The editors’ claim that this ‘is a different kind of book’ is entirely justified. As Behrens and Parker point out, where other introductory linguistics books tend to present theory first, this volume takes an inductive approach: readers are invited to embark on a journey of discovery of several different applications of linguistics, and are then exposed to the theory in context. As someone already passionate about language and linguistics, I was not deterred by the conventional ‘theory before application’ approach in my undergraduate linguistics courses, but it is true that this volume is more likely to appeal to learners yet to discover the joys of language and communication, by demonstrating a myriad of ways in which language and linguistics affect our daily lives, and the wide range of career options available in this field.

The volume is divided into five parts (see below), each with a brief introduction and three or four chapters. However, for those who prefer a more traditional approach, the editors provide an alternative table of contents, where the chapters are redivided into eight areas of linguistic theory and subdisciplines, such as Discourse Analysis, Lexicon/Semantics and Pragmatics (some chapters appear under more than one heading). The first chapter of each section is a general chapter, with subsequent chapters narrowing their focus (this is maintained even if one follows the alternative table of contents, except for two of the eight sections). In this way, readers become more linguistically aware as they proceed throughout the book. This approach creates some unavoidable repetition of explanations of linguistic terms and concepts. However, for beginning students of linguistics, this is not necessarily a bad thing, as it allows for multiple exposures to these terms, which both reinforces them, and illustrates the connections between them across different applications of language. As it is clearly not possible to present detailed comments on each of the seventeen chapters here, I will provide a brief overview of each section as a whole, with occasional references to individual chapters.

I. LANGUAGE, EDUCATION, AND CULTURAL CHANGE
As a linguist with a particular interest in intercultural pragmatics and discourse analysis, I was pleased to see the book open with three chapters detailing the differences in language use across various social communities and nationalities. Readers are not only made aware of
these differences, but of our attitudes towards them, and the ramifications these attitudes can have. This is achieved through discussions of accents and dialects, contrasting discourse styles and pragmatic norms, and teaching pronunciation to language students. Overall, this section is highly readable and accessible to non-specialists, although the reference to postvocalic /r/ (p.15) is not clearly explained and does not appear in the glossary, and I would question the overly simplistic definition provided for pragmalinguistic failure (p. 34). Otherwise, this section contains a good range of varied and up to date references, as well as seminal works by Labov (1970), Tannen (1984), and Thomas (1983). The pronunciation exercises in Chapter Three are particularly useful.

II. LITERATURE, TRANSLATION, AND COMPUTERS
This section contains some welcome discussions on literature, dictionaries and the art of translation. The first chapter is an interesting piece on the diverse information to be found in dictionaries, and the advantages and limitations thereof. The author unwittingly makes a strong case for the printed version over the online version, and I found my own love of dictionaries rekindled. However, I would like to have seen Simon Winchester’s (1998, 2003) fascinating narratives on the creation of the Oxford English Dictionary referred to in the main text, rather than just other resources. The explanation of Indo-European could also have benefitted from a visual representation, and reference should also have been made to dictionaries of other varieties of English, rather than American English only.

The next two chapters introduce readers to the many challenges of translation, while explaining clearly many linguistic concepts and terms. The chapter on machine translation provides an interesting explanation of why it remains inadequate in many ways, despite enormous improvements in recent years. After reading about the difficulties of human translation in the previous chapter, one can fully appreciate the problems involved in machine translation! The final chapter in this section is denser than many others, but gives readers an indication of how one can conduct in-depth research on aspects of language in popular culture - taboo words in this case.

III. LANGUAGE, POWER, AND IDENTITY
This section includes discussions on the relationship between these three concepts through talking about sexual assault experiences, naming practices in marriage, and how linguistics informs forensics. While the first chapter is more specific than the first chapters in the other sections, it again illustrates the possibilities for research in the area of discourse analysis, and the application of linguistics to empowerment and social change. Chapter Nine provides an interesting discussion of research undertaken in the US and Russia, comparing women's reasons for changing (or not) their family name to their husband's on marriage, at the same time introducing readers to sociolinguistics and the notions of qualitative and quantitative research. The final chapter in this section details the many applications of language and
linguistics to the law, from the term *legalese* to the use of linguistic evidence for identity authentication, including some interesting case studies. While it is clearly impossible to include everything in such introductory chapters, it is disappointing to note that the valuable work being carried out in the area of language and the law in Australia by eminent scholars such as Eades (2010) and Ryan and McNamara (2011) was not included here, even under other resources.

**IV. FORMS OF LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION**

This section consists of engaging discussions on child language acquisition, American Sign Language (ASL) and the honey bee dance. All chapters offer comprehensive descriptions of linguistic rules and concepts in context, and offer interactive exercises which challenge the reader's knowledge of and ideas about language and the acquisition thereof. The chapter on ASL is particularly interesting and informative, including its history and an explanation of its morphology and syntax, with illustrative photographs of signs and non-manual signals (facial movements). The chapter on the bee dance addresses seven accepted design features of language (such as discreteness, arbitrariness), and tests the bee dance against these to determine whether it can be considered a language or a communication system. All the chapters in this section are immensely readable and enjoyable, and a good illustration of the 'application before theory' approach of this book.

**V. LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION SCIENCE**

The final section consists of four chapters in the areas of speech pathology, neurolinguistics, psycholinguistics, and Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), with a number of interesting case studies. We hear from one speech-language pathologist who introduces us to a range of communication disorders and how she diagnoses and treats them, and another who conducted cross-cultural research on children's narratives in the US and Bhutan, with some interesting and surprising results. The next chapter details how linguistic areas of the brain decline during the normal aging process versus disorders such as Alzheimer's disease and dementia, with a clear explanation of the differences between them, and a discussion of the various linguistic research being carried out on them. The final chapter provides an enlightening discussion of autism and related disorders such as Asperger Syndrome, and the linguistic patterns of children with ASD.

Although difficult to cover all aspects of linguistics in one book, this volume has managed to show how language intersects with the world and with disciplines as varied as anthropology, forensics, law, psychology, social justice and women's studies. The authors' notes to the reader personalise the beginning of each chapter as they share their relationship with language and/or linguistics, and the fact that not all twenty six authors are linguists adds another interesting element to the volume (one is an Assistant Professor of mathematics and a honey bee expert!).
While the collection does indeed live up to its claim of being ‘a different kind of book’, it has not lost any of the useful features of a more traditional undergraduate linguistics textbook. For example, each chapter begins with a list of key points to be covered, and contains interesting and interactive exercises and resources, as well as references to and examples from languages other than English. In addition, the book is well laid out, easy to follow and for the most part (with the exception of two chapters), written clearly and accessibly. There is also a comprehensive glossary which includes chapter references to where the term is discussed in depth. The companion website with student and teacher resources is an innovative addition, with chapter comments, flash cards and multiple choice questions for revision, weblinks (although some of these and other resources are rather US-centric), and videos (for the chapter on ASL).

Overall, the book is informative and highly relevant to today’s students, albeit without many references to blogs or social media such as Facebook, all areas where interesting linguistic research is being undertaken. As a practising linguist, this volume refreshed and broadened my own knowledge of linguistics, and provided me with ideas for teaching. Readers from other disciplines will also enjoy this volume, and potential or beginning students of linguistics will find much of interest here, in particular how language and linguistics affects their lives in many more ways than they would have imagined.

REFERENCES


