

FOREWORD

William Grabe

OVERVIEW OF VOLUME 20

The twentieth volume of ARAL, as an anniversary edition, explores the evolving discipline of applied linguistics from a variety of perspectives. Rather than ask fifteen authors to provide general positions on the status of applied linguistics, the invitation to contribute to ARAL 20 asked authors to consider the status of applied linguistics from the perspective of their own fields of study and major topical issues. Contributors received a small set of questions asking them to situate their own fields of study within a framework informed by applied linguistics. For example, contributors were asked 1) how their own research sub-fields were located within applied linguistics, 2) how applied linguistics will make the strongest contributions in the coming decade—from the perspective of their own sub-fields, and 3) what obstacles confront their sub-fields and applied linguistics more generally. Some of the authors have addressed these issues explicitly while others have recognized more implicitly the frame of reference that is provided by applied linguistics.

In a number of cases, the natural tensions generated by a relatively ill-defined and interdisciplinary domain such as applied linguistics have led to a questioning of the role that applied linguistics plays in certain fields (e.g., literacy, second language acquisition); other authors have noted a complementary tension—the umbrella of applied linguistics may be fragmenting to a number of more autonomous sub-fields (e.g., second language acquisition, language testing). The tensions are even apparent in discussions of language teacher education with its

shift away from the pervasive influence of linguistic foundations as a given orientation and a movement toward general teacher education and reflective practices—a move from methods to methodology and from language knowledge to teaching knowledge.

I will refrain, at this point, from offering an extended perspective on applied linguistics since such a perspective is offered in the first chapter of the volume. I will simply point out that a range of views on the status and scope of applied linguistics as a discipline appears in many of the chapters to follow. In particular, Widdowson and Tucker provide extended explorations of this very topic. Widdowson draws on Hymes' theory of communicative competence to make a persuasive argument that applied linguists are uniquely positioned to mediate issues of language knowledge and use in relation to their applications in real-world contexts, particularly with respect to language teaching and teacher training. Tucker notes that there are many conflicts and tensions with any disciplinary interpretation of applied linguistics, and there are dangers that the conceptual center is under centrifugal pressure with a real potential to separate into many smaller disconnected domains. Nevertheless, he remains confident that, over the next decade, applied linguistics will strengthen, supported by the central role of language for learning in all fields, the interdisciplinary advantages inherent to applied linguistics, and the real applications and realistic solutions that it can offer. As Tucker notes, "at some point, policy makers and prospective funders will come to realize the centrality of language issues for educational and national development."

ARAL 20 presents perspectives from a number of research fields: Chapters cover language teaching and teacher training, literacy, language policy, language assessment, second language acquisition, and second language processing. In some respects, then, the volume is like other past overview volumes of *ARAL* (see Volumes 10, 15, 19). However, it differs in one major respect: The authors of each chapter consider how their fields are situated within applied linguistics, and whether or not such positioning is problematic.

On reviewing the many contributions to this volume, it is clear that no one person will have all the answers to the many questions raised about the future role and status of applied linguistics, and, if nothing else, this volume is a testament to the many interpretations available as well as the complexities involved. One goal of the volume, given this multivocal complexity, is to allow readers to find positions and views, both explicit and implicit, that will accord with their own sense of applied linguistics as a discipline. In this respect, the volume is intended to generate discussion that advances our understanding of applied linguistics, expands the range of research that can be carried out under its umbrella, and promotes the potential for interdisciplinary connections.

PROCEDURAL NOTES

Since the *ARAL* series is, in part, meant to be a research reference tool, the following procedural notes are intended as a guide. All bibliographic entries follow the basic format of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA), although a unique citation form has emerged for the *ARAL* series. With respect to internal citation, the two types of bibliographies—*annotated* and *unannotated*—should be viewed as integrated, so that in instances where there is more than one entry for a given author for a particular year (e.g., 1990a; 1990b), it is possible that either of the entries may occur in either of the bibliographies; that is, 1990a may be in the annotated bibliography while 1990b may be in the unannotated bibliography, or vice versa. No items are duplicated between the two separate bibliographic lists; that is, the item identified as 1990a will *not* occur in both the annotated and the unannotated bibliography. Both types of bibliography—annotated and unannotated—are arranged in strict alphabetical order by the last name of the first author. Individual entries will precede works co-authored or co-edited by that same author (or set of authors). Repeated authors are indicated by the use of a solid line [_____] of the same length as the name (or names) it replaces. Sources that include cited articles may not necessarily be represented in either bibliographic list if they are not in general germane to the particular area under discussion; in general, belletristic works cited as examples (or for more literary purposes) are not included in either bibliographic list, though they are identified in detail in the article in which they occur. In all texts contributed to the *ARAL* series, an editorial effort has been made to conform generally to the usages and spellings common in the United States. Where possible, English translations of all non-English sources are provided. All contributed papers have been composed specifically for publication in the *ARAL* series and have not (unless otherwise specifically noted) appeared elsewhere previously, although their contents may have been used in whole or in part in oral presentations by the author(s).

The Editorial Directors do not assume responsibility for the positions taken by contributors. Contributions often involve issues of policy as well as more clearly language-related issues. The Editorial Directors wish to be held blameless for opinions and errors of fact expressed by any contributor. The Editor apologizes in advance for any editorial errors that may have crept into the texts and accepts full responsibility for any such editorial errors, but not for substantive errors which are the sole responsibility of each contributor. Bibliographies are prepared and submitted by the contributors; the Editor makes every effort to assure the accuracy of each bibliographic entry that appears in every volume of *ARAL*, but in the case of materials not readily available through libraries or other bibliographic sources in the United States, the Editor is dependent upon the accuracy of material submitted by the contributors. In some few instances, inclusive pages for cited articles, which originally appeared in anthologies or collections, are not given; such

omissions occur only when the original source is not available to the Editor and/or when the contributor has not supplied the appropriate pagination. In materials listed in well-known storage and retrieval networks like ERIC and the British Council's ELT Documents, reference numbers are also provided; when titles available only through electronic data bases are cited, every effort is made to provide an accession number (e.g., ERIC files).

This twentieth volume of *ARAL* continues the practice, first established in the third volume, of including a running index of authors cited and topics covered in previous issues of *ARAL*. However, this list became so large that it has become necessary to eliminate the listings from the earliest volumes. Thus, Volume 6 included a cumulative bibliography of Volumes 1 through 5; beginning with Volume 7 as each new year is added, the oldest year's citations have been dropped from the list. In this issue (Volume 20), the cumulative citation listing will include citations from Volumes 15 through 19. Beginning with Volume 5, a Contributor Index was added to the series; in each issue, previous contributors to *ARAL* are indexed in a single alphabetical list. With the *ARAL* series now in its second decade, the Contributor Index lists articles appearing in the previous ten years (Volume 10 through Volume 19). There is also a ten-year Subject Index.

The indices are presented separately—an *Author* Index, a *Subject* Index, and a *Contributor* Index—at the end of each volume. The Author Index cites every item that has appeared in the bibliographies accompanying each article. Each author citation is accompanied by one or more Roman numerals and Arabic numbers (e.g., Sharp, D. X/120). The Roman numeral represents the number of the *ARAL* volume in which the author is cited, and the Arabic number represents the page(s) in that volume in which the citation occurs. Thus, X/120 means that Sharp is cited in *ARAL* X (the volume published in 1990). Multiple sets of numbers (e.g., Bazerman, C. X/156; XI/72, XI/82, aXI/109) mean that the author is cited in more than one place. The prefixed lower case 'a' (e.g., in aXI/109) indicates that the citation occurs in an annotated bibliography. To the extent that *ARAL* may be said to represent the field accurately, the Author Index may be used as a citation index and be a supporting criterion for merit and promotion evaluation in U.S. institutions.

The Subject Index provides the traditional alphabetical list of topics covered, giving inclusive pages by volume for the point at which the discussion occurs (e.g., X/274–276); this entry indicates that the subject is covered on pp. 274–276 in Volume X. Multiple number sets (e.g., Variationist sociolinguistics: V/48–53; XI/3–16) indicate that the subject (*variationist sociolinguistics*, in this case) is discussed in two places in the series, once in Volume V on pp. 48–53, and again in Volume XI on pp. 3–16.

The Contributor Index provides a traditional alphabetical listing of all contributors to the *ARAL* series for the previous ten years. The citation includes the complete title of the contribution as well as the name of the contributor. Each entry, as in the other indices, carries two designations (e.g., X/163); the first number designates the volume in which the contribution occurs (in this case Volume X), and the second number indicates the page in that volume on which the contribution begins.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This twentieth volume is my last as Editor of *ARAL*. Beginning with Volume 21, Mary McGroarty, Northern Arizona University, will assume the Editorship. During the ten years that I have been Editor, I have been very fortunate to have been able to draw upon the experience and insights of the Editorial Directors of *ARAL*: Charles Ferguson, Robert Kaplan, Mary McGroarty, Merrill Swain, Dick Tucker, Henry Widdowson, and Janice Yalden. Their guidance and support have allowed *ARAL* to grow significantly as an applied linguistics publication. Over the last ten years, I have also been aided by the suggestions and comments of the Advisory Board, and I thank them for their willingness to support and promote *ARAL* and my work as Editor. They have served as a very important resource for planning and for the nomination of *ARAL* contributors.

Closer to home, I would like to thank my Editorial Assistant, Beth Yule, for all the extra time and effort that is required to keep *ARAL* running smoothly. It would not be possible for me to produce *ARAL* without her, and for ten years she has managed to keep her sense of humor throughout the entire process. I would like to thank Jeffrey Popko, Latricia Trites, and Harley Stoller for proofreading the manuscript and pointing out many editorial matters that I had overlooked. I would also like to thank Julie McCormick for computer consultation, for editorial assistance, and for putting the final copy through a page layout program. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the support and assistance of the Department of English and the College of Arts and Sciences at Northern Arizona University. For ten years, they have provided the Editor with the basic facilities and have absorbed some of the incidental costs associated with the production of this series.

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