

Referential Practice : Language and Lived Space Among the Maya

Hanks, William F.

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Christian Isendahl, Daryl Stump



Referential Practice Language And Lived Space Among The Maya:

Referential Practice William F. Hanks, 1990-11-29 Referential Practice is an anthropological study of language use in a contemporary Maya community. It examines the routine conversational practices in which Maya speakers make reference to themselves and to each other to their immediate contexts and to their world. Drawing on extensive fieldwork in Oxkutzcab, Yucatán, William F. Hanks develops a sociocultural approach to reference in natural languages. The core of this approach lies in treating speech as a social engagement and reference as a practice through which actors orient themselves in the world. The conceptual framework derives from cultural anthropology, linguistic pragmatics, interpretive sociology, and cognitive semantics. As his central case, Hanks undertakes a comprehensive analysis of deixis, linguistic forms that fix reference in context, such as English I, you, this, that, here, and there. He shows that Maya deixis is a basic cultural construct linking language with body space, domestic space, agricultural and ritual practices, and other fields of social activity. Using this as a guide to ethnographic description, he discovers striking regularities in person reference and modes of participation, the role of perception in reference, and varieties of spatial orientation, including locative deixis. Traditionally considered a marginal area in linguistics and virtually untouched in the ethnographic literature, the study of referential deixis becomes in Hanks's treatment an innovative and revealing methodology. Referential Practice is the first full-length study of actual deictic use in a non-Western language, the first in-depth study of speech practice in Yucatec Maya culture, and the first detailed account of the relation between routine conversation, embodiment, and ritual discourse.

The Maya Michael D. Coe, Stephen Houston, 2023-09-28 The Maya has long been established as the best, most readable introduction to the ancient Maya on the market today. This classic book has been updated by distilling the latest scholarship for the general reader and student. This tenth edition incorporates the most recent archaeological and epigraphic findings, which continue to proceed at a fast pace, along with full-colour illustrations. The new material includes evidence of the earliest human occupants of the Maya region and the beginnings of agriculture and settled life, analysis from lidar on swampy areas such as Usumacinta that show enormous rectangular earthworks, including Aguada Fénix, dating from 1050 to 750 BC, and recent advances in decoding Maya writing and imagery. It also expands on information on the roles of women, courtiers, and outsiders, covers novel research about Maya cities, including research into water quality, marketplaces, fortifications, and integrated road systems, and features coverage of more recent Maya history, including the displacement and mistreatment of the Maya people, along with growing affirmations of their cultural identity and rights. Highlighting the vitality of current scholarship about this brilliant culture, The Maya remains the gold standard introductory book on the subject.

Co-Operative Action Charles Goodwin, 2018 This book investigates how language, embodiment, objects, and settings in historically shaped communities combine and form human actions.

Becoming Maya Wolfgang Gabbert, 2004 According to Gabbert, class has served as a self-defining category as much as ethnicity in Yucatan, and although we think of caste wars as struggles between Mayas and Mexicans, he shows

that each side possessed a sufficiently complex ethnic makeup to rule out such pat observations

The Oxford Handbook of Historical Ecology and Applied Archaeology Christian Isendahl, Daryl Stump, 2019-01-10 The Oxford Handbook of Historical Ecology and Applied Archaeology presents theoretical discussions methodological outlines and case studies describing the field of overlap between historical ecology and the emerging sub discipline of applied archaeology to highlight how modern environments and landscapes have been shaped by humans Historical ecology is based on the recognition that humans are not only capable of modifying their environments but that all environments on earth have already been directly or indirectly modified This includes anthropogenic climate change widespread deforestations and species extinctions but also very local alterations the effects of which may last a few years or may have legacies lasting centuries or more With contributions from anthropologists archaeologists human geographers and historians this volume focuses not just on defining human impacts in the past but on the ways that understanding these changes can help inform contemporary practices and development policies Some chapters present examples of how ancient or current societies have modified their environments in sustainable ways while others highlight practices that had unintended long term consequences The possibilities of learning from these practices are discussed as is the potential of using the long history of human resource exploitation as a method for building or testing models of future change The volume offers overviews for students researchers and professionals with an interest in conservation or development projects who want to understand what practical insights can be drawn from history and who seek to apply their work to contemporary issues

An Introduction to Mesoamerican Philosophy Alexis McLeod, 2023-08-03 The philosophy of Mesoamerica the indigenous groups of precolonial North Central America is rich and varied but relatively little known In this ground breaking book Alexis McLeod introduces the philosophical traditions of the Maya Nahua Aztecs Mixtecs Zapotecs and others focussing in particular on their treatment of language truth time creation personhood knowledge and morality His wide ranging discussion includes important texts of world literature such as the K iche Maya Popol Vuh and the Aztec Florentine Codex as well as precolonial glyphic texts and imagery This comprehensive and accessible book will give students specialists and other interested readers an understanding of Mesoamerican philosophy and a sense of the current scholarship in the field

Ecological Interdependencies Zeynep Y. Gökçe, Jennifer Leetsch, 2025-11-17 This volume interrogates the environmental humanities through the lens of asymmetrical dependencies it is interested in investigating the relationship between the environment and asymmetrical power dynamics an approach that sheds light on how historical and contemporary inequalities have shaped and still shape our social political and cultural realities as they intersect with their respective ecosystems In an attempt to bridge disciplines the volume synthesizes diverse perspectives from the humanities and social sciences anthropology art history cultural studies archaeology religious studies political science and literary studies attending to the tangled and often thorny relationships that form human and more than human existence By incorporating ecological viewpoints and recognizing the agency of non human actors the book

aims to amplify the often overlooked voices of the marginalized including those beyond the human realm Understanding the intersections of power dynamics and human history requires acknowledging our deeply interconnected existence within a broader planetary context and this edited volume's contributions offer a lens through which to rethink enduring questions of difference and dependency These considerations are framed not as abstract or theoretical exercises but as deeply grounded in material realities shaped by histories of asymmetry inequality and exploitation thus challenging us to critically reframe notions of ecological inter dependencies beyond the universalizing narratives of the Anthropocene

Temporalities in Mesoamerican Ritual Practices Valentina Vapnarsky, Dominique Michelet, Aurore Monod Becquelin, Philippe Nondédéo, 2025-05-01 *Temporalities in Mesoamerican Ritual Practices* examines the time based dimensions of ritual activities in past and present Mesoamerican societies including the prehispanic colonial and modern periods The authors explore ritual around three principal categories of action creating transforming and destroying as significant cultural manifestations of the temporal dimension of transition processes Based on specific case studies new analysis of fieldwork data and long term collaboration between authors chapters engage empirically and theoretically with the multiple temporalities of ritual in relation to both the unfolding of ritual performance and its external and symbolic anchors Taking rituals as a series of specific formalized actions that produce transitory changes within an initial context the authors examine activities that generate change linked to artifact production life cycles healing conflict resolution crisis management the enthronement of rulers and transfers of responsibilities and practices relating to the occupation abandonment reuse or conversion of socialized spaces Adopting a multidisciplinary approach in archaeology ethnohistory anthropology and linguistic anthropology *Temporalities in Mesoamerican Ritual Practices* offers new insights into ritual time approached through multi semiotic material sensorial and pragmatic perspectives that encourage further interdisciplinary dialogue

Demonstratives in Cross-Linguistic Perspective Stephen C. Levinson, Sarah Cutfield, Michael J. Dunn, N. J. Enfield, Sérgio Meira, 2018-07-19 The definitive guide to demonstratives which play a key role in language acquisition and use

The Order of Days David Stuart, 2011-05-17 The world's foremost expert on Maya culture looks at 2012 hysteria and explains the truth about what the Maya meant and what we want to believe Apocalypse 2012 An Investigation into Civilizations End The World Cataclysm in 2012 2012 The return of Quetzalcoatl According to many of these alarmingly titled books the ancient Maya not only had a keen insight into the mystical workings of our planet and the cosmos but they were also able to predict that the world will end in the year 2012 David Stuart the foremost scholar of the Maya and recipient of numerous awards for his work takes a hard look at the frenzy over 2012 and offers a fascination and accurate trip through Mayan culture and belief Stuart shows how the idea that the end of the Mayan calendar which supposedly heralds the end of our own existence says far more about our culture than about the ancient Maya *The Order of Days* explores how the real intellectual achievement of ancient Maya timekeeping and worldview is far more impressive and remarkable than any of the popular and

often outrageous claims about this advanced civilization As someone who has studied the Maya for nearly all of his life and who specializes in reading their ancient texts Stuart sees the 2012 hubbub as the most recent in a long chain of related ideas about Mesoamericans the Maya in particular that depicts them as somehow oddball not of this world or as having some strong mystical link to other realms Because the year 2012 has no prominent role in anything the ancient Maya ever actually wrote Stuart takes a wider look at the Maya concepts of time and their underlying philosophy as we can best understand them The ancient Maya Stuart contends were worthy of study and admiration not because they were strange but because they were altogether human and they developed a compelling vision of time unlike any other civilization before or since

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