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## Research

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### **Language Needs Identification of Cambodian Refugees in a U.S. Urban Area**

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The Florida State University, 1985

A qualitative study of language needs of Cambodian refugees in a U.S. urban area was carried out in Jacksonville, Florida. Refugees were studied in three groups: Employment-bound, home-bound, and working. In addition, men and women were descriptively compared for actual language uses and needs.

A profile of the needs was developed using Munby's (1978) language needs profile model, with 40 selected communicative events analyzed. The language needs were then compared with the language taught by a sponsoring agency, in terms of content, to see if they corresponded. Since the notion of doing needs identification is relatively unused in refugee education, this study contributes to the small but growing literature on refugee language needs and acculturation/resettlement patterns, which can help to make language teaching to refugees more effective.

The major findings of the study center on the pronounced tendency of refugees to depend on third-parties when confronted with situations requiring interaction with Americans, even where little language use is needed. This, combined with the tendency of some helpers to help to the extent that the helping interferes with language acquisition and acculturation, bodes ill for English language instruction. While the sponsor's curriculum generally corresponded fairly well with the language needs found in the profile, the majority of refugees used English very little outside of the classroom. Based on these findings, it would seem beneficial for sponsors to monitor helper-refugee situations more rigorously and also to structure learning situations so that maximum emphasis can be placed on experiential language use and acculturation activities in the community.

### **The Lexicology of Perception Verbs in English**

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Georgetown University, 1986

The principal objectives of this study are (1) to assess the status of lexicon in the overall grammatical system of a language, and (2) to demonstrate how a lexicological study might be applied to such language-related activities as lexicography, translation and vocabulary teaching.

A small number of English perception verbs are chosen for analysis because they are related in a highly systematic way. These verbs can be divided according to the five perceptual modes as follows:

1. visual: *see, look (at) and look;*
2. auditory: *hear, listen (to) and sound;*
3. olfactory: *smell, smell and smell;*
4. gustatory: *taste, taste and taste;*
5. tactile: *feel, feel and feel.*

It is further argued that for semantic and syntactic reasons this basic paradigm should be extended to cover the sixth mode of perception:

6. mental: *think*, *think (about)* and *seem*.

Although there are six aspects of a lexical unit--phonological, graphological, morphological, syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic--the study is confined to certain issues in the areas of syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.

The approach in this study is practical, and the methodology eclectic. The issues for discussion are chosen with a view to possible applications of the findings. Among the linguistic models adopted are the case grammar matrix model for verb classification, the familiar type of transformational generative grammar for syntactic analysis, and a complementarist model for pragmatics. The data are from three major sources: (a) linguistic and philosophical literature on perception verbs, (b) the Standard Sample of Present-Day Edited American English, for Use with Digital Computers, and (c) a selected number of British and American dictionaries of English.

From the analysis of these perception verbs, it is concluded that the lexicon is not an unordered list of lexical units. Rather, it is a complex network of lexical natural classes (one of which is the class of perception verbs). Since it interacts with all the other components of the grammar, the lexicon really deserves much more attention than it has hitherto received in the traditional mainstream of linguistics.