MICHAEL KENSTOWICZ, ed., <u>Ken Hale: A life in language</u>. (Current Studies in Linguistics, Number 36.) Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press, 2001. xiii + 480.

This book is Number 36 in the Current Studies in Linguistics series from MIT Press, Samuel Jay Keyser, general editor, which has given us such well-known classics as Kuno (1973) and Chomsky (1995). The editor's preface describes the late Kenneth L. Hale (d. October 8, 2001 at the age of 67) in rather glowing terms – as linguistic theorist and savant, field linguist ("regarded by many as the best in the business," p. x), teacher, colleague, etc. (pp. ix-x). This praiseworthy commentary is followed by Samuel Jay Keyser's "Appreciation," which was presented to Hale at his retirement (from the linguistics faculty at MIT) party in April, 1999 (pp. xi-xiii). Here we read of the honoree's background -- first becoming professionally involved in linguistics by majoring in anthropology at the University of Arizona from 1952 to 1955. Quite amazingly, he learned Hopi and Jemez while still in high school, and continued to sharpen his natural polyglottic abilities throughout his life. It seemed as though language learning became an easier task for the <u>maestro</u> as he constantly acquired more experience with more languages. His exploits in this connection included his lecturing in flawless Dutch while spending a year teaching in Holland.

Before delving into the volume itself, a few words are apropos on Hale's career, a long and distinguished one by any standards. He completed his M. A. in linguistics in 1956 at Indiana University with a thesis entitled <u>Class II Prefixes in Navajo</u>, and his Ph. D. in linguistics in 1959 from the same institution was awarded for his dissertation, <u>A Papago Grammar</u>. In addition to fieldwork on American Indian languages, a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant enabled him to do research in Australia from 1959 to 1961, where he worked on aboriginal languages in the northern and central parts of the country. He later returned there with an NSF Fellowship to work on Warlpiri (spoken around Yuendumu, Northern Territory), which he made famous among

linguists for its upside-down nature (see Hale 1971). Among his numerous academic

accomplishments, let me mention that he was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts

and Sciences in 1989 and the National Academy of Sciences in 1990. He also served as President

of the Linguistic Society of America in 1994-95.[i]

Let me now turn to Hale's publication record from 1958 to 2000, compiled by Marilyn

Goodrich (pp. 459-70). As is well known, he began his publishing career in the Uto-Aztecan field

with a string of publications in IJAL, but his first monograph was on a family of Australian

aboriginal languages, Arandic (Hale 1962).[ii] Hale (1965a, b, and d) already demonstrate the

influence of his MIT colleague, Noam Chomsky, on his linguistic thinking, as Chomsky (1965)

was at that time revolutionizing the field. Two of Hale's most influential essays are Hale (1971)

and (1972). Both offer some unique perspectives on the methods and goals of linguistic fieldwork,

which began with Hale (1965c). In addition to theoretical research, his concerns were also

practical, as Hale (1995), (1996) and (1997) clearly demonstrate.

Since it would be beyond the purview of any one reviewer to be able to offer substantive

comments on all these fine essays, I have decided to discuss but three of them chosen in terms of

my background and interests. This in no way implies any slight to the remaining articles, which I

will list with their authors at the conclusion of my remarks.

Michel DeGraff's "Morphology in creole genesis" argues against an old byline in

pidginistics and creolistics, viz., that creoles have little or no morphology (pp. 53-121). Using a

great deal of Haitian Creole (HC) data, the author demonstrates that it has a productive

morphology, trying to argue, for the most part, against the conclusions put forward by McWhorter

(1998). In one section of the article, DeGraff examines HC de- as in derefize 'to refuse

emphatically' versus refize 'to refuse' (pp. 80-2), and concludes that this prefix behaves like its

Romanian counterpart (p. 81), and that HC affixes, in general, work similarly to other languages, thus disagreeing, in whole or in part, with the published views of such luminaries as Antoine Meillet, Leonard Bloomfield, Suzanne Sylvain, and Charles F. Hockett (p. 95). DeGraff's line of thinking leads him astray into postulating the erroneous conclusion that creoles are regular languages like any others (pp. 97-9). Kaye and Tosco (2001) confirm the positions of so many of their predecessors, including Valdman (1978), that HC and creoles in general are, in many ways, "abnormal" languages, and that this is so for many different reasons. Furthermore, while DeGraff is correct in claiming that negative attitudes are still held towards the respective creoles by their native speakers, I cannot agree that these very negative attitudes are shared even by a minority of today's creolists (p. 100).[iii]

Morris Halle's "Infixation versus onset metathesis in Tagalog, Chamorro, and Toba Batak" examines infixation and metathesis as analyses for, e.g., Tagalog <u>sulat</u> 'a writing' versus <u>sumulat</u> 'one who writes' and <u>sinulat</u> 'that which is written' (pp. 153-68). This situation has been analyzed by many linguists before (e.g., Bloomfield [1933:218]) as infixation of <u>um</u> and <u>in</u> before the initial vowel of the stem <u>sulat</u>. Halle disagrees with the traditional analysis positing rather prefixes <u>mu-</u> and <u>ni-</u> respectively. Thus, we obtain an underlying <u>mu-sulat</u>, e.g., which via syllable metathesis becomes <u>su-mulat</u>. Halle's ultimate goal in postulating his prefixation theory is to discredit optimality theory (OT), which he sees as wrong, since Alan Prince and Paul Smolensky in an unpublished paper (cited on p. 155) have defended infixation in that, they assert, it bolsters claims made by OT. Halle's arguments represent plausible analyses, to be sure, yet I see nothing wrong with the traditional analysis. It seems as though Halle's objective is to reject infixation processes in general as a common morphological strategy, for he affirms that "accounts of infixation processes in some other languages might need to be similarly revised" (p. 155).

James Harris' "Spanish negative in-: Morphology, phonology, semantics" is a solid study of the Spanish negative prefix in- with a thorough two-page bibliography (pp. 169-88). Among the most interesting words the author discusses is inalámbrico 'wireless', but it should be kept in mind that this is not formed from *alámbrico 'wired'. However, there is a stem alambr- plus adjectival suffix to which in- is prefixed. Harris notes that the aforementioned starred form is "an accidentally unused adjective" (p. 173).

Harris's essay is a very rich data-oriented study, since the prefix under investigation is extremely productive. I agree with one major conclusion, viz., the in- 'not' prefix (inseguro 'unsure'), in- 'lack' (incomposición 'lack of proportion'), and in- in incomunicar 'to isolate' are one and the same morpheme.

A list of the remaining essays with the names of their authors are: Noam Chomsky, "Derivation by phase;" Kai von Fintel, "Counterfactuals in a dynamic context;" Sabine Iatridou, Elena Anagnostopoulo, and Roumyana Izvorski, "Observations about the form and meaning of the perfect;" Michael Kenstowicz and Hyang-Sook Sohn, "Accentual adaptation in North Kyungsang Korean;" Samuel Jay Keyser and Kenneth N. Stevens, "Enhancement revisited;" Shigeru Miyagawa, "The EPP, scrambling, and Wh-in-situ;" Wayne O'Neil, "Grammar games: Unscrambling Skaldic syntax;" David Pesetsky and Esther Torrego, "T-to-C movement: Causes and consequences;" and Cheryl Zoll, "Segmental phonology in Yawelmani."

I noticed very few typographical errors while reading the book. One such which came to my attention was greole for creole (p. 109).

<center>ENDNOTES</center>

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i. The reader is referred to Yengoyan (in press) for numerous details on Hale's life and work.

Hill (2002) also contains useful information.

2.   Another festschrift with contributions on Australian linguistics appeared in Hale's honor in

2001 (see Simpson, Nash, Laughren, Austin and Alpher 2001).

3. I can refer the reader to Kaye and Tosco (2001) for further details.

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ALAN S. KAYE
California State University, Fullerton