

Cambridge University Press

0521849411 - Language, Culture, and Society: Key Topics in Linguistic Anthropology

Christine Jourdan and Kevin Tuite

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND SOCIETY

Language, our primary tool of thought and perception, is at the heart of who we are as individuals. Languages are constantly changing, sometimes into entirely new varieties of speech, leading to subtle differences in how we present ourselves to others. This revealing account brings together twelve leading specialists from the fields of linguistics, anthropology, philosophy, and psychology, to explore the fascinating relationship between language, culture, and social interaction. A range of major questions are discussed: How does language influence our perception of the world? How do new languages emerge? How do children learn to use language appropriately? What factors determine language choice in bi- and multilingual communities? How far does language contribute to the formation of our personalities? And finally, in what ways does language make us human? *Language, Culture, and Society* will be essential reading for all those interested in language and its crucial role in our social lives.

CHRISTINE JOURDAN is Professor of Anthropology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Concordia University in Montreal. Trained in linguistics and anthropology, her work focuses on theories of culture and social change, on pidgins and creoles, and on linguistic representation of cultural knowledge. She has published books and articles on Solomon Islands Pijin, urbanization in the Pacific, and socio-cultural creolization.

KEVIN TUIE is *Professeur titulaire* (full Professor) of Anthropology at the Université de Montréal. He specializes in the languages and cultures of the Caucasus, especially those of the Republic of Georgia, where he has conducted fieldwork since 1985. He has published a number of books and journal articles on language and culture, in journals such as *Anthropological Linguistics*, *Anthropos*, and *Lingua*.

Cambridge University Press

0521849411 - Language, Culture, and Society: Key Topics in Linguistic Anthropology

Christine Jourdan and Kevin Tuite

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

STUDIES IN THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FOUNDATIONS
OF LANGUAGE

The aim of this series is to develop theoretical perspectives on the essential social and cultural character of language by methodological and empirical emphasis on the occurrence of language in its communicative and interactional settings, on the socioculturally grounded “meanings” and “functions” of linguistic forms, and on the social scientific study of language use across cultures. It will thus explicate the essentially ethnographic nature of linguistic data, whether spontaneously occurring or experimentally induced, whether normative or variational, whether synchronic or diachronic. Works appearing in the series will make substantive and theoretical contributions to the debate over the sociocultural-function and structural-formal nature of language, and will represent the concerns of scholars in the sociology and anthropology of language, anthropological linguistics, sociolinguistics, and socioculturally informed psycholinguistics.

Editors

Judith T. Irvine
Bambi Schieffelin

Editorial Advisers

Marjorie Goodwin
Joel Kuipers
Don Kulick
John Lucy
Elinor Ochs
Michael Silverstein

A list of books in the series can be found after the index.

Cambridge University Press

0521849411 - Language, Culture, and Society: Key Topics in Linguistic Anthropology

Christine Jourdan and Kevin Tuite

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND SOCIETY

KEY TOPICS IN LINGUISTIC
ANTHROPOLOGY

CHRISTINE JOURDAN

Concordia University

KEVIN TUITE

Université de Montréal



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

0521849411 - Language, Culture, and Society: Key Topics in Linguistic Anthropology
Christine Jourdan and Kevin Tuite

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521614740

© Cambridge University Press 2006

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without
the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2006

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN-13 978-0-521-84941-8 hardback

ISBN-10 0-521-84941-1 hardback

ISBN-13 978-0-521-61474-0 paperback

ISBN-10 0-521-61474-0 paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for
external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that
any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press

0521849411 - Language, Culture, and Society: Key Topics in Linguistic Anthropology

Christine Jourdan and Kevin Tuite

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

In memory of Roger M. Keesing, a *passe-muraille*
of the best kind.

Cambridge University Press

0521849411 - Language, Culture, and Society: Key Topics in Linguistic Anthropology

Christine Jourdan and Kevin Tuite

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

<i>List of tables</i>	page	ix
<i>List of contributors</i>		x
<i>Acknowledgments</i>		xi
Introduction: Walking through walls CHRISTINE JOURDAN AND KEVIN TUIE		1
1 An issue about language CHARLES TAYLOR		16
2 Linguistic relativities JOHN LEAVITT		47
3 Benjamin Lee Whorf and the Boasian foundations of contemporary ethnolinguistics REGNA DARNELL		82
4 Cognitive anthropology PENNY BROWN		96
5 Methodological issues in cross-language color naming PAUL KAY		115
6 Pidgins and creoles genesis: an anthropological offering CHRISTINE JOURDAN		135
7 Bilingualism MONICA HELLER		156
8 The impact of language socialization on grammatical development ELINOR OCHS AND BAMBI SCHIEFFELIN		168
9 Intimate grammars: anthropological and psychoanalytic accounts of language, gender, and desire ELIZABETH POVINELLI		190

Cambridge University Press

0521849411 - Language, Culture, and Society: Key Topics in Linguistic Anthropology

Christine Jourdan and Kevin Tuite

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
10	Maximizing ethnopoetics: fine-tuning anthropological experience PAUL FRIEDRICH	207
11	Interpreting language variation and change KEVIN TUIITE	229
	<i>References</i>	257
	<i>Index</i>	301

Cambridge University Press

0521849411 - Language, Culture, and Society: Key Topics in Linguistic Anthropology

Christine Jourdan and Kevin Tuite

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

TABLES

11.1	Declension of word for “tooth” in four Indo-European languages	<i>page</i> 235
11.2	Germanic sound shift (Grimm’s first sound law)	236
11.3	Apparent exceptions to Grimm’s first law	238

Cambridge University Press

0521849411 - Language, Culture, and Society: Key Topics in Linguistic Anthropology

Christine Jourdan and Kevin Tuite

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTRIBUTORS

- CHARLES TAYLOR, Department of Philosophy, McGill University
JOHN LEAVITT, Department of Anthropology, Université de Montréal
REGNA DARNELL, Department of Anthropology, University of
Western-Ontario
PENELOPE BROWN, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics,
Netherlands
PAUL KAY, Department of Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley
MONICA HELLER, CREFO, OISE, Université de Toronto
ELINOR OCHS, Department of Applied Linguistics, University of
California, Los Angeles
BAMBI SCHIEFFELIN, Department of Anthropology, New York University
ELIZABETH POVINELLI, Department of Anthropology and the Institute
for Research on Women and Gender, Columbia University
PAUL FRIEDRICH, Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago

Cambridge University Press

0521849411 - Language, Culture, and Society: Key Topics in Linguistic Anthropology

Christine Jourdan and Kevin Tuite

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank the authors of this collection for their collaboration on this project, and Andrew Winnard, from Cambridge University Press, for his support. Thanks also to the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Concordia University in Montreal for a small grant used for the preparation of the manuscript. Finally we owe special thanks to Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier and Catherine Bélair, two graduate students in the department of Sociology and Anthropology at Concordia University, for their creativity, enthusiasm, flexibility, and professionalism in the preparation of the manuscript.