

Nancy, France (M. Deneire) and of Hmong in Laos (C. Ly), on languages in contact and the apparent extinction of a regional dialect from Comté de Nice called le Vésubien (Y. Gilli), on the German variety called Kanak resulting from Turkish immigration to Germany (A. Herdam), on pluralism in Conakry, République de Guinée (G. Holtzer), on linguistic policies and language management in the former Yugoslavia (V. Janjic), on identity and linguistic variation among Pakistanis in Manchester, UK (C. Paulin), on bilingualism in Paraguay and the urban consequences on its two official languages, Spanish and Guaraní (C. Pic-Gillard), on linguistic rivalries in Northern Ireland (M. Savaric), and, finally, on bilingualism and language policies in the Iles Baléares (S. Sintas).

All the chapters are well written and contribute to a better understanding of specific sociolinguistic matters from different regions or groups. Several of these issues are similar in certain ways but differ depending on historical, political, and social contexts in which they are raised and lived. Some chapters offer very specific linguistic analysis; others offer a more macro view of a particular group. On the whole, this edited volume provides interesting contributions toward a better understanding of languages in contact in multilingual urban settings.

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VALERIE E. BESAG, *Understanding girls' friendships, fights and feuds: A practical approach to girls' bullying*. Maidenhead, Berkshire: Open University Press/McGraw-Hill Education, 2006. Pp. 237. Hb £60.00. Pb £19.99.

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This volume addresses the question of bullying among young girls through a detailed investigation of the strategies and language employed by girls to control peer relations. Section 1 accordingly introduces the issue of bullying, the lack of any rationale for the fractious nature of girls' friendships, and the covert nature of their forms of aggression to entice some into their groups and exclude others. The core of the book consists of a 16-month study examining girls' conversations and social behavior in an informal activity club.

The five chapters in Section 2 delve into gender differences in children's social behavior. Apart from considering the fundamental role of the peer group and its impact on young girls' fluctuating friendship bonds, the prominent role of talk in girls' play activities is discussed. The cooperative nature of girls' games is observed as closely related to their preferred use of indirect modes of aggression. Constant reciprocal evaluations aiming for conformity of attitude or appearance and control of relationships are claimed to shape social exclusion, as a form of bullying among the girls. The key role of grouping in young people's socialization processes is explored in the following section. In contemplating not only young girls' social need for groups, cliques, and gangs, but also their search for close emotional commitment, the fragile nature of their friendships is analyzed by taking into account the part played by dyads, triads, and lovers' quarrels in creating a sense of unease and weariness in groups. The disputatious and unstable character of girls' friendships is explained on grounds of a bid for popularity, which – equated with leadership – seems to be used or abused by young girls to test their positions of power.

The language of conflict is thoroughly studied throughout all four chapters in the fourth section of the volume as a tool to wield power and influence group membership. Through an investigation of the functions, topics, prototypical frameworks, culprits, and targets involved in such conflictive interactions among girls, grassing, insult, gossip, and rumor are accordingly highlighted as key mechanisms for bullying. Chaps. 16 and 17 proceed to focus on emotional issues including the destructive effects of bullying – not only on the victims but also on the bullies themselves – and the role of jealousy in triggering accusations about sexual reputation and provocative appearance. The fractured nature of friendship bonds among young girls is dealt with in Section 7 with a series of case studies illustrating the bullying strategies utilized by girls to acquire and maintain power.

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In addition to the various approaches suggested at the end of individual chapters, the last two chapters in the volume offer parents, caregivers, and schools specific strategies for supporting individual girls and tackling bullying problems as a whole. In combining theoretical explanations, analysis of case studies, and practical hints, this book may thus be particularly useful for educators, psychologists, social workers, and parents concerned with the issue of girls' bullying in school.

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RUTH MACE, CLARE J. HOLDEN AND STEPHEN SHENNAN (eds.), *The evolution of cultural diversity: A phylogenetic approach*. London: UCL Press, 2005 Pp. x, 291. Pb \$34.95.

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This book is in two parts, the first of which presents papers on unified anthropological themes and the second, coevolutionary approaches to some anthropological questions, involving the integration of findings from more than one anthropological field.

Three chapters are case studies in linguistic phylogeny. Despite what the back cover copy says, none of the contributors seems to be a linguist per se (though several worked on projects involving linguistic material), and it shows. Simon Greenhill & Russell Gray's "Dating population dispersal hypotheses: Pacific settlement, phylogenetic trees and Austronesian languages" uses lexical material from Robert Blust's as yet unpublished *Austronesian comparative dictionary* and combines it with distance-based phylogenetic computer packages such as NeighborNet, in order to test the probability of the accuracy of five hypotheses so far advanced regarding the settlement of the Pacific by waves of speakers of Austronesian languages. Their Austronesian trees make several grave errors; for instance, they link Chamorro and Palauan together, but separate Niuean from Tongan, bundling Tongan together with Samoan, which they separate from its Nuclear Polynesian sister Rennellese, and they fail to recognize that Cebuano and Hiligaynon are more closely related to one another within Bisayan than either is to Kapampangan. This article provides three major Austronesian trees, all different, and all full of historical improbabilities.

Matters improve in "Comparison of maximum parsimony and Bayesian Bantu language trees" by Clare J. Holden, Andrew Meade & Mark Pagel. This chapter presents (broadly similar) trees compiled according to the methodologies outlined in the title, and relies on lexical evidence for 95 Bantu and Bantoid languages. But even here several languages, such as Mambwe, move around considerably within the tree branches depending upon whether Bayesian or other techniques are used, and whether morphological as well as lexical criteria are invoked.

"Untangling our past: Languages, splits, trees and networks" by David Bryant, Flavia Filimon & Russell D. Gray focuses on the modern Indo-European languages. Their data source comprises the Swadesh 200-word lists compared in Isidore Dyen, Joseph Kruskal & Paul Black's *An Indo-European classification of 1992* (Philadelphia: *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*, 82[5]), covering material from more than 80 modern Indo-European languages. Some findings of the 1992 study were startling: Sets of pairwise percentages showed English and the Surinamese creole Sranan Tongo (nonexistent before c. 1650!) as earliest offshoots from Germanic; Aromunian alone rather than it and Daco-Romanian as first offshoot of the Romance languages; and no especially close historical relationship between Indic and Iranian languages. All of these findings, reproduced here on p. 82, demonstrably are ahistorical nonsense.

My overall conclusion is that phylogenetic software designed to construct family trees can produce sets of different-looking and mutually incompatible trees. Unfortunately, many software packages used here consistently fail to identify sets of exclusively shared innovations, which are the gold nuggets of linguistic phylogenetic work, and thereby misidentify the closest relatives of many lan-