

is uttered. Weinrich also examines linguistic devices such as metaphors and irony, which clearly contradict reality and could be considered lies, but which do so with signals marking them as special devices.

The next four essays continue his examination of how language hides thoughts, but do so with an orientation toward literature, social norms, and virtues rather than toward linguistics. In "Jonah's sign," "Politeness, an affair of honor," "Politeness and sincerity," and "The style is the man is the devil," Weinrich ponders such questions as whether a tall tale can reveal an important truth; how honor became a male virtue with rigid boundaries while politeness became a female virtue, full of subtleties and nuances; when, historically, politeness of manner was at its height and when it fell to be of less importance than sincerity; and how style, intrinsic and unique to each writer, potentially overrides content. Relying heavily on literary and philosophical references to make their points, these essays examine the ethics and morals that complicate the issue of defining the concept of lying.

As a linguist, I found the first essay to be most relevant for linguistic readers; however, I appreciate that Weinrich brings other perspectives on language to his book. While less linguistic in nature than "The linguistics of lying," the other four essays nonetheless examine his overarching question of how language hides thoughts. Although it is clear that Weinrich is writing as a philosopher, anyone interested in language will enjoy these essays.

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THOMAS E. MURRAY AND BETH LEE SIMON (eds.), *Language variation and change in the American Midland: A new look at 'Heartland' English*. Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 2006. Pp. ix, 319. Hb \$165.

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The editors of this volume have brought together an excellent collection of original essays that discuss issues of importance in the accounting of language patterns in American English and, in particular, in the definition of the "Midland" as a dialect area. As Simon states in an introductory piece, "The scrutiny given Midland dialect here raises fundamental issues regarding the basic notion of DIALECT and, consequently, how we theorize patterns of language variation" (p. xi). The essays present the results of empirical work using modern methodologies that incorporate statistical, archival, ethnographic, and textual investigations. These studies provide a fairly comprehensive picture of the Midland and its speakers, but they go beyond this to provide insight into the dynamics of language change and geosocial patterns.

The volume opens with an introductory section including two pieces by the editors. The first, Simon's "Introducing the Midland: What is it, where is it, how do we know?," examines some of the challenges that linguists face in the effort to define REGIONALITY and the Midland region, and portrays the volume as "a companion to Timothy Frazer's (1993) 'Heartland' English." The second, "What is dialect? Revisiting the Midland," by Murray & Simon, discusses the controversy surrounding the existence of the Midland English dialect. The editors firmly conclude, in agreement with Kurath 1949 "that Midland dialect does, in fact, exist" (2). To support this statement, they offer a list of 17 grammatical items that "define and validate a Midland variety of American English" (15). Their claim is not that these features occur exclusively in the Midland nor that everyone in the Midland uses them, but that it is the particular combination and frequency of the 17 items that are evidence of a Midland grammar.

The remaining essays, all valuable and interesting to read, and including plenty of maps, tables, and figures to illustrate the findings, are organized into three parts. Part I, "The evolving Midland," includes three papers. Leading off is Sharon Ash's "The North American Midland as a dialect area," which presents lexical, syntactic and phonological data that show the coherence of the geographic core of the Midland and the less similar features in the geographically peripheral areas. The two

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other essays focus on variation in the vowels of Midland English: "Tracking the low back merger in Missouri," by Matthew Gordon, and "Evidence from Ohio on the evolution of /æ/," by Eric Thomas.

Part II, "Defining the Midland," comprises essays by Edward Callary on the use of geographic names in dialect geography, Thomas Donahue on the dialects of Youngstown, Ohio, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Kirk Hazen on West Virginia Appalachian language features, and Michael Montgomery on "alternative *one*."

Part III, "Power and perception," contains contributions by Richard W. Bailey, Timothy Frazer, and Cynthia Bernstein, focusing mainly on attitudes about Heartland (Midland) English, and an article by Betsy E. Evans, Rika Ito, Jamila Jones, & Dennis R. Preston on accommodation to the Northern Cities Chain Shift.

Part IV, "Other languages, other places," includes four essays. Two of these focus on other languages: Ellen Johnson & David Boyle discuss the increase of Spanish speakers in Dalton, Georgia, resulting from Latino immigration; Steve Hartman Keiser deals with the spread of Deutsch (Pennsylvania German) to the Midwest. Chad Thompson examines some features of the English of the Swiss Amish in Indiana. Mike Linn & Ronald Regal apply statistics to data from the *Linguistic Atlas of the Upper Midwest* to see if Northern and Midland dialects are significantly different. They find that differences exist with respect to lexical forms, but that different grammatical forms correlate with social group and sex rather than with region.

The volume closes with an extensive list of references and a comprehensive index. The editors have put together a well-rounded book with well-written articles that make an important contribution to our understanding of American English. Applied linguists, sociolinguists, dialectologists, and all those interested in language variation and change will find it useful, interesting, and relevant.

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ANA CELIA ZENTELLA (ed.), *Building on strength: Language and literacy in Latino families and communities*. New York: Teachers College Press, 2005. Pp. 224. Pb \$23.95.

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The 11 essays in Zentella's edited volume investigate language socialization practices of U.S. Latinos and together make possible a conceptualization of Latino language and literacy that resists "a view of Latino parents as monolithic and unconcerned about education" (p. 3). In her introduction, Zentella briefly traces the history of language socialization research and introduces the framework that undergirds the volume.

In chap. 1, Zentella unpacks the premises of language socialization research, focusing in particular on the language/culture interface, and calls readers' attention to both the "promises and pitfalls" of language socialization research. Chaps. 2–5 pay attention to the roles of the family and the church in language socialization. Robert Bayley & Sandra Schecter's chapter, "Family decisions about schooling and Spanish maintenance," highlights the tensions that arise for some Mexicano parents in negotiating success in school with cultural and linguistic maintenance. In "*Mexicanos* in Chicago," Marcia Farr & Elias Dominguez Barajas analyze the ways that the *ranchero* variety of Spanish fig-

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