

### **Book Review: *SOCIOLINGUISTICS***

Stockwell, Stockwell. 2007. A resource book for students. New York: Routledge.

The book provides a clear division which is given comprehensive introduction to the concepts of sociolinguistics. These fundamental terms and ideas provide the student with a clear overview of the study of the field of sociolinguistics. These are the tools, as it were, with which to operate in the study of language. Essentially, the book is divided into four sections: A, B C and D and section A deals with micro-linguistics. Sections B, C and D deal with macro-linguistics.

Section B is concerned with language and society and is called ‘Development.’ It adds knowledge and builds on key ideas which have been introduced in Section A. Section B, therefore, gives the student a clear grasp of the field and sets him or her thinking as he or she further explores issues.

Topics in this field such as attitudes, accent and variation, euphemism, register, genderlects, patwa and creolisation, code switching, shifts and prestige, singlish and new Englishes, polite and mix-sex conversation, language and ideology, etc, are further developed.

Section C is called ‘Exploration.’ As the word implies, this continues from section C and provides the student with further discussion in the form of dealing with data for investigation. In other words, here the learner explores issues on his own and ‘gets his hands dirty with the real data.’ Topics such as dialectal variation, prestige, gender, creole, new English, politeness, E-discourse, discourse analysis, etc, are further explored and clarified.

Section D of the book which is called ‘Extension is the concluding chapter. This deals with sociolinguistic readings by major writers in the field. They include writers such as Hamer on sociolinguistics and language change, foreign accents in America by Lippi-Green, style and ideology by Fairclough, language contact and code-switching by Edwards, the process of language standardisation by Mirloy, world Englishes by Braj Kachru, linguistic detection by Coulthard, etc.

Furthermore, the book offers the student a list of readings under each topic from P. 227-230. It gives the student a guided and deeper exploration of each topic area. In addition, a comprehensive list of references provided at the end from P. 231-248. The learner can consult these sources at his or her own time.

Clearly, the book enormously enables the student. It provides theory and methods at the right level for beginners. The four sections give the text a coherent and developmental flow of how issues are carried out in this field of language study.

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On the whole, the text is engaging, and an interactive introduction to the subject, with first hand data of real problems of doing sociolinguistics. This in the end this gives the student a lucid grasp and understanding of knowledge, which is gradually gained. The information is wide-ranging in its scope, well-formatted and presented.

It, therefore, deserves a place for every student as a commanding resource book in all libraries and study shelves for students, initially, but also for lecturers and language practitioners.

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