NEW VISTAS IN GRAMMAR: INVARIANCE AND VARIATION. Linda R. Waugh and Stephen Rudy (Eds.). Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 1991. Pp. x + 540. $85.00.

This volume contains a collection of articles written in honor of the late Roman Jacobson (1896–1982) as the outcome of a conference on invariance and variation in grammar, held at New York University, October 10–13, 1985. The collection examines the relation between invariance and variation in language and linguistic theory. Simply put, building a coherent theory of language, or any of its component systems, requires the assumption that certain parts of language—categories like person, tense, or verb, for example—are invariant, yet such invariance must accommodate tremendous variation in linguistic evidence, whether the variation is due to individual or contextual factors or to typological diversity. The essential questions then are what is invariant about language, how is this invariance to be represented theoretically, and how is variation to be accommodated with invariant grammatical categories?

The book is composed of 25 articles as well as an introduction and two indexes (names and topics). The articles are divided into five thematic groups: the question of invariance, invariance and grammatical categories, grammar and discourse, grammar and pragmatics, and typology and universals. Virtually all of the papers address the conference theme, combining good philosophical considerations of Jacobson’s general ideas, interesting theoretical insights, and extensive presentation and analysis of concrete linguistic data. Overall, the volume is a well done collection that should prove of value to those interested in metatheoretical issues, Jacobson’s continuing influence on linguistic thinking, and the history of linguistics as well as the specific topics addressed in each article.

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ATTITUDES AND LANGUAGE. Colin Baker. Clevedon, UK: Multilingual Matters, 1992. Pp. x + 173.

Attitude and Language (A&L) is a very timely book. Attitude studies have been largely ignored in the field of linguistic studies, yet a perusal of just about any case study shows the importance and influence of language attitudes in such various fields as second language acquisition, language teaching methodology, language planning, bilingual education, and language maintenance and shift, to mention just a few, all recognized in A&L.

A&L explores attitudes to language and bilingualism and attempts explicitly to ground such