

1989

Cheris Kramarae 1989 Visit

Suzanne Condray
Denison University

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Denison University



Granville, Ohio 43023
(614) 587-0810

May 9, 1988

Margot Duley
Women's Studies

Dear Margot:

The Speech Communication Department is recommending that Women's Studies Committee bring Cheri Kramarae to campus as a part of the curriculum seminars.

Dr. Kramarae has published widely on the topic of Language and Gender. In addition to the numerous articles she has published in professional journals she is the author of Women and Men Speaking, Language, Gender and Society, and A Feminist Dictionary. The 180 page annotated bibliography which is included in Language, Gender and Society, attests to Kramarae's knowledge and familiarity with research in this area.

While Cheri Kramarae is presently associated with the Department of Speech Communication at the University of Illinois, her work is well known to those in other disciplines, including English, Psychology, and Sociology. I believe she would draw participants from a variety of disciplines on our campus. If I am not mistaken, I believe Sandy Runzo may have worked with Kramarae at Illinois.

I have heard the nominee speak on several occasions at the Speech Communication Association national meetings and have talked with her informally as well. I highly endorse her nomination for a curriculum seminar.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suzanne E. Condray", written in a cursive style.

Suzanne E. Condray

November 4, 1988

Suzanne Condray
Speech Communications

Dear Suzanne:

This is to confirm the willingness of the Women's Studies Committee to underwrite the visit of Dr. Cheris Kramarae to Denison during the 1989-90 academic year. Our contribution will be \$500. Unfortunately our grant cannot carry over into the next academic year. When you settle on a date and format, please let me know.

During the Spring Semester, I will be away on an R.C. Good Fellowship. Robin Bartlett will be Acting Director of Women's Studies. If you have questions at that time regarding the visit, please contact Robin.

We appreciate the interest of the Speech-Communications Department in sponsoring a Women's Studies scholar.

Yours sincerely,

Margot I. Duley
Director of Women's Studies

cg

*\$500 from
RC Good fund.*

*move to Second
Semester*



March 21, 1989

Robin Bartlett
Women Studies Coordinator

Granville, Ohio 43023
(614) 587-6289

Dear Robin:

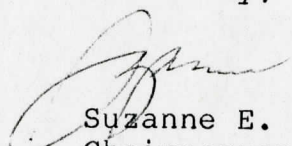
In the spring of 1988 the Women Studies Committee voted to support the Speech Communication Department's recommendation that Chervis Kramarae be invited to campus to present a Women Studies/Departmental seminar. I pursued that invitation only to discover that Chervis would be on leave at the University of Oregon for the 1988-89 academic year.

The Department would like to request that Chervis Kramarae be invited to present a Women Studies seminar in the fall of 1989. We make this recommendation in keeping with the 10th anniversary celebration. Chervis Kramarae has written extensively on gender issues in language. She is the author of Women and Men Speaking, Language Gender and Society, and A Feminist Dictionary. She is presently affiliated with the Department of Speech Communication at the University of Illinois.

We would expect to use her in a couple of courses including possibly Voice and Diction, and Women Minority in the Media. In addition, we would invite those colleagues for English, Psychology, Sociology and other disciplines to join us in a faculty seminar.

Margot Duley had confirmed a willingness to underwrite Kramarae's visit to Denison during 1989-90 and committed \$500 from the Women Studies budget. However, she also indicated in her letter of November 4, 1988 that the grant could not carry over into the next academic year. Since I am confused about this authorization, I would like to request that you investigate this matter and also consider our request in lieu of Sam Thios' letter of February 20. Since Kramarae is coming from Illinois I would anticipate a commitment of no more than \$700 for travel and honorarium.

Cordially,


Suzanne E. Condray
Chairperson

OC?

\$ 200 if \$500 still ok

1150 left

SEC/dd

10 Ann. Steering Committee

*John
AC
Lisa
Kubin*

Feminists track language, power

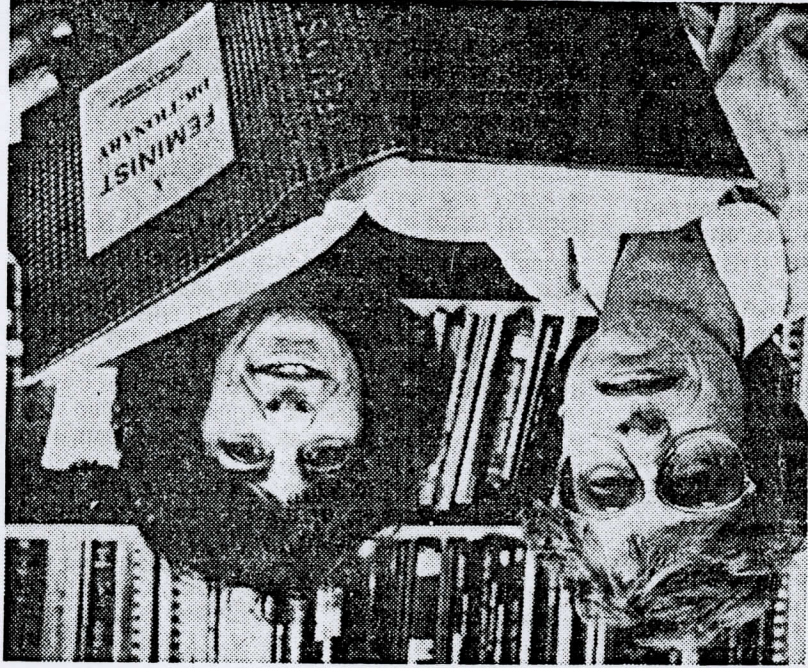
By Kenneth Warren

■ A FEMINIST DICTIONARY by Cheri Kramarae and Paula A. Treichler. Pandora Press, \$12.95.

A *Feminist Dictionary*, cut broadly from notions of critical resistance to authority, and tied to the thinking of Mary Daly and Adrienne Rich, issues a radical stream of challenges to received opinions about what constitutes a dictionary and what purposes a dictionary might serve.

A *Feminist Dictionary* is a highly polemical reference book that eschews traditional values of authority, codification and method. Its editors refuse to abide by traditional lexicographical standards and ground their book on a feminist recognition of men's purposeful control of women through the standard convention of dictionary making.

PUT SIMPLY, dictionary makers Cheri Kramarae and Paula A. Treichler, researchers at the University of Illinois, hope their dictionary "will be used as women work to name and analyze specific structural oppressions and work for revolutionary change." From a broader ideological viewpoint, radical feminist and Marxist ideas regarding women's oppression and economic dependence within the family influence various "definitions" in the dictionary while pluralism (something we've come to accept in



Dictionary makers Cheri Kramarae, Paula A. Treichler

ages and circumstances: Anglo-academic, black, Latino and Asian-American. Given the strong slant toward pluralism and semantics, however, several more formal perspectives informing contemporary feminist discourse are not adequately represented. Especially lacking are opinions from psychoanalytic, deconstructive and semiotic disciplines.

The making of a dictionary, of course, is a scholarly pursuit. For better or worse, *A Feminist Dic-*

tionary in many of its entries commemorates a shorthand for vexed relations with professorial men. This book, frequently out of touch with important contemporary issues such as computer technology and child care, could be considered damaging to the interests of information-seeking working mothers.

Consider day care, with its entry/definition tied only to Shulz-mith Firestone's 1970s position: "Institutions which buy women off. They ease the immediate pressure is on WOMEN." Fires-tone's telling snipset, silent about the pressures put upon the child, reveals the dictionary's limitations.

These feminist dictionary makers err by believing that the trajectory of women with academic careers will raise consciousness, and that the recovery of stale polemics will effect radical change in social development. However, the love for the language of women that blinds them to current social conditions illuminates the historical realities of dictionary making. With these conditions in mind, people interested in tracking connections between language and power will find *A Feminist Dictionary* an essential resource.

Kenneth Warren is an associate editor of *Cleveland's Alternat-ive Press* and a librarian in Lakewood, Ohio.