

James, C.: **Errors in Language Learning and Use. Exploring Error Analysis.** – Longman, London – New York 1998. ISBN 0-582-25763-8. 304 pp., GBP 27.99.

For me, unfortunately, this book presents what the title promises. A very exact and detailed analysis of errors made by foreign language and second language students of English. The author uses both his life-long experience in teaching and modern methods of error analysis to explain all types of errors students from various countries make, the roots of errors and ways how to correct them. Hence it is an excellent book for teachers of English language, but not so much for people like me who want to brush up their English. Nevertheless, a very clear arrangement of the text, underlining of important terms by using bold face letters, and presenting examples in Italics, with \* signalling an error, made this book interesting also for me. I read these erroneous formulations and tried to correct them, and I must say that even this was a useful fun. I state that also the paragraphs I read *in extenso* are written in clear sentences, not losing humour and readability. There is also a list of about 380 references to cited literature and a good subject index.

The text is divided into nine chapters, dealing with error definition and delimitation, scope of error analysis, error description, levels of error, error diagnosis, gravity and evaluation, and error correction. The author distin-

guishes many categories of errors, defines errors and mistakes, misspellings and mispronunciations, lexical errors, grammar and syntax errors, discourse errors, pragmatic and receptive errors, deals with influence of mother-tongue, intralingual errors, teacher-talk induced errors, *etc.* He analyses mainly errors made by his students, mostly natives of South America, evaluates their gravity, and deals with ways to correct these errors. In addition to errors made by his students, James gives also examples from the literature, *e.g.*, from "The Education of Hymen Kaplan", the novel well-known even in the Czech Republic. Do you know that COALA is Computer-Aided Linguistic Analysis? The last chapter is entitled A Case Study. It describes error analysis of a letter of enquiry from Santa Claus (= a Brazilian student) to Dr. James: error identification (substance-level, grammar, lexis-level, and discourse level errors), their categorising, identification of mistakes, and diagnosis. An interesting text! I did not realise that my errors can be sorted into so many categories! And I hope that in next edition of this book, C. James will use as examples also some errors made in this review.

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Reuter, B.: **Taschenwörterbuch der Biochemie. Deutsch – Englisch, Englisch – Deutsch. Pocket Dictionary of Biochemistry. English – German, German – English.** – Birkhäuser Verlag, Basel – Boston – Berlin 2000. ISBN 3-7643-6197-2. XII + 513 + 21 pp., sFr 58.00, DM 68.00, öS 497.00.

Even if the prevailing majority of biochemical literature is published nowadays in English, some interesting reviews, textbooks, and technical papers appear still in German. The terms in both English and German are mostly similar, nevertheless they differ often in orthography and sometimes the differences in words are large (*e.g.*, malic acid – Apfelsäure, tissue – Gewebe). This is why the new biochemical dictionary will not only help German students to unearth the secrets of English biochemical literature, but also to learn English researchers the correct form and orthography of German terms in biochemistry.

The pocket dictionary contains more than 30 000 entries and some 50 000 translations. Both British and American terms (color – colour) are mostly listed. Only rarely the term is missing in one of the parts of the dictionary (*e.g.*, luminescence in the English part, while Lumineszenz is present in the German part). Sometimes

there are too many unnecessary separate items (*e.g.*, chlorophyll *a*, chlorophyll *b*, chlorophyll *c*, chlorophyll *d*;  $\alpha$ -carotene,  $\beta$ -carotene,  $\gamma$ -carotene,  $\zeta$ -carotene; photosystem I, photosystem II). On the other hand, some terms are missing: Chlorosome is present, chlororespiration not. Photoheterotroph is present, photoheterotrophy not. The dictionary does also not know 5-levulinic acid, but laevulose and levulose are present. I was pleased that some up-to-date, correct terms are included (*e.g.*, saccharide for carbohydrate). Nevertheless, biochemistry is a very ample source of terms, and a really comprehensive dictionary would not be of pocket size.

In Appendix, basic weights and measures are listed and important conversion coefficients are given (starting with 1 January, 2001 only decimal units are legal in the European Union). Also a list of common abbreviations used in biochemical literature is supplemented.

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