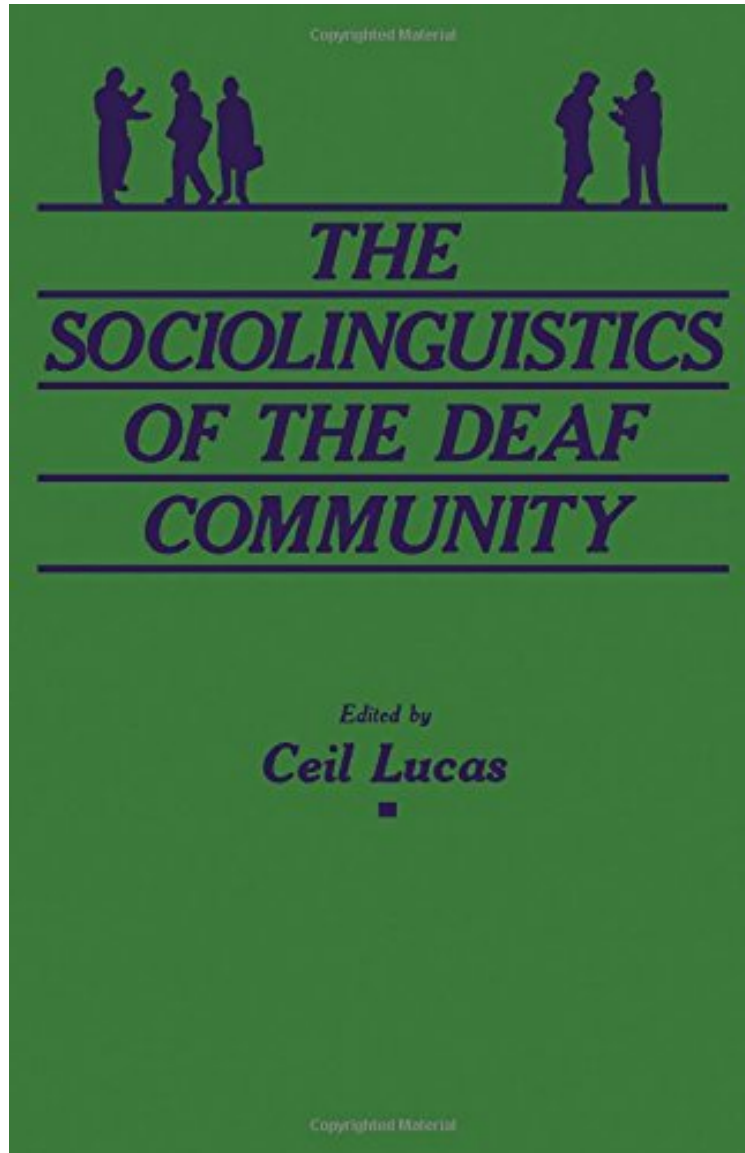


The Sociolinguistics of the Deaf Community

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This is a unified collection of the best and most current empirical studies of socio-linguistic issues in the deaf community, including topics such as studies of sign language variation, language contact and change, and sign language policy. Established linguistic concerns with deaf language are reexamined and redefined, and several new issues of general importance to all sociolinguists are raised and explored. This is a book which interests all sociolinguists as well as deaf professionals, teachers of the deaf, sign language interpreters, and anyone else dealing on a day-to-day basis with the everyday language choices that deaf persons must make. Key Features This is a unified collection of the best and most current empirical studies of sociolinguistic issues in the deaf community, including topics such as: * Studies of Sign Language Variation * Language contact and Change * Sign Language Policy * Language Attitudes * Sign Language Discourse Analysis

"Lucas has brought together a variety of new and original studies of the deaf which could be considered a state-of-the-art review in a difficult area of research."--CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGY"Each of the chapters is clear, and a strong editorial hand is evident in the summaries and conclusions that are included. Linguistic theory will ultimately have to incorporate data from ASL if it is to derive universal rules about the nature of human cognition and human communication. Studies of grammar are necessary but not sufficient; we also need to know how language is used in society. The scholars who have written The Sociolinguistics of the Deaf Community have provided an excellent starting point."--SCIENCE