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Book Review

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BOOK REVIEW

From Syllable to Conversation by Harris Winitz; University Park Press, 1975; 128 pages; paperback, \$6.50, hard cover, \$9.50.

This concise, readable book will be of value to both students and practicing clinicians. It could be used as a supplemental text for any course on articulation disorders, including as it does chapters on distinctive features, articulation tests, discrimination training, sound production, coarticulation, transfer, and the retention of speech sounds in conversational speech.

Winitz takes a fresh look at many aspects of the diagnosis and treatment of articulation disorders. Old methods and assumptions are examined in the light of recent research, and tentative principles are offered on the basis of our current knowledge.

While stressing the value of learning theory and behavioral principles, Winitz insists that the speech pathologist must be able to analyze in detail the phonological errors of his or her client and devise an individualized program of instruction which will rest squarely upon that analysis. Such an approach necessitates a high degree of sophistication and creativity on the part of the clinician, and Dr. Winitz provides ample information and guidelines to assist in making that possible.

Although there is much to be said for the appropriate use of commercially produced articulation tests and therapy materials, it seems that we have not yet reached that portentous day when a cleverly programmed teaching machine will make us all obsolete.

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