Overall, Ellis's book is quite accessible in that it provides context for the reader in each of the chapters and consistently points out how both his and other studies fit into particular paradigms and address (or neglect to address) particular issues. In spite of a multitude of typographical errors, which can be quite disconcerting, the book invites the reader to participate in current SLA debate.

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**VARIATION IN INTERLANGUAGE MORPHOLOGY.** *Richard Young.* New York: Peter Lang, 1991. Pp. xvi + 279. $44.95.

Sociolinguists working within the Labovian quantitative paradigm have long used the multivariate statistical methods associated with variable rule analysis (Rousseau & Sankoff, 1978; Sankoff, 1988) to model the effects of the numerous independent linguistic and social factors that influence use of variable forms in natural speech. However, despite the widespread availability of the VARBRUL computer program, few second language acquisition (SLA) researchers have availed themselves of these methods to study interlanguage variation, arguably the most variable form of human language. This volume, a revision of the author's 1989 University of Pennsylvania dissertation, is a welcome addition to the small but growing body of interlanguage studies that use current sociolinguistic methods to examine variation in learner speech.

As is fitting in a work that employs innovative methodology, Young discusses methodological issues in detail. He argues that most previous studies of interlanguage variation have been one-dimensional, examining only one influence on variation at a time, and that variable rule analysis offers the most promising solution to the question of whether variation in learner speech is systematic. Young tests the multidimensional variationist model on -s plural marking in the English interlanguage of 12 adult Chinese learners. The results of variable rule analysis show that plural marking is indeed systematic and constrained by a complex array of factors including the position of the noun within the noun phrase (NP), the syntactic function of the NP, the phonetic features of the preceding and following segments, and redundant plural marking within the NP. The description of learner language that emerges is far richer than usually found in interlanguage studies. The effect of redundancy, in particular, is important for SLA theory and poses a challenge to functionalist explanations of interlanguage development. Young's results show that redundancy favors plural marking, while unique plural markers are most likely to be absent from the surface form.

In any pioneering effort, there are areas that might be improved upon. The most problematic aspect of Young's study is the size of the data set. Twenty-four hours of sociolinguistic interviews yielded only 1,564 tokens with unambiguously plural referents. More data are required to adequately assess the effect of infrequently occurring factors such as plural demonstratives, represented by only 20 tokens. Moreover, the results are not reported in as parsimonious a form as they might be. Young tests for the significance of factor groups but not for differences between factors within groups. The very minor difference between the factor values for subject and object (0.02; p. 144), for example, is unlikely to be significant in a data set of this size. Normal practice is to combine such factors when there is linguistic justification for doing so. Finally, the book contains several annoying errors. Table numbers in chapter 6, for example, do not agree with numbers in the text. Despite relatively minor flaws, however, Young's study is an important contribution to our understanding of the nature of learner speech and the role of variation in SLA.

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## TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE: A MULTIPLE CASE STUDY ON ADULT LANGUAGE ACQUISITION. *Peter Broeder*. Amsterdam/Lisse: Swets & Zeitlinger, 1991. Pp. x + 198.

In his book Peter Broeder presents an in-depth analysis of how Turkish and Moroccan immigrants in The Netherlands acquire the linguistic devices for reference to people. The language is acquired without any formal study. The study is a follow-up on the European Science Foundation project *The Ecology of Adult Language Acquisition*, which has both cross-linguistic and longitudinal dimensions. Broeder has chosen to rely on a large amount and variety of data but a limited number of informants. Among the perspectives in the study of language acquisition, Broeder defines his own as functionalist and process-oriented.

The sociobiographical background of the informants as well as the database are concisely characterized in the introductory part of the book. The study covers the first years that the informants stayed in The Netherlands and started to learn Dutch as a second language (L2). Examinations of L2 German and native-speaker Dutch complement the analysis. The database incorporates material from dyadic interactions, role play, and narratives.

Broeder gives a short overview of different treatments of pronominal reference and continues with an account of the target and source language pronoun systems. Thus, he arrives at a list of predictions (e.g., "Full forms are acquired before reduced forms"), which are then tested.

At the word level the study focuses on pronominal reference and the encoding of the possessive relationships. For each informant a pronoun profile is made with respect to such