Bilingualism

The Sociopragmatic-Psycholinguistic Interface

Joel Walters

"The book highlights the dynamic nature of bilingualism. It attempts to synthesize a range of theoretical approaches and models, hence encouraging further research that challenges the status quo. It encourages the reader to think of bilingualism and bilingualism research in a new and critical frame of mind."

—*Li Wei*
University of Newcastle upon Tyne

In the past 30 years, the study of bilingualism has been conducted independently by two fields, psycholinguistics and sociolinguistics. This volume merges these two fields, addressing one of the tough problems dividing researchers in bilingualism, conceptually as well as methodologically. Joel Walters proposes a new approach to bilingual processing—the Sociopragmatic-Psycholinguistic (SPPL) Model—which grounds language as a social phenomenon. The author accomplishes this by identifying and organizing evidence from a wide range of linguistic disciplines, merging sociopragmatics, discourse analysis, and ethnography with social cognition, psycholinguistics, and neuroscience.

This book will be of interest to graduate students, scholars in the fields of linguistics, bilingualism, second language acquisition, psycholinguistics, and sociolinguistics. It will be useful to researchers for its comprehensiveness and methodological acumen, and may be appropriate as a supplementary textbook for graduate level courses in bilingualism or for seminars on similar topics.

About the Author

Walters' current research involves studies of codeswitching and pragmatic markers in bilingual discourse, and a project on specific language impairment (SLI) among bilingual children.