

## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

The Working Group on Language in Cultural Context is to be convened by Professor Roger M. Keesing, Head of the Department of Anthropology. It will also benefit from the active collaboration of members of the various Departments of Anthropology and Linguistics at the Australian National University. In addition, the Working Group will have access to the resources of the Human Ethology and Ethnographic Film Laboratory of the Department of Anthropology for film analysis of speech behaviour.

Official advertisement for the research positions will be forthcoming. Interested potential participants are, however, encouraged to submit statements of their qualifications and research interests in advance to:

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## ERRATUM

The note at the bottom of page 247 (Vol. 8, no. 2 (1979)) should read: See now Hymes's foreword to K. Basso, *Portraits of "the Whiteman"* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1979).

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*Acidrain* 5. Studies of meaning and language change. (February 1979).

*Acronyms, initialisms, and abbreviations dictionary: A guide to alphabetic designations, contractions, acronyms, initialisms, abbreviations and similar condensed appellations.* Fifth edition. Covering: Aerospace, associations, biochemistry, business and trade, domestic and international affairs, education, electronics, genetics, government, labor, medicine, military, pharmacy, physiology, politics, religion, science, societies, sports, technical drawings and specifications, transportation, and other fields. Vol. 1. Also Vol. 2, *New acronyms, initialisms, and abbreviations dictionary*; vol. 3, *Reverse acronyms, initialisms, and abbreviations dictionary: A companion volume to Acronyms, initialisms, and abbreviation dictionary, with terms arranged alphabetically by meaning of acronym, initialism, or abbreviation.* Ed. by E. T. Crowley, with the assistance of C. Crocker, D. Wood, H. Schecter, and M. Stewart. This set of volumes will be useful to many people in practical ways. It also may be useful to linguists and students of the elaboration of languages in the context of sociocultural evolution. The existence of these 757 pages of acronyms, initialisms, and abbreviations testifies to one respect in which English is among the languages of the world that are more complex than most. The many cases of homography attest the growth of the language through differentiation within distinct social compartments, a fundamental process pointed out long ago by Meillet in his famous essay on "How words change meaning." Some index of the degree of such differentiation might be possible from a volume such as this. Some indication of cultural preferences and patterns in the creation of acronyms might be possible as well. Rulon Wells' article on acronymy in the *For Roman Jakobson* volume of 1956 has not had much in the way of successors, so far as I know. Perhaps American English patterns would be found to differ in ways due to language, or ways due to culture, or both, when compared to patterns in other languages. (DH)

A. J. Aitken & T. McArthur (eds.), *Languages of Scotland.* The Association for Scottish Literary Studies, Occasional Paper No. 4. Edinburgh: Chambers, 1979.

*Alcheringa: Ethnopoetics* 4 (1). Including D. Hymes, The grounding of performance and text in a narrative view of life.