

A potential purchaser of the Aitchison book might be put off by the cover illustration. He will be confronted by the menacing figure of Batman — it could be Captain Marvel — in natty blue underwear, starred crash-helmet, and bunched leather gloves, saying: 'Gadzooks! Zounds! Fie on thee, foul villain'. The point made with this excrescence of Pop Art, and throughout the book, is the influence of temporal states on language change. Indeed, situational grammar is the whole tenor of the author's argument. Whether the change taking place in language is good or bad is immaterial; language changes and it is the nature of the change and how it is detected that we are dealing with here.

The scholarly competence of the author is never in doubt. She knows her stuff and can put it across in convincing fashion. The conclusion reached makes interesting reading:

Language change is in no sense wrong, but it may, in certain circumstances, be socially undesirable. Minor variations in pronunciation from region to region are unimportant, but change which disrupts the mutual intelligibility of a community can be politically and socially inconvenient.

The change that disrupts intelligibility can be more than inconvenient. It can be downright disastrous. The medium *is* the message.

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Francis Radice *English for International Trade*. London: Evans Brothers, 1982. 112 pp. Paperback.

English for International Trade is a course in international trade procedures as well as an English course and it is intended for students who are embarking on careers in business. The book can be used to teach the language of import and export procedures, to give students an understanding of world trade conditions and to familiarize them with authentic documentation commonly used in international trade.

There are eight chapters which cover topics directly related to shipping and commerce, such as the organization of shipping, world shipping problems, export orders and documentation, customs procedures, shipping documents and methods of payment. All the

chapters are illustrated and have authentic documentation where appropriate.

Each chapter includes extensive reading texts with accompanying comprehension and vocabulary exercises. The written and oral exercises help to reinforce the student's understanding of the new terms and concepts. The stress-marking exercises help with the pronunciation of the new vocabulary. Students should find the exercises which provide practice in completing authentic documents very useful. *English for International Trade* can be used in the classroom as well as by students who are working on their own, because the answers to all the exercises can be found in the key at the back of the book.

English for International Trade combines subject learning and language learning. I therefore think that it will be a very useful book for students who are aware of their limited level of English and who are taking business or commerce courses or who are preparing for examinations in shipping.

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