



# Sociocultural Theory and L2 Instructional Pragmatics (Second Language Acquisition)

By *Remi A. Van Compernelle*

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## **Sociocultural Theory and L2 Instructional Pragmatics (Second Language Acquisition)** By Rémi A. Van Compernelle

The book outlines a framework for teaching second language pragmatics grounded in Vygotskian sociocultural psychology. The framework focuses on the appropriation of sociopragmatic concepts as psychological tools that mediate pragmalinguistic choices. Using multiple sources of metalinguistic and performance data collected during a six-week pedagogical enrichment program involving one-on-one tutoring sessions, the volume explores both theoretical and practical issues relevant to teaching second language pragmatics from a Vygotskian perspective. The book represents an important contribution to second language instructional pragmatics research as well as to second language sociocultural psychology scholarship. It will be of interest to all those researching in this field and to language teachers who will find the pedagogical recommendations useful.

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

This remarkable book recounts an empirical study of L2 instructional pragmatics from a Vygotskian perspective...Combining rigorous scholarship and clever application, van Compernelle's study reflects SCT's commitment to praxis, understood as the unification of educational theory and practice. In brief, the book's theoretical import lies in its careful reconceptualization of instructional pragmatics in terms of SCT, while its practical significance derives from its insightful pedagogical recommendations for materials, teaching and assessment. The end result is a work that will be of great interest to many kinds of readers—researchers, teachers, and graduate students.

(Carl S. Blyth, University of Texas at Austin, USA *The Modern Language Journal* 99 (2015))

Van Compernelle's research presents a theoretically motivated and evidence-based instructional framework for mediating the development of pragmatic ability in language learners. He brings together important pedagogical applications of sociocultural theory, e.g. dynamic assessment, concept-based instruction, and the use of strategic interaction scenarios as an instruction tool. As such, the book makes a significant contribution to the sociocultural literature and provides a new direction for the theory and practice of developing pragmatic variation in language learners.

(Richard Donato, University of Pittsburgh, USA)

This work is the first book-length proposal to reconceptualize instructional pragmatics from the perspective of Vygotskian Sociocultural Theory. Based on a cogent reconceptualization of 'appropriateness', the book offers a coherent approach to sociopragmatic and pragmalinguistic competencies as learning targets and to the instructional practices through which these competencies can effectively be developed and assessed in language instruction. With its profound theoretical grounding and empirical rigor, van Compernelle's book significantly advances scholarship on the instructed development of second language pragmatics.

(Gabriele Kasper, University of Hawaii at Mānoa, USA)

### **About the Author**

Rémi A. van Compernelle is Assistant Professor of Second Language Acquisition and French and Francophone Studies in the Department of Modern Languages, Carnegie Mellon University. His areas of research include second language acquisition, pedagogy, and assessment, pragmatics and sociolinguistics, and classroom discourse and interaction.

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