



Meaning and Context: An Introduction to the Psychology of Language (Cognition and Language: A Series in Psycholinguistics)

By Hans Hörmann

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At the time of his death Hans Hormann, then Professor of Psychology at the Ruhr University, Bochum, West Germany, was preparing an English language version of his Eirifilhrung in die Psycholinguistik. The goal of this book, in both the German and English editions, was to present in compact and readily accessible form the essentials of his approach to the psychology of language. Basing his work upon the materials treated at length and in depth in two previous comprehensive and more technical works, Psycholinguistics: An Introduction to Research and Theory and To Mean-To Understand, Hormann had made a selection of themes and problems suitable for beginners and for those who wanted a convenient introduction to the specific framework with in which Hormann thought psycholinguistics was to be pursued. The result is a remarkably clear, succinct, and provocative account of central issues and options of the psychology of language, that broad and not strictly delimited part of psychology that takes as its domain the multiform conditions, processes, and structures involved in the acquisition, development, production, and grasp of linguistic meaning. Hormann's approach is admittedly contentious and goes directly against a great deal of Anglo American psycholinguistics. In particular, it radically devalues the relevance of certain types of theoretical linguistics, principally, though not exclusively, Chomskyan, for the psychology of language.

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