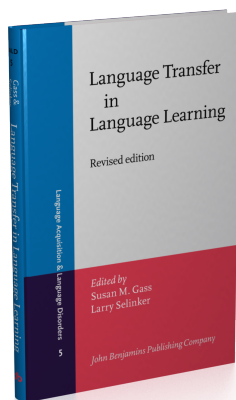
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Preface

This volume of studies on Language Transfer presents an array of approaches to this important subarea of second language acquisition. As is detailed in the introduction to this book, the study of the influence of the native language has undergone significant changes over the past few decades. Yet, despite the changes in importance attached to language transfer, it has emerged as an area of study central to the entire discipline of second language acquisition.

A prior book on Language Transfer (1983) formed the impetus for this volume. At the time that book appeared, some major rethinking in the field regarding the concept of language transfer was beginning to take place. Since that time, we have seen that same reconceptualization of language transfer take an important place in the field and form the basis for current thinking.

This book, through a mix of reprinted papers from the earlier edition of Language Transfer studies (Corder, Schachter, and Ard and Homburg), revised and updated papers (Broselow, Gundel and Tarone, Bartelt, and Scarcella) and new papers (Jordens, Zobl, Selinker and Lakshmanan, and White), presents the reader with a 'run through history' culminating in a focus on current issues and current theoretical models. The Afterword pulls together many of the concepts current in second language thinking.

There are many to whom thanks are due for their contribution and assistance in putting this volume together. First, we would like to thank the series editors for their faith and encouragement in this project. It is their vision which helped us in our thinking and rethinking of the makeup of this book. Cornelis Vaes from John Benjamins was ever so prompt and patient in his responses to our mundane questions. Our ever-trusting fax machines allowed Mr. Vaes to answer transatlantic questions in a matter of minutes. Finally, India Plough has been the backbone of this project. She has played the major role in getting some of the details worked out both in the content of individual papers and the format for producing this volume. We are indebted to her competence, good naturedness and sense of humour from beginning to end.