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# Complexity Perspectives on Language, Communication and Society

- Presents recent research in sociolinguistics and communication and applications to dynamics of language forms and structures, meaning, interpersonal communication, education and socialization
- Presents general ideas and models of complexity and socio-complexity
- Written by leading researcher in the field

The "language-communication-society" triangle defies traditional scientific approaches. Rather, it is a phenomenon that calls for an integration of complex, transdisciplinary perspectives, if we are to make any progress in understanding how it works. The highly diverse agents in play are not merely cognitive and/or cultural, but also emotional and behavioural in their specificity. Indeed, the effort may require building a theoretical and methodological body of knowledge that can effectively convey the characteristic properties of phenomena in human terms. New complexity approaches allow us to rethink our limited and mechanistic images of human societies and create more appropriate emo-cognitive dynamic and holistic models. We have to enter into dialogue with the complexity views coming out of other more 'material' sciences, but we also need to take steps in the linguistic and psycho-sociological fields towards creating perspectives and concepts better fitted to human characteristics. Our understanding of complexity is different – but not opposed – to the one that is more commonly found in texts written by people working in physics or computer science, for example. The goal of this book is to extend the knowledge of these other more 'human' or socially oriented perspectives on complexity, taking account of the language and communication singularities of human agents in society.

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