

conversation in British English, including telephone interactions, radio phone-ins, and face-to-face family interactions. Ch. 5 provides information on the data set and transcription methods. Subsequent chapters in this section begin with a consideration of previous literature on the selected sound objects, including dictionary definitions and interactional studies that emphasize affect perception. For each sound object, Reber describes the prosodic-phonetic packaging, then provides conversation excerpts to exemplify usage. A line-by-line interactive conversational analysis is used to contextually situate sound objects and draw attention to their conversational function. Figures showing wave form and pitch contours demonstrate the prosodic contours of sound objects sampled from contextually situated speech. In many cases, rhythmic analysis of excerpts is also shown, to emphasize the positioning of sound objects.

Ch. 6 analyses examples of *oh* with “high and pointed” prosody as a performance of surprise in repair sequences and news telling. Ch. 7 focuses on three distinct prosodic-phonetic packagings of *ooh* responses in radio phone-ins and troubles talk or complaint sequences. Ch. 8 analyzes the use of *ah* in responses to troubles talk or bad news, considering the difference between self- and other- directed affect. Ch. 9 briefly considers clicks and whistles as affect-laden sound objects external to standard British English phonemics. Reber concludes with a number of methodological and theoretical insights, emphasizing how sequential and prosodic aspects of sound objects create affect. She also considers the effect of referential vagueness on affective accountability, “pro forma” displays of affect, and nonaffect laden sound objects.

This book presents a wealth of detail on nonreferential affect markers in English and encourages further analysis of the relationship between affect and sound objects.

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MARKUS BIESWANGER, HEIKO MOTSCHENBACHER & SUSANNE MÜHLEISEN (eds.),
*Language in its socio-cultural context: New explorations in gendered, global
and media uses*. Frankfurt: Peter Lang. Pp. 253. Hb. €42.50.

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With the increase of, on one hand, interest in gender issues, and the rise of feminist voices calling for more exploration of the various arenas related to gender

and gendered expectations, and, on the other hand, questions about the effect of the increasingly globalized world with significant, extensive use of new technologies and media, research dealing with the relationships between language, gender, globalization, and media is needed. *Language in its socio-cultural context: New explorations in gendered, global and media uses* aims at responding to these new queries. It is a pioneering book that crosses different research areas—notably sociolinguistics, gender studies, cultural studies, media studies, and comparative linguistics.

With its twelve chapters, this book is a collection of a wide range of articles that closely examine language in relation to gender and globalization and that are in line with more recent perspectives on linguistic change and reforms regarding gender. These research papers present a variety of gender-related perspectives, ranging from the local, as in Friederike Braun and Geoffrey Haig's "When are German 'girls' feminine?" (69–85), which presents the results of an investigation designed to uncover the role played by the semantic factor of age in the way speakers select agreement forms associated with the German word *Mädchen*, to the global, as in Markus Bieswanger's "Gendered language use in computer-mediated communication typography in text messaging" (157–73), which focuses on gendered patterns in typographic variation among text messages written by female and male senders, taking a closer look at the use of shortened forms in this technologically mediated environment. Other papers focus on language change and reforms in different contexts, as in Anne Pauwels' "Socially motivated language reform in a global lingua franca: The case of gender reform in English" (21–34), which addresses the issue of finding a balance between a universal desire for linguistic equality between sexes and local sociocultural conditions in the context of English. Janet Holmes' "Gender, leadership and discourse in New Zealand workplaces" (85–109) investigates how New Zealand women and men demonstrate stylistic diversity and sensitivity to context in the ways in which they enact their leadership roles at work.

An interesting investigation of how gender and language variation influence one another in Creole communities is Bettina Migge's "Variation and change in a Creole community: An assessment of social and linguistic processes" (219–36), which explores the notion of the Creole continuum in an urban context. A similar focus can also be found in Susanne Mühleisen's "Variation and change in Caribbean Creole pronominal system: What does *allyuh* mean?" (237–51), where the researcher takes up Marlis Hellinger's (1985, 1998) research on variation and change in Creole pronominal systems. Mühleisen studies the meaning of second person plural pronouns in Caribbean Creoles, with particular reference to the Trinidadian Creole second person plural pronoun *allyuh*.

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