must be asked about an archeological find that appears to include writing: whether it is genuine, and whether or not the symbols in question are really a script. The author examines how decipherment proceeds and how it must be verified as a scientific hypothesis by testing on additional data that have been held back, as in modern computer speech and language research.

In Ch. 5, the author discusses some common assumptions about literacy and its social impact. He argues that script complexity has almost no correlation with literacy and that illiteracy is a direct result of economic and social conditions, not the difficulty of the writing systems involved. Ch. 6 gives a brief history of the mechanical treatment of language. It begins with a description of early attempts to produce speech and interpret text mechanically, and then discusses the influence of telegraphy, the computer encoding of text, and the Braille system. Ch. 7 starts with an overview of technologies related to two principal components of a DIALOG SYSTEM, namely the speech recognition and speech synthesis components. The author argues that, at the language-modeling end, research should achieve a more complete understanding of natural language in order to propose new techniques, rather than just continuing to try to improve the current state of the art. Ch. 8 traces the development of machine translation systems, which require all the natural langue technologies including parsers, semantic analyzers, and morphological analyzers, generators, and alignment systems. It gives an introduction to statistical machine translation and discusses the uses and limitations of this technology.

Finally, Sproat discusses the future of language technology for augmentative and alternative communication devices, stressing areas inadequately explored by computer science. He highlights the importance of investment in developing language technologies, talks about their social implications, and focuses on the need to consider their consequences so that language technologies are not abused. The author's expertise is wide reaching, his style is clear, and his examples are varied and accessible.

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M. A. K. HALLIDAY & JONATHAN J. WEBSTER, *Continuum companion to systemic functional linguistics*. London: Continuum, 2010. Pp. viii, 299. Hb. $150, Pb. $49.95.

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The *Continuum companion to systemic functional linguistics* is a welcome addition to the growing number of collections of readings in Systemic Functional Linguistics

(SFL). This volume is meant to complement readings published in the two co-edited volumes of *Continuing discourse on language* by Ruqaiya Hasan, Christian M. I. M. Matthiessen, & Jonathan J. Webster (Equinox, 2005, 2007). The book contains thirteen chapters plus a preface by Halliday. The chapters are thematically organized and cover areas including SFL theory, language evolution, linguistic computing, language disorders, and discourse studies. The first chapter, by Webster, is an introduction to the volume, comprising a very brief note on SFL's evolution through Halliday's early life and illustrations of a few theoretical concepts. Chs. 2 and 3 explore core theoretical issues. In Ch. 2, Matthiessen is concerned with the "ideas and new directions" emerging in SFL, with particular focus on those "closely related to applications and fundable research projects." He provides a detailed developmental survey of the areas in which SFL has been increasingly successful since its inception. In Ch. 3, Halliday describes the architecture of systemic grammar and explains how SFL is a general linguistic theory.

The next two chapters are illustrations of language development. Claire Painter (Ch. 3) discusses the stages in childrens' language development, or the process of learning "how to mean," a central phenomenon in SFL theory. Her discussion rests on phases and social dimensions of language development indicated by SFL research and learning through and about language. James D. Benson & Paul J. Thibault take on the often-debated question whether language is uniquely human in Ch. 5 and present a case study of bonobos' language learning ability. On the theme of linguistic computing, Elke Teich (Ch. 6) reports on the use and significance of computational tools in processing larger text samples for the purposes of linguistic analysis, while Canzhong Wu, in Ch. 7, highlights the significance of corpus-based research in SFL studies, introducing SysConc, a concordance tool for automated corpus analysis, and explaining its major features. In Ch. 8, Elizabeth Armstrong sheds light on developments in the investigation of speech and language disorders such as aphasia and dementia, discussing the contribution of SFL research to the field and outlining directions for the future.

Three chapters relate to the study of discourse. In Ch. 9, J. R. Martin reflects on the development of the SFL model in discourse studies. He credits Halliday's well-known social context model of field, tenor, and mode being the fundamental principles of SFL discourse studies and surveys major developments thereafter. "Context" has been at the core of SFL at every stage of its development. This is what Hasan takes as her object of study in Ch. 10—its place in SFL as well as its description in relation to linguistic analysis of the uses of language. In another chapter on discourse, David G. Butt & Annabelle Lukin explain "how stylistic analysis is defined by its concern for the semantic consequences of linguistic pattern" with the help of texts narrating experience of war and training for it. Ch. 12, by Mick O'Donnel, details resources for SFL students and researchers such as information sites, bibliographies, friendly publishers, journals, and universities. The final chapter presents a glossary of a few key words of SFL theory.

In sum, this book is a very useful resource for students and researchers working within SFL theory.

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Ilana Gershon, *The breakup 2.0: Disconnecting over new media*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2010. Pp. x, 214. Hb. $22.95.

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US college students seem to take up new communicative technologies and social media effortlessly. Yet many report they are regularly nervous as to how to interpret their peers' behavior and how to employ these technologies and media within a larger interactive repertoire. For these students, no event seems to strain consensus more than the end of a relationship, when they scrutinize the means of communication just as much as the content. This book explores the challenges of incorporating new technologies and media—particularly email, text messaging, and Facebook—into romantic and personal lives, as reported by students at Indiana University. Gershon draws on interviews, screenshots, and feedback from her own classroom teaching to study students' interpretations of new media in their daily lives.

The book consists of an introduction, five chapters, and a conclusion. The introduction and Ch. 1 explain how the author's interest in the subject unfolded from discussions with her students about rapidly shifting interactive worlds. She then lays out in clear terms the sources for her research and key concepts for the book. Gershon points out that the context of breakups through new media reminds us how communicative acts are always about more than their propositional content, with the medium contributing significant second-order information about the message. While there are patterns to communicative knowledge that we might characterize as media ideologies, understandings of the rules are never completely shared, subject to idioms of practice. Thus, Gershon's subjects dispute the formality, informality, and contextual appropriateness of text messaging, phone conversations, face-to-face communication, instant messaging, and Facebook's various tools.

Ch. 2 profiles the media of email and Facebook to outline how message structure—including embedding and time lapse—influences how people know one another in a romantic relationship. The author discusses contested standards of publicity as well as challenges that students report on reading sincerity and intentionality. Ch. 3 builds on