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Review of: Slovene: A Comprehensive Grammar

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tion continues to reflect the Old English SOV order. In his 'Of Markov chains and upholstery buttons: 'Moi, madame, votre chien . . . ' (289–302), JEAN-JACQUES LECERCLE takes a vivid colloquial French phrase and demonstrates how its varying kinds of iconicity both do and do not express increasing determination in the manner of a Markov chain since the meaning of the phrase is pulled together retroactively, at vantage points graphically called 'upholstery buttons' by Jacques Lacan.

Two of the three papers in Part 5 deal with individual authors: 'Iconicity and rhetoric: A note on the iconic force of rhetorical figures in Shakespeare' by WOLFGANG G. MÜLLER (305–22) and 'Iconic dimensions in Margaret Atwood's poetry and prose' by CHRISTINA LJUNGBERG (351–66). [TAWNY L. HOLM, *Indiana University of Pennsylvania.*]

Second language acquisition: An introductory course. 2nd edn. By SUSAN M. GASS and LARRY SELINKER. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum, 2001. Pp. xvi, 488. Cloth $99.95, paper $39.95.

Originally published in 1994, this book has been reissued with new chapters added and new sections added or rewritten. Taking a multidisciplinary approach to adult second language acquisition (SLA) and presenting a dynamic and interactive view of SLA, this book aims to integrate components of SLA as a whole and to 'make the information contained herein available to students with a wide variety of background knowledge' (xiii).

The book consists of fourteen chapters. After presenting a series of basic definitions concerning the study of SLA (1–16), the authors look at interlanguage data in Ch. 2 (17–64), focusing on data collection, data elicitation, and data analysis. Ch. 3 (65–91) offers a historical overview of the role of the native language, 'showing the historical struggle of moving from behaviorist contrastive analysis to a consideration of the actual speech of learners through the prism of errors' (87). Ch. 4 (92–111) covers child first- and second-language acquisition, and Ch. 5 (112–40) considers 'Recent perspectives on the role of previously known languages'. Together with Ch. 3, Ch. 5 helps one gain a better understanding of 'the history of the concept of transfer from its earlier behavioristic origins to today's mentalist conceptualization' (137).

Ch. 6 (141–67) and Ch. 7 (168–91) explore the close relationship between SLA and linguistics, illustrating the acquisition of linguistic phenomena and 'formal syntactic approaches to the study of how second languages are (and are not) learned' (190). In Ch. 8, titled 'Looking at interlanguage processes' (192–221), the authors review psychological approaches to the study of SLA, examining the competition model, the monitor model, alternative modes of knowledge representation, and connectionism. Ch. 9, 'Interlanguage in context' (222–58), deals with the relationship between SLA and sociolinguistics, tackling 'external social and contextual variables' (222) affecting the input and output of a second language, with special emphasis placed on systematic variation, communication strategies, and interlanguage pragmatics. The authors are right in pointing out the interrelationship between SLA and other disciplines.

In Ch. 10 (259–309), the authors dwell on the nature and function of input in second language learning and on the role that output and interaction play in SLA. The focus of Ch. 11, 'Instructed second language learning' (310–28), is on classroom learning. Here the authors look at classroom language, input processing, teachability/learnability, focus on form, and uniqueness of instruction. In Ch. 12 (329–71), the authors scrutinize nonlinguistic factors affecting SLA. The factors examined include social distance, age differences, aptitude, motivation, anxiety, locus of control, personality factors, and learning strategies. Ch. 13, 'The lexicon' (372–97), deals with lexical knowledge, lexical information, and lexical skills, highlighting both the significance and complexities of vocabulary acquisition. Finally, in Ch. 14 (398–414), the authors summarize the findings discussed in the preceding chapters and present an integrated view of SLA, concluding that 'the learning of a second language is a multifaceted endeavor' (398).

Overall, this book is clearly presented and offers a wealth of information essential to the study of SLA. Concise conclusions, relevant suggestions for additional reading, and well-conceived points for discussion complete each chapter. Besides the impressive 671-item bibliography spanning 34 pages, this book also closes with a glossary (9 pages) explaining technical terms, an author index (7 pages), and a detailed subject index (20 pages). All these bring one to the conclusion that this book, at once comprehensive and up-dated, is an ideal introductory course book on SLA. [BINGYUN LI, *Fujian Teachers University.*]

Slovene: A comprehensive grammar. By PETER HERRITY. (Routledge grammars.) London & New York: Routledge, 2000. Pp. xii, 372. $45.99.

This book lives up to its subtitle of 'comprehensive' in several ways. It provides a thorough, up-to-date introduction to Slovene grammatical structure. It also deals with all facets of the written standard in a straightforward fashion that pays careful attention to the differences between written and spoken Slovene. The sections dealing with phonology and

orthography (5–26) are particularly useful as a prelude to the longer grammatical descriptions that follow. There are also sections on word order (333–44) and a general treatment of word formation (345–62), in addition to separate sections on all major and minor parts of speech; no significant aspect of language structure is left without comment. The examples of usage reflect contemporary written sources and represent a fresh new approach rather than a compilation gleaned from older sources.

Despite its relatively small geographic range, Slovene exhibits certain features that complicate any effort at a comprehensive introduction. There are many local dialects, and the language spoken in Ljubljana, the capital, differs somewhat from that codified as the literary standard in such key native works as the latest edition of the Academy dictionary (*Slovar slovenskega knjižnega jezika*, ed. by Anton Bajec et al., Ljubljana: Slovenska akademija znanosti in umetnosti, 1997). The language described by Peter Herrity is Contemporary Standard Slovene—the written, rather than spoken, standard. In bridging the gap between written and colloquial Slovene, H bases his pronunciation on dialects with nontonal word stress, ignoring the older pitch-accent system now characteristic of only a minority of dialect areas. Another useful compromise is H's marking of word stress using an acute accent, with words having two alternative stresses in Contemporary Spoken Slovene being marked with two accents; the reader is referred to the Academy dictionary for finer points of register and local usage. The result is a description of the standard language that is as close as possible to the actual pronunciation most likely to be encountered by a visitor to Slovenia. An ample discussion of relevant historical and dialectal matters rounds out the book's presentation, making it truly 'comprehensive'. The bibliography (363–64) lists other sources dealing in greater detail with diachronic issues, as well as all of the major non-English references to modern Slovene grammatical structure.

This book is a welcome addition to the Routledge grammar series. Since Slovenia's independence in 1991, it represents the only full-length grammar of the standard written language to appear in English at all. As such, it complements a similar general treatment of the spoken standard (William W. Derbyshire, *A basic Slovene reference grammar*, Columbus, OH: Slavica, 1993). It also builds upon T. M. S. Priestly's more concise sketch in *The Slavonic languages* (ed. by Bernard Comrie and Greville G. Corbett, London & New York: Routledge, 1993, pp. 388–451).

Now the official language of an independent country, Slovene has long deserved just such a book as this. By virtue of its position between 'South Slavic' and 'West Slavic' (Slovene became permanently detached from what became Czech and Slovak after the Hungarian invasion of 896 AD), Slovene has always

been important for Slavic historical and areal linguistics, yet it rarely receives the attention it requires. This book is highly recommended both for the uninitiated beginner and the professional Slavicist. [ED-WARD J. VAJDA, *Western Washington University*.]

Sourcebook on Tomini-Tolitoli languages: General information and word lists. Ed. by NIKOLAUS P. HIMMELMANN. (Pacific linguistics 511.) Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, 2001. Pp xxii, 436. $54.00

Based on the fieldnotes which Himmelmann collected during two long fieldtrips in 1988–1989 and 1993, this book presents the fullest data available on the Tomini-Tolitoli languages, a group of closely related Western Malayo-Polynesian languages spoken in northern Central Sulawesi, Indonesia. The languages in question are Balaesang, Dampelas, Pendau, Taje, Lauje, Tajio, Tialo, Dondo, Totoli, and Boano. After the customary front matter, which includes a list of H's consultants for each language, the main part of the book opens with a thirteen-page introduction in Indonesian, outlining the main features of the history of work on the Tomini-Tolitoli languages and the history of what little has previously been done on them. This general information is presented in greater detail in English in the subsequent chapters, which include copious notes about the significant features of the sections into which the word-lists are divided and which also include certain kinds of data on the languages (e.g. tables of personal pronouns and demonstratives) which do not easily fit into the schema within which H has organized the lexical data.

H has followed an old tradition in the description of previously little-known languages by publishing his vocabularies first, although he does provide useful information on the phonology and morphology of the languages, sufficient to enable one to interpret the lexical data provided. In this regard H has been especially astute. The basis for his elicitations has been the Swadesh 100- and 200-word lists, the Sulawesi Umbrella Wordlist used for comparative vocabulary collection on Sulawesi by SIL-Indonesia, and the Holle List (a nineteenth-century Dutch lexical elicitation list with about 1000 entries which was much used in the colonial Dutch East Indies), together with a few other forms which occurred in H's fieldnotes. These lists have been integrated for maximum coverage of important lexemes. In this way the 200 items used in Robert Blust's adaptation of the Swadesh lists for Austronesian languages have also been comprehensively covered. The items are conveniently classified semantically according to a 22-