

scholarly attention won by Sanskrit. Hindi has yet to find its Pāṇini, partly because grammarians approaching Hindi have oscillated between the unhelpfully dissimilar methodologies of Western grammar on the one hand and traditional *vyākaraṇa* on the other; and the pitch has of course been even more disastrously queered by the long-running rivalry between Hindi and Urdu, whose various protagonists have squandered much intellectual energy on an increasingly sterile debate. Though a full and authoritative grammar of Hindi has yet to be written, Tej Bhatia's historical survey of some three centuries of grammatical study provides an essential prolegomenon for such a work.

Bhatia's chronological survey is based on a wide range of studies, categorized under the two headings of 'First-' and 'Second-language grammars': the distinction is significant not only from the point of view of methodology, but also (and especially in the colonial period) in reflecting the very diverse premises and attitudes of the two groups of authors. As a consequence there are many 'insightful' (to use Bhatia's favourite adjective) observations on the extralinguistic contexts in which the various grammarians worked. In his criticisms of earlier generations of linguists Bhatia is diplomatically understated to a fault, as for example in noting that 'There are some translational problems [in Forbes' grammar], as for example his translation of *xūb randiyā* as "fine women"' (p. 131). The scope of the study is limited to grammars which have won scholarly approval and which show 'permanent historical significance': while certain parameters have obviously had to be drawn in order to avoid a superficiality of coverage, the decision to concentrate on Kharī Bolī Hindi seems not entirely appropriate, given the historical period covered—not least because such a policy excludes important original twentieth-century work on Braj Bhāṣā, Avadhī and other regional languages.

The technique in each section is to analyse new departures in the successive grammars, and to chart the developing perceptions of linguistic features such as transitivity, stress, the compound verb, complement, and so forth. Wrongly construed grammar is a recurring theme, and the book is largely (and necessarily) the history of the gradual eradication of linguistic misconceptions. Though a more concise picture might have emerged from a diachronic subject-wise treatment, Bhatia's grammarian-by-grammarian procedure is more or less dictated by the nature of his material. Occasionally, through ambiguous drafting, it becomes difficult to distinguish Bhatia's own observations from those of the grammars he analyses: but a clear picture emerges both of the developing grammatical tradition and, as a welcome by-product of this first aim, of the changing norms of Hindi as it assimilates such conventions as the now essential *kāmā* and *fullisṭāp*. The treatment of twentieth-century linguists is very brief, because of the proliferation of linguistic studies in recent years: certain lacunae are rather strongly felt, such as Jagannathan's exploration of current Hindi usage, and—more importantly—Turner's etymological dictionary, referred to in a single footnote only.

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TEJ K. BHATIA: *A history of the Hindi grammatical tradition: Hindi-Hindustani grammar, grammarians, history and problems.* (Handbuch der Orientalistik. Zweite Abt. Indien. Ergänzungs Bd. IV.) xii, 229 pp. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1987. Guilders 136.

This book begins and ends by lamenting the relative neglect that has always been the lot of Hindi grammar, at least in comparison with the