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COULTER H. GEORGE, *Expressions of agency in ancient Greek*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005. Pp. x, 288. Hb. \$85.

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Expressions of agency in ancient Greek is a meticulous study of the development of passive-with-agent constructions (PACs) in ancient Greek, covering the timespan from Preclassical Greek to the 12th century CE. The author focuses on the complex history of the various, primarily prepositional, agent markers of passive voice verbs in various moods and tenses, such as participles or perfect verbs. He defines a passive verb as a detransitivized verb that retains the idea of agency whether or not it is expressed. The agent is to be defined as an oblique nominal occurring with a passive verb that would be the subject if the sentence were rewritten in the active voice.

Comparing this work with others on the same subject in the early and recent bibliography, on the basis at least of the book's internal evidence, no similar treatment of agency in ancient Greek has been made or attempted in terms of its completeness. The author draws comparisons with other languages and traces central themes such as the passive voice back to Proto-Indo-European and to other classical languages such as Sanskrit or Latin. An important feature of this book is that C. H. George has traced similarities in the expression of agency between ancient Greek and the Mayan language K'iche.

Some of the major analytical tools used by George in this treatise are an animacy hierarchy referring most directly to the relations between the agent and its patient; the role of the verb in selecting the proper preposition as an agent marker – for example, whether or not we are dealing with morphological or suppletive variants of the verb; and most crucially, the particular verb semantics classified on a semantic cline (verbs of sending, telling, etc.). Such analytical concepts are applied to a vast and thoroughly examined collection of extracts ranging from Homeric Greek to Classical prose and poetry (tragedy, comedy) to later periods, including the Septuagint, the New Testament, and much later texts such as the epic of Digenis Akritis. In all these, both the simultaneous use and the replacement over time of one preposition by another become central foci of the book's core.

Had the author included some information on social and cultural parameters, the book would be quite relevant to a sociolinguist's interests. However, this by no means suggests that pragmatic factors such as, for example, the role of PACs in the expression of narrative theme and others are not discussed in the text. Agency is a very broad issue in the study of languages and linguistics that almost resembles a total linguistic fact, in a spirit similar to how anthropologists view the concept of the "Gift" – that is, as a total social fact. Important aspects of this totality, the morphosyntactic and semantic evolution of PACs in ancient Greek, are carefully treated in this book. *Expressions of agency in ancient Greek* is addressed to language typologists, historical linguists, comparativists, and primarily classicists.

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MARTIN J. BALL (ED.), *Clinical sociolinguistics*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2005. Pp. xx, 335. Pb \$39.95.

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Clinical sociolinguistics is aimed primarily at speech-language pathologists (SLPs) and similar professionals. Its purpose is to bridge the historical gap between sociolinguistics and clinical speech-

language pathology. The book is relevant not only to SLPs, however, but also to sociolinguists interested in the clinical applications of their field and in addressing the gap between the two fields.

The first of its two sections discusses major research and ideas from sociolinguistics in the past half-century. In the chapter "Language, communities, networks and practices," the concept of the language community and social network theory are introduced. "Regional and social variation" discusses how language varies with respect to geography, class, and ethnicity. "Language and gender" highlights some of the key research of the area, as well as discussing the relevance of feminist theory in linguistics. "Bilingualism and multilingualism" defines key terminology in bi- and multilingualism. "Code-switching and diglossia" expands further on two key topics from the previous chapter. "Language and power" describes the field of conversational analysis and the insights it has given into how power is constructed, maintained, or denied through discourse. "Language and culture" discusses discourse markers as "carriers" of culture. "African American English" gives an overview of this dialect, its origins, and its grammatical features. "Language change" summarizes synchronic research on language change in Yorkshire. "Language planning" discusses various types and methodologies of planning, and their interaction with language policy. "Dialect perception and attitudes to variation" discusses how attitudes toward groups are reflected in attitudes toward their language or dialect.

The second section demonstrates how the accumulated knowledge of sociolinguistics can be applied to the clinical practice of speech-language pathology. "Acquisition of sociolinguistic variation" discusses research on the acquisition of nonstandard dialects. "Bi- and multilingual language acquisition" lays out a typology of different means of becoming bi- or multilingual. "Assessing language in children who speak a nonmainstream dialect of English" mentions several features used in standardized language testing, and the criticisms these have encountered when used with children who do not speak a standard dialect. "Childhood bilingualism: Distinguishing difference from disorder" highlights which behaviors in language testing are a sign of differing linguistic and cultural norms, and which are likely to be indicative of a disorder. "Speech perception, hearing impairment and linguistic variation" summarizes research on differences in speaker gender and dialect identification between hearing adults and adults with cochlear implants. "Aphasia in multilingual populations" discusses improvements in identification and treatment since the development of the Bilingual Aphasia Test. "Designing assessments for multilingual children" explains that a bilingual's languages are used in different domains, and that assessing one does not provide an accurate assessment of proficiency in the other. "Literacy as a sociolinguistic process for clinical purposes" advocates for a more holistic approach to dyslexia. "The sociolinguistics of sign languages" summarizes the history of the Deaf community in America, as well as research on variation in American Sign Language. "Managing linguistic diversity: interpreters in speech-language pathology" discusses the best methods to evaluate and remove barriers to interpreter-mediated interaction with clients.

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KATE BURRIDGE, *Weeds in the garden of words: Further observations on the tangled history of the English language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005. Pp. ix, 196. Pb \$19.99.

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In this sequel to *Blooming English*, Kate Burridge continues her metaphor of the English language as a garden, this time by examining its "weeds." As any gardener will tell you, a weed is a plant which dares to grow where it's not wanted; by extension, Burridge's "weeds" are lexical and grammatical forms in English seen as unwanted by prescriptivists. However, just as one gardener's weed is another's beautiful wildflower, words with very positive connotations nowadays were once an insult reserved for the evil (e.g., *wizard*), and forms such as passives, which so annoy modern style manual writers, are plentiful in many of the greatest works of English literature. Like Burridge's previous volume,