

This landmark study examines the role of gestures in relation to speech and thought. Leading scholars, including psychologists, linguists, and anthropologists, offer state-of-the-art analyses to demonstrate that gestures are not merely an embellishment of speech but are integral parts of language itself. Language and Gesture offers a wide range of theoretical approaches, with emphasis not simply on behavioral descriptions but also on the underlying processes. The book has strong cross-linguistic and cross-cultural components, examining gestures by speakers of Mayan, Australian, and East Asian as well as English and other European languages. The content is diverse, including chapters on gestures during aphasia and severe stuttering, the first emergence of speech–gesture combinations in children, and a section on sign language. In a rapidly growing field of study this volume opens up the agenda for research into a new approach in understanding language, thought, and society.

DAVID MCNEILL is Professor of Psychology and Linguistics at the University of Chicago. He is author of *Hand and Mind: What Gestures Reveal about Thought.*



Language, culture and cognition 2

Language and gesture



Language, culture and cognition

General editor STEPHEN C LEVINSON Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen

This series looks at the role of language in human cognition – language in both its universal, psychological aspects and its variable, cultural aspects. Studies will focus on the relation between semantic and conceptual categories and processes, especially as these are illuminated by cross-linguistic and cross-cultural studies, the study of language acquisition and conceptual development, and the study of the relation of speech production and comprehension to other kinds of behaviour in cultural context. Books come principally, though not exclusively, from research associated with the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen, and in particular the cognitive Anthropology Research Group.

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Contents

	Acknowledgments	page ix
	Introduction DAVID MCNEILL	1
Part 1 Gesture in action		11
1	Pointing, gesture spaces, and mental maps JOHN HAVILAND	13
2	Language and gesture: unity or duality? ADAM KENDON	47
3	The influence of addressee location on spatial language and representational gestures of direction ASLI ÖZYÜREK	64
4	Gesture, aphasia, and interaction CHARLES GOODWIN	84
5	Gestural interaction between the instructor and the learner in <i>origami</i> instruction NOBUHIRO FURUYAMA	99
6	Gestures, knowledge, and the world CURTIS LEBARON & JÜRGEN STREECK	118
Part 2 Gesture in thought		139
7	Growth points in thinking-for-speaking DAVID MCNEILL & SUSAN D. DUNCAN	141
8	How representational gestures help speaking SOTARO KITA	162

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vii



viii	Contents	
9	Where do <i>most</i> spontaneous representational gestures actually occur with respect to speech? SHUICHI NOBE	186
10	Gesture production during stuttered speech: insights into the nature of gesture—speech integration RACHEL I. MAYBERRY & JOSELYNNE JAQUES	199
11	The role of gestures and other graded language forms in the grounding of reference in perception ELENA T. LEVY & CAROL A. FOWLER	215
12	Gesture and the transition from one- to two-word speech: when hand and mouth come together CYNTHIA BUTCHER & SUSAN GOLDIN-MEADOW	235
Part 3 Modeling gesture performance		259
13	Lexical gestures and lexical access: a process model ROBERT M. KRAUSS, YIHSIU CHEN & REBECCA F. GOTTESMAN	261
14	The production of gesture and speech JAN PETER DE RUITER	284
15	Catchments and contexts: non-modular factors in speech and gesture production DAVID MCNEILL	312
Par	Part 4 From gesture to sign	
16	Blended spaces and deixis in sign language discourse SCOTT K. LIDDELL	331
17	Gestural precursors to linguistic constructs: how input shapes the form of language JILL P. MORFORD & JUDY A. KEGL	358
18	Gesture to sign (language) WILLIAM C. STOKOE	388
	Index	400



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