

NIKOLAS COUPLAND AND ADAM JAWORSKI (EDS), *Sociolinguistics: A Reader and Coursebook*. Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1997. xi+505 pp. \$59.95 (hbk); \$26.95 (pbk)

This volume in the *Modern Linguistics* series provides a collection of 37 papers that introduce the reader to the pioneering methods and findings of sociolinguistics. Most of these readings are foundational, presenting work that many instructors probably have been including in their stitched together course packets. What this book provides, then – without having to run around xeroxing – is a coherent progression of readings that move from the origins of the field through methods to the early and some more recent empirical findings on variation, attitudes and multilingualism. The last two sections address interactional sociolinguistics and language and culture. The volume is comprehensive in its scope and the editors provide excellent introductions to each of the 8 sections, suggesting further and more current readings on the various topics at the end of each section.

For those just beginning to teach sociolinguistics, this volume is excellent for introducing students to the history and themes of the field. For those who have been teaching in this area for a while, you will likely find papers or reference to papers that you may have overlooked. And for those not teaching sociolinguistics, this volume is an invaluable reference book, providing easy access to much of the early work in the field, as well as more recent contributions in the core substantive areas.

Felicia Roberts
Communication, Purdue University