

authors do not avoid modern poetry which is abounding in metaphors that are not always easy to interpret.

One of the most important conclusions of the authors is their contention that the observed metaphorical variability can be reduced to several elementary cognitive models that are largely conventional. These conventional metaphorical models are viewed by Lakoff and Turner as particular manifestations of the "great chain of being", a metaphorical term itself, that could be characterized as an anthropocentric sequence at the top of which is the human domain followed by animals, plants, natural phenomena, and concluded by inert objects. This sequence operates in many disparate and discontinuous fields of language, confirming its thoroughly anthropocentric character.

In addition to the issue of metaphor, the authors discuss metonymy as well, in an attempt to help keep the two frequently confused notion apart.

In conclusion, the authors briefly mention several basic attitudes to metaphor, namely, the so-called Literal Meaning Theory, the Pragmatic Position, the No Concepts Position, the Dead Metaphor Position, The Interactionist Theory, and the It's All Metaphor Position.

The pragmatic orientation of the book is stressed not only by such chapters as *The Power of Poetic Metaphor* and *The Metaphoric Structure of a Single Poem* but also by the inclusion of a bibliography comprising a list of recommended publications, an index of topics, and above all, a list of all cognitive metaphors mentioned and exemplified in the book.

This volume will be appreciated by all those who have read previous books on this or related subjects published in the past by the two authors.

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Dorian, Nancy C. (ed.): *Investigating Obsolescence. Studies in Language Contraction and Death*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press 1989. 445 pp. ISBN 0-521-32405-X.

This volume has been prepared by Professor Nancy C. Dorian of Bryn Mawr College with the intention of enhancing scattered research into the nature of this very real problem. It would be no exaggeration to maintain that language extinction is an everyday phenomenon, especially in many multilingual countries where tens or even hundreds of languages coexist and are spoken by relatively few persons - in Sub-Saharan Africa, Oceania, Australia, and America.

This publication may be characterized as essentially descriptive - practical suggestions for language policy seem to be beyond its scope, and it was not the contributors' aim to give advice on how to save languages threatened by extinction. However, the ultimate disappearance of a language is only a part of the problem of the world's linguistic homogenization including also, e.g., the process of dialect levelling. The Introduction is concluded by a list of "Focus Questions", such as problems in locating terminal speakers of a language, skewed performance in terminal linguistic communities, linguistic change as a structured phenomenon, home language transmission and its cessation (pp. 8-10).

The 25 papers are divided into three sections titled "Focus on Context" (pp. 13-164), "Focus on Structure"

(pp. 167-331), and "Invited Commentaries" (pp. 335-394).

Papers included in Section I deal predominantly with social and historical circumstances of language extinction in some countries in Africa, Europe, South Asia, and America. Some of the contributions have a synthetic character, e.g., Gerrit J. Dimmendaal (*On Language Death in Eastern Africa*, pp. 13-31) discusses economic and social factors as causes in the process of extinction and the role of language as a symbol of ethnic identity. In addition to these sociolinguistic problems, Dimmendaal concentrates on the problem of linguistic traces left by an extinct language. David Bradley observes the gradual fading of the Ugong language in Thailand (pp. 33-40) and the process of ethnic minorities' assimilation in the country. Seosamh Watson (pp. 41-59) tries to solve the complicated question as to who is or is not a speaker of a language community, taking data from Scottish and Irish Gaelic. According to him, a key role in the process of extinction is played by a lack of prestige of the doomed language. Most of the remaining contributions in this section focus on the fate of languages functioning outside their own original environment. Einar Haugen (pp. 75-89) deals with the precarious

position of Breton in France, Elizabeth Mertz (pp. 117-137) concentrates upon an Albanian dialect in Greece, Louis Kuter (pp. 91-102) describes the functioning of Nubian in its new home in Egypt, Aleya Rouchdy (pp. 103-116) gives characteristics of the disappearance of Scottish Gaelic in Nova Scotia, and Lucas D. Tsitsipis (pp. 139-148) analyses linguistic variation in Newfoundland French. The last contribution by Jane H. Hill (pp. 149-179) may be regarded as a link between Section I and Section II since the author tries to decipher the role and reasons for the reduction of the frequency of relative clauses in dying languages.

Section II concentrates on changes that hit the structure of dying languages in various parts of the world. Eric Hamp (pp. 197-210) has launched an attempt to identify those symptoms that could be interpreted as portending the menace of language extinction. Allan R. Taylor concentrates upon very much the same problem (pp. 167-179) in North America. Lyle Campbell and Martha C. Muntzel (pp. 181-196) are concerned with structural changes in disappearing languages. It turns out, however, that languages may react in very different ways to the threat of extinction and radical reduction need not always take place. Anyway, the results are contradictory, which is indicated by other papers included here, cf. Marion Lois Huffines' "Estonian among

Immigrants in Sweden" (pp. 227-242), Katrin Maandi's "The Incipient Obsolescence of Poly-synthesis: Cayuga in Ontario and Oklahoma" (pp. 243-258), Aleya Rouchdy's "Some Lexical and Morphological Changes in Warlpiri" (pp. 267-286), e.a.

Section III may be described as a discussion of child language, aphasia, second language acquisition, pidgins, creoles, and immigrant languages, all of them phenomena that have much in common with the process of language extinction. Many plausible generalizations and implications suggested by authors such as Lise Menn (pp. 335-346), Henry M. Hoenigswald (pp. 347-354), Kathryn A. Woolard (pp. 355-368), Suzanne Romaine (pp. 369-384), and Roger W. Anderson (pp. 385-394) will no doubt prove to be useful to sociolinguistics and to scholars involved in the study of theoretical linguistics.

An extensive Bibliography (pp. 395-421) is included in the volume, as well as an Index of Languages (pp. 422-425), and a General Index (pp. 426-445). In addition to a world map showing main languages discussed here, four maps of specific areas have been prepared by the editor to help the potential reader find his bearings in the field.

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