

Department of Linguistics

January 30, 1978

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Dear Erving,

I need your help with the following points in your manuscript on "Response cries":

(1) p. 27, bottom: do you want to add a bibliographic reference to Sacks? (For linguist readers, this might be especially helpful.)

(2) p. 29, sec. VI, line 3: it's not clear to me what you mean by the "shape of well-formed words". I would ordinarily take "shape" as referring to pronunciation; but in this regard oops and ouch are clearly quite "well-formed", as opposed to utterances like the "strain grunt" or tsk-tsk.

(3) p. 46, line 10 up: your mention of religious sanctions makes me wonder if you should say something about utterances like Jesus Christ!--as used, often by non-believers, in situations in which Shit! or Ouch! could equally well occur. (They don't seem to fall very well under the term "imprecations".

(4) Footnote 6, last sentence: I'm not sure I understand. Does "puts on" here mean "satirizes"?

(5) References, Cook-Gumperz and Corsaro: Does "Working paper 46" apply just to this paper, or to the collection of "Papers" edited by Cook-Gumperz and Gumperz? Can inclusive page numbers be given for this paper, within the collection?

Sincerely,

William Bright
Editor, LANGUAGE