

may however benefit from the general principles discussed and applied to this narrow group of languages. The range of ideas and principles discussed is a particularly attractive feature of this work.

Newmark describes himself as a "literalist" on the grounds of his support for truth and accuracy. He allows for a deviation from literalness in translation only when such a move can be defended on "good semantic and pragmatic reasons." This view is only plausible when one is operating within a particular language family as Newmark obviously is. One can be for "truth and accuracy" and still not claim to be a literalist in Newmark's sense. Working across unrelated languages and language families easily convinces one of the need to go beyond literalness or the 'absolute primacy of the word' to the primacy of meanings and the way these are communicated naturally in different languages. Actually Newmark's examples do not violate the principle of naturalness or functional equivalence—working as he does in languages which are linguistically and culturally very close. He is however led to conclude: "I do not regard language as a component or feature of culture. If it were so, translation would be impossible" (p. 95). Consequently for Newmark "Universal words such as 'breakfast,' 'embrace,' 'pile,' often cover the universal function but not the cultural description of the referent." I am sure Newmark will be surprised if he were told that "it ain't necessarily so," such words as he quotes or any words for that matter are not universal but culture-bound!

Whatever the case this is an excellent, informative, controversial and wide-ranging text. It may reasonably be called Newmark's *magnum opus*. Newmark himself refers to it as his last book on translation. It is a book which will stimulate and provoke Translation Consultants to re-thinking the basic principles and their application. It is highly recommended.

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Crystal, David: **The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of Linguistics**.
Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press 1987. vii + 472 pp.,
£25.00. ISBN 0-521-26438-3.

This is a massive work which fully merits the title of "encyclopaedia". As we would expect from a writer of the stature of David Crystal, it is well written and factual. The book is divided into eleven parts containing sixty-five selections, each of which is further divided into subsections. A sample of subsection headings will give the potential purchaser an idea of the range of topics covered: Japanese male and female speech, black English vernacular, criminal codes, the history of lexicography, South American Indian languages, television advertising. . .

We cannot expect to find everything covered in a single volume;

nevertheless, a discussion of the question "how many words are there in language X?" would have been useful, even if it concluded that such a question is meaningless. Nor can one find how many words Shakespeare, Churchill or anyone else used in their writing.

Ladino might have been included in the list of 1000 important languages. The list of creoles is a mixture. In some cases we get the speakers' own name for their language; in others a linguistic term such as Anglo-Romani.

There is perhaps too much emphasis on Indo-European languages. The table of comparative words in these languages is easily available in a number of works; I would instead have welcomed a comparative list of words in, say, Nilo-Saharan languages. The language families do not seem to be listed in any logical order.

Perhaps space could have been saved by omitting the pictures of peoples. As Crystal presumably points out somewhere, language is not related to race. The other illustrations are partly what make this book a coffee table or bedside companion for any linguist.

As one might expect in a work of this size, and covering so wide a field, there are some mistakes. Nama, with 25,000 speakers, should be added to the list of "Khoisan languages with more than 10,000 speakers" (315). Voegelin's figure of 138 languages with more than a million speakers (284) was probably wrong at the time (1977), and is certainly too low now; over 200 would be more likely. I wonder about the value of the diagram illustrating a statistical overview of 4500 languages, when for 2270 of them there is no estimate for the number of speakers. There are no isolated languages (i.e. languages not classified in a family) listed for Africa. Crioulo (338) is not spoken in Guinea but in Guinea-Bissau (it is in the right place on the map, 339). According to P. Alexandre the term "*petit nègre*" is used only in cheap novels in comic strips, and perhaps a better term than that in Hancock's list could have been found for this pidgin language (338).

Readers of this journal are likely to find particularly interesting: Part IX, Languages of the world; "How fast can translators work?" (Part X, chapter 57); three ways of testing the quality of a translation; language and religion (394f); a useful reference list of 1000 languages (436); and much more.

Despite the minor criticisms expressed above, and despite the book's price and weight, this Encyclopaedia will provide a lot of useful and interesting information; it will give hours of pleasurable browsing; and it will provide much useful reference material and many thought-provoking ideas.