

BOOK REVIEW

Julia S. Falk, *Linguistics and Language*.
Xerox College Publishing Company. 1973

paperback \$5.95

One of the most helpful and best organized of the recent rash of books on the 'newest thinking' in the expanding field of linguistics.

Falk includes a good introductory overview of modern linguistics and, in the succeeding sections, covers such topics as dialect and slang usage, language change, and how all the components of a complete grammar work together to produce sentences in a given language.

Of special interest to language teachers are the two sections on language acquisition and teaching, covering possible application of psycholinguistic findings to language teaching. The presentation of language and literature in the primary, secondary, and college levels is discussed. However, in these sections the author loses some of her earlier objectivity. In the discussion of

language acquisition theories she is clearly persuaded by the rationalist view that exposure is a more important factor in learning a language than are drills of any sort.

Furthermore, her summaries often fall short of the anticipations one expects from the evidence she introduces. And, on a minor note, some of the works cited in the body of the text fail to appear in her bibliography.

Nevertheless, *Linguistics and Language* is highly recommended. Any dedicated language teacher could read this book without any linguistic background. All new terms are set off in bold face type and are clearly explained. The fields of linguistics and language are well covered and done in an interesting and easy to follow manner.

by William Gallagher