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## **The Pronunciation of English: A Course Book (review)**

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REVIEW

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**In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content:**

Reviewed by:

*Alan S. Kaye*

*The pronunciation of English: A course book.* 2nd edn. By Charles W. Kreidler. Oxford: Blackwell, 2004. Pp. xvi, 308. ISBN 1405113367. \$34.95.

Charles Kreidler is well known as the editor of *Phonology: Critical concepts* (6 vols.; London: Routledge, 2000). This is the revised edition of his excellent (1989) textbook on English phonetics and phonology. A look through the glossary of technical terms informs the prospective reader of the book's contents (284–95). I expected to encounter terms such as allophone, allomorph, assimilation, aspiration, constraint, neutralization, schwa, and so on; however, I did not expect to find deep structure or Great Vowel Shift. The term approximant is conspicuously absent (also from the index).

The fourteen well-organized chapters cover all of the fundamentals of phonological analysis, English consonantal and vocalic phonemes with their allophones, and the phonotactic structure of English. As might be anticipated, K thoroughly treats rhythm, stress, and intonation in addition to the phonological processes involved in casual speech. More than eighty exercises allow students to master the material presented.

Chs. 1 and 2 cover such topics as language variation, hearing, resonance, the differences between [End Page 203]speech and language, and the history of English. The latter topic seems out of place in a work of this type.

Chs. 3 and 4 present the consonants, vowels, and glides. I see little advantage to K's replacing the term labial with lip consonant (34). The information on dialectal differences is germane and useful (46–48).

Ch. 5 contains information on syllables and stress. I do not believe it helps students to read that when an Old English affix is added to a word, it has no effect on stress, whereas when words have been borrowed from Greco-Latin or French sources, there is often a stress shift (*origin*, *original*, *originality*, 79).

Ch. 6 on phonotactics wisely contains a brief section on borrowed words as exceptions to phonotactic constraints (e.g. *pueblow* with \**pw*-, 100).

Ch. 7 discusses consonant and vowel variation. In his discussion of gemination, K repeats information found in a plethora of texts, viz. that English has geminated consonants across morpheme boundaries. He specifically mentions *unknown* (116). Here, I agree with Bertil Malmberg (*Phonetics*, New York: Dover, 1963, p. 77, n. 3), who mentions degemination in *un[k]nown* for many speakers. (See now my 'Gemination in English', *English Today* 21.43–55, 2005.)

Ch. 8 deals with the consequences of phonotactics. The discussion of plural and possessive allomorphy uses /- ɪz/ for the far more common /- ɪz/ or /- ɪz/ (e.g. *churches*). Similarly, he uses the transcription /- ɪd/ for /- ɪd/ or /- ɪd/ for the past tense (e.g. *waited*).

In the remarks on allophonic vowel nasalization, K affirms that 'the /ɪ/ in *an aim*... is likely to be nasalized, while the /ɪ/ in *a name*... is not nasalized' (136). A vowel before a nasal consonant tends to be nasalized (see Peter Ladefoged, *A course in phonetics*, 4th edn., Boston: Heinle & Heinle, 2001, p. 84).

Ch. 9 is on the rhythm of English speech. K explains herein why English is a stress timing, not a syllable timing, language.

Ch. 10 covers intonation. Happily, K makes good use of the outstanding work by Dwight L. Bolinger.

Ch. 11 presents basic stress rules, essentially following Noam Chomsky and Morris Halle (*The sound pattern of English*, New York: Harper and Row, 1968).

Ch. 12 covers prefixes, compounds, and phrases. Many excellent observations will help motivate students to get involved in these intricate data; for example, *bisectis* sometimes stressed on its initial syllable, and influenced by this verb, *dissect* follows along similar lines.

The final two chapters explain the phonological processes of vowel reduction, vowel and consonant loss, progressive and regressive assimilation including palatalization (*did you*), spirantization (*part*,

*partial*), velar softening (*electric, electricity*), and vowel shifts (*goose, gosling*). Once again, the indebtedness to Chomsky & Halle 1968 is obvious.

Two remarks on the author's bibliography (296–302) are in order. K should have used Ladefoged's 4th edition of *A course in phonetics* (2001), not his 3rd (1993). I would also recommend the addition of Ladefoged's *Vowels and consonants* (London: Blackwell, 2001).

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supporting its proposed analyses with empirical arguments drawn from a wide range of data. The book is an essential read for anyone interested in the syntax and semantics of the Greek noun phrase or in HPSG. It is also of value for researchers who are pursuing a better understanding of the properties of the nominal domain in general. [DORRIS NIKURISTON, *University of California, Los Angeles*.]

**Kasus im Ik.** By CHRISTA KÖNIG. (Nilo-Saharan: linguistic analyses and documentation 17.) Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe, 2002. Pp. xii, 626. ISBN 3896451359. €64.

This massive volume represents one of the few specialist studies dedicated to case systems in an African language, viz. Ik, a Kuliak language of northern Uganda conventionally included in the Nilo-Saharan phylum. Although in principle covering case, it also touches on many other domains of the language, including nominal and verbal inflection, syntax, and discourse.

The book consists of seven chapters. Ch. 1 (1–58) presents an overview of the topic, including a discussion of factors relevant to König's understanding of case (5–10), a review of previous literature on the language (11–23), and a useful discussion of the terminology used throughout the volume (34–58). Ch. 2 (59–108) presents a brief overview of various features of Ik generally (59–88) and of the case system in particular (88–108). K identifies seven cases for this language: nominative, accusative, dative, genitive, ablative, copulative, oblique.

The next two chapters consist of a discussion of the nature of nominals marked by these case forms. Ch. 3 (109–239) addresses the marking of core participants in Ik, specifically the use of nominative, accusative, and to a lesser degree, oblique-marked referents, subdivided into their use in verbal sentences (112–86) and in copular sentences (186–239) respectively. Ch. 4 (241–374) addresses case marking in 'indirect' participants. This includes a discussion of dative case marking (244–75), the very broad functions of the ablative case (275–95), genitive case constructions (295–303), some further notes on oblique case marking (303–18), and finally, of greatest interest to typologists, the use of the characteristically Ik copulative case (319–65). Ch. 5 (375–471) offers a discussion of case morphology within the broader syntax of the Ik language. Specifically, K presents a description of the use of cases within verbal forms (375–431). Further, she discusses the role of case morphology within adverbial formations (431–71) that are commonly found in this language. Grammaticalization of Ik case constructions figures

predominantly in the discussion throughout Chs. 4 and 5.

Ch. 6 (473–537) offers an extension of the analysis presented within the context of a range of discourse functions. This chapter is followed by a brief concluding chapter (539–47), which in turn is followed by a collection of nine texts (549–609), ranging from 23 to 112 sentences, which demonstrate the case-related phenomena presented in the book. These are followed by a useful index of terminology (611–16) and a list of references (617–26).

Overall K's volume is a useful introduction to Ik grammar and a welcome addition to the literature on case systems in African languages. Its main drawback is the lack of a subject index (at over six hundred pages, it is not an easy book to find specific topics within quickly). Also, although the volume is written in German, the texts and all Ik forms in the body of the work are glossed in English. This is not troubling to the reader familiar with both languages, but some may find this curious or distracting. In general, the positive aspects of the work significantly outweigh the negative ones, and it is a book that will be an excellent addition to the collections of both typologists and specialists in African languages. [GRIGORY D. S. ASTASINOV, *Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig*.]

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