

ReviewsFour Short Reviews

David Howard

La Lingüística Aplicada

Charles Bouton

México: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1982

Translation: Victor Manuel Suárez Dávila

French original: La Linguistique Appliquée

Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1978

This brief text (168 pages) published in the 'Fondo's' excellent collection of 'Brevarios', cannot, needless to say, stand up to something like the four-volume Edinburgh Course in Applied Linguistics. Nor was it meant to.

Bouton's major virtue is his ability to outline the major topics in applied linguistics without being superficial. For the professional this book makes a good complement to other introductory texts like those of Corder and Crystal. Other advantages are its quite reasonable price, its accessibility in Spanish and its appropriateness for 'real', or absolute, beginners.

Bouton is so accessible, in fact, that the text is probably not too difficult for high school students. Thus, those teachers who share my belief that high school and college students should learn not just English skills but also something about linguistics, may find this book potentially useful in the classroom.

Nueva Antropología 22

Special Issue: "Linguística y Sociedad"

November 1983

Editors: Luis Fernando Lara and Silvia Tagle

This special issue of Nueva Antropología should be read from cover to cover by anyone wishing to be minimally informed regarding state-of-the-art Mexican linguistics, theory and practice.

For the authors of the first three articles on Mixe, Otomí and Zapateco-speaking communities, a second language means Spanish. English teachers, however, will be able to draw many thought-provoking analogies.

The fourth article is on Spanish class in elementary school. This topic, of course, is even closer to home for ESL professionals. Again, the relevance for English teaching is obvious.

In addition, there are two insightful articles on discourse theory as applied to the analysis of political texts, a piece on a controversial aspect of lexicography, and a series of fascinating pre-Hispanic (Mayan) illustrations.

The authors are: Leopoldo Valiñas, Héctor Muñoz, Juan José Rendón and Bárbara Cifuentes; Dora Pellicer, Luisa Puig, Ricardo Maldonado and Julieta Haidar.

Reading in a Foreign Language

Volume 1, Number 1, March 1983

University of Aston in Birmingham, England

Editors: Ray Williams and Alexander Urquhart

Since literally several million, mostly underage Mexicans will take an EFL reading course this 'sexenio', and since only

a very small percentage of Mexican English teachers are presently qualified to teach reading, almost any relevant information on the subject is welcome. Fortunately, if one can judge by the première issue, Reading in a Foreign Language is not just any old information. The articles and reviews are high quality and tend to be applicable to everyday classroom problems.

If your school can subscribe to only one foreign EFL journal this year, Reading in a Foreign Language is surely among the best bets.

Como se Hace una Tesis: Técnicas y Procedimientos de Investigación, Estudio y Escritura

Umberto Eco

Spanish translation: Lucía Baranda and Alberto Clavería Ibañez

Editions in Barcelona, Buenos Aires and México: Editorial Genisa, 1982

Italian original: Come si fa una tesi di laurea

Tascabili Bompiani, 1977

Can an atrociously translated book, originally written for Italian college students as a guide to study skills and thesis mechanics, provide enriching, absorbing and pleasurable reading to those who already know how to write, those who do not, and those who could not care less? Yes!