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Analysing the Language of Discourse Communities

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This book describes how the language used in social interaction evolves from the time speakers first meet and becomes the in-group code of a given discourse community (in this case the academic community).

Most studies reported in the literature of the language of groups and intimates until now have been global, imprecise or unsystematic, and have described the language as a *product* at a given time; no systematic study appears to have been carried out to follow through the interactions of individuals as they form a group, to discover precisely how and why language changes over time as assumed knowledge grows. Here, Joan Cutting focuses on the precise changes that occur with increasing knowledge over time, and uses a longitudinal approach to describe the language as a *process*.

For academic researchers and advanced students in linguistics specialising in applied linguistics and/or pragmatics, and for all 'behavioural science' researchers and students interested in discourse analysis.

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