

them) which M believes accounts for these relations in a more systematic way. Ch. 3 gives an overview of other approaches and compares them with the metalexical approach followed in this study. M's view is compatible with both the dictionary-style lexicon in the early generative tradition and the more modern approaches that set less rigid borders among lexical, grammatical, and conceptual knowledge. The only model that this metalexical approach is inconsistent with is the structuralist view in which the meaning of words is seen as arising from the relations between the lexical items themselves.

Part 2 goes into specific types of paradigmatic meaning relations, such as synonymy, antonymy, contrast, hyponymy, meronymy, and others. Thus synonymy is characterized as a relation that includes only word concepts that have the same contextually relevant properties, but that differ in form (134). The sameness of meaning between two or more lexical items is determined by their use in communicating ideas in their context. In this respect coreferentiality is context-dependent. Antonymy is defined as a set of lexical contrasts in which the concepts have all the same contextually relevant properties but one (170). Hyponymy, and other asymmetric relations as well, are presented as asymmetrical sets of lexical contrasts that include a subset containing one word concept and one or more subsets that are lexical contrast sets themselves. These subsets have all the same contextually relevant properties but one (229).

The reexamination of the meaning relations above leads the author to conclude that the semantic organization of the lexicon is not part of the lexicon itself. This means that paradigmatic meaning relations like antonymy, synonymy, and hyponymy form a knowledge about words, hence metalexical, rather than intralexical, which is a knowledge of words. To illustrate: that *hot* and *cold* are perceived as antonyms comes from the use of these words rather than from some constituent of meaning within the words themselves, that is, from the knowledge about rather than of the words. [AGUSTINUS GIANTO, *Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome.*]

La force des choses ou l'épreuve 'nilo-saharienne'. By ROBERT NICOLAÏ. Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe, 2003. Pp. xv, 577. ISBN 3896450999. €64.

This handsomely produced and generously apportioned book is specifically dedicated to challenging by all available means the notion that Songhay is a Nilo-Saharan language. Thus, the first half of the book (1–246) criticizes the two major Nilo-Saharan theories of Songhay, those of Christopher Ehret and Lionel Bender. Although Ehret's and Bender's ap-

proaches and resulting classification schemes are quite different from each other's, Nicolai's method of criticism is quite similar for each. Ehret, for example, in the classical manner, proposes cognates between Songhay and (other) Nilo-Saharan languages and offers a phonological reconstruction based on recurrent sound correspondences. N challenges those cognates by offering Afro-Asiatic cognates (or sources) for the same Songhay items. Bender does not reconstruct, but assumes cognates on the basis of sound-meaning similarities. He then proposes a number of isoglosses of varying quality, in order to classify Songhay within Nilo-Saharan. N challenges the isoglosses that Bender considers of high quality, offering again the alternative that sources/cognates of the Songhay words are Afro-Asiatic. It is worth noting about N's method of casting doubt that interspersed among the linguistic discussions of the book are apparently playful didactic interludes (even including a photograph of an astronaut's footprint on the moon, p. 357) and sometimes cryptic remarks that seem to need decipherment. For example, the book is dedicated 'pour Voltaire'. Only after recognizing N's method of criticism did it occur to me that he may have had in mind the famous comment, often attributed to Voltaire, that philology is a discipline in which consonants count for very little and vowels for nothing. By this account Ehret and Bender offer similarities between Songhay and (other) Nilo-Saharan words on such a basis. N counters with similarities between the same Songhay words and Afro-Asiatic (most often, but not exclusively, Semitic or Berber)—on the same basis. Similarly, the title 'la force des choses' is also the title of one of Simone de Beauvoir's autobiographical books, but from various discussions it is evident that N is appropriating the title to suggest that the 'Nilo-Saharan demonstration' of Songhay is a FORCED a-priorism.

N's book has a more weighty subtitle: 'Questions sur les reconstructions archéologiques et l'évolution des langues'. Such issues are foreshadowed in the first part of the book but come to the fore in the second part (253–373), beginning with the section 'l'objet archéologique', referring to Songhay as a historical object. Essentially, the second part takes more seriously the possibility that numerous Songhay words, some quite basic, have Afro-Asiatic cognates, but challenges the notion that languages, Songhay in particular, must be limited in principle to a single ancestor located in some specific family. This moves beyond the issue of Nilo-Saharan relationship to that of monogenesis as a 'forced' a-priorism in general.

The third part of the book (377–526) presents extensive tables of data comparing Songhay words with those of various branches of Afro-Asiatic. For reasons I do not fully understand, or accept, N purposely refrains from distinguishing known or obvious Arabic loanwords from other words showing sound-

meaning similarities to Arabic and/or other Afro-Asiatic languages.

N's book is unusual and somewhat unnecessarily inflated, but nevertheless contains a lot of data and ideas. Despite its occasionally whimsical interludes, it is serious and begs a serious response by specialists in the Nilo-Saharan theories of Songhay. [BENJI WALD, *Los Angeles*.]

A Romance perspective on language knowledge and use. Ed. by RAFAEL NÚÑEZ-CEDENO, LUIS LÓPEZ, and RICHARD CAMERON. (Current issues in linguistic theory 238.) Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 2003. Pp. xv, 384. ISBN 1588113744. \$162 (Hb).

This book contains selected papers presented at the 31st Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages (University of Illinois-Chicago, April 2001). The twenty-one articles that constitute the volume are grouped into three sections: (1) phonology and morphology, (2) pragmatics and sociolinguistics, and (3) syntax. This selection, according to the editors, offers a snapshot of all talks given at the conference.

The first section, the least extensive, explores four topics: the status of pronominal clitics in Vimeu Picard (JULIE AUGER), syllable-final and syllable-initial /s/ reduction in the Spanish of Ascención located in Chihuahua, Mexico (ESTHER L. BROWN and RENA TORRES CACOULOS), consonant intrusion in heterosyllabic consonant-liquid clusters in Old Spanish and Old French (FERNANDO MARTÍNEZ-GIL), and Italian (phono)syntactic doubling (MARIO SALTARELLI). This section draws extensively on the premises of optimality theory.

The themes addressed in the second section are the notions of focus, ground, given, and discourse topic in French (CLAIRE BEYSSADE, JEAN-MARIE MARANDIN, and ANNIE RIALLAND), subject clitics in conversational Swiss and conversational Metropolitan French (BONNIE FONSECA-GREBER and LINDA R. WAUGH), semantics and pragmatics of the Spanish negative polarity item *que digamos* (JAVIER GUTIÉRREZ-REXACH and SCOTT A. SCHWENTER), properties of Italian imperfect conditionals (MICHELA IPPOLITO), the choice of the preposition introducing indirect objects in ditransitive constructions of Portuguese spoken in Fortaleza, Brazil (HELOISA MARIA M. LIMA SALLES and MARIA MARTA P. SCHERRE), conventionally indirect requests in Uruguayan and Peninsular Spanish (ROSINA MÁRQUEZ REITER), simplification of Spanish third person accusative clitics by Mexican-Americans of Houston, Texas (N. ARIANA

MRAK), the linguistic manifestation of the notion of topic in the Spanish of La Plata, Argentina (FRANCISCO OCAMPO), and contact-induced changes in noun gender observed in the Spanish of New York City Latinos (RICARDO OTHEGUY and NAOMI LAPIDUS). The majority of these studies rely on linguistic corpora and employ quantitative analysis.

The papers in the final section investigate properties of the Spanish indirect object clitic-doubling construction (TONIA BLEAM), sequence of tense in complex clauses with main perception verbs (ALICIA CIPRIA), patterns of L1 acquisition of functional categories by French and Catalan children (LISA DAVIDSON and GÉRALDINE LÉGENDRE), crosslinguistic variations in the meanings of bare nouns in creole and noncreole languages (VIVIANE DEPPEZ), null objects in Basque Spanish (JON FRANCO and ALAZNE LANDA), *have/be* alternations in the case of French pronominal verbs in the *passé surcomposé* (KATE PAESANI), the position of preverbal subjects in Spanish (MARGARITA SUÑER), and the properties of the French WH-in-situ construction (MARÍA LUISA ZUBIZARRETA). Among the theoretical approaches employed in this section are the minimalist program and optimality theory.

The volume would be of interest to any linguist concerned with the application of linguistic theory to Romance data. In addition, because of the high number of papers dealing with linguistic variation, the collection constitutes a valuable reference for those Romance linguists whose research belongs to the domain of dialectology. [NATALYA I. STOLOVA, *Colgate University*.]

Romance linguistics: Theory and acquisition. Ed. by ANA TERESA PÉREZ-LEROUX and YVES ROBERGE. (Current issues in linguistic theory 244.) Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 2002. Pp. viii, 388. ISBN 1588114309. \$150 (Hb).

This volume contains a selection of papers presented at the 32nd Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages (University of Toronto, April 2002).

The first part is entitled 'Theory'. Six of its contributions analyze specific properties of Romance at the syntax/semantics interface. GABRIELA ALBOIU discusses the asymmetrical behavior of Romanian operators. J.-MARC AUTHIER and LISA A. REED offer a structural analysis of the French *faire-par* construction. JAVIER GUTIÉRREZ-REXACH and CHAD HOWE argue for a reconsideration of Spanish discourse connectives. MARIE LABELLE addresses the French se-