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**Review for the volume *Body Language. Communication and interpretation*, by
Barbu Florea, published at Lumen Publishing House, 2011**

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Abstract

*The volume *Body language. Communication and interpretation* by Barbu Florea, appeared under the idea of manifest in a world governed by preconceptions concerning the adaptation of people with hearing impairment to an active social life, effective communication and personal and professional development, and captures everyday fragments of a community, in which he himself is an active character whose communication is conditioned by sign language. The volume treats desirable aspects in building a society based on non-discrimination, equality of chances and fundamental human rights, issues centered around individuals affected by hearing loss and compelled to adapt to the pace of the social and everyday normality.*

Keywords

*Review, *Body Language. Communication and interpretation*, Barbu Florea, sign language, hearing loss*

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Introduction

This paper is a review for the volume *Body language. Communication and interpretation* by Barbu Florea. The volume appears as a manifest paper in order to make known, in a deeply subjective manner, the daily situation of reality that people with hearing deficiency or even permanent hearing loss, are confronted with in Romania, a country uniformed and ready to stigmatize people in crucial situations.

The author's perspective on this subject is of subjective nature, as mentioned above, which is due to the author's membership in the community of people with hearing loss. The purpose of the review is to bring useful information to the public interested in the subject matter discussed in the volume.

Critical opinions on the reviewed text

The work *Body language. Communication and interpretation* approaches many aspects generated by hearing loss, in terms of social and practical aspect, giving those interested a more realistic description of the deaf community seen from within it.

The whole content of the book has sometimes a tone of manifest, the author being an active member of the deaf community that he brings into discussion. The work opens with the main concerns of the Romanian society towards the deaf, highlighting the efforts of these people regarding the recognition of their fundamental rights, including communicating through a language natural and accessible for them, the sign language. The reader of this volume finds out that sign language is not simply a means of social interaction, but also a powerful symbol of identity as well as a key depository of deaf culture.

This volume does not cultivate arid, pretentious, didactic style, nor falls into extreme naive pathos, but promotes a warm and equal tone, as it addresses a wider number of readers than specialists in the field or psychologists students, hoping that this community with a certain culture and identity claims the right to respect and full recognition. The volume approaches the broader issue of communication that is elaborated throughout the paper, focusing on the essential role of body language in relations with the deaf.

The author discussed within the context of the deaf community, the efficiency of services provided by the society to these people, which are still disappointing. The author does not neglect a brief historical moments in the organizational development of this community from small groups to representative organizations worldwide such as, the World Organization of the Deaf, which has observer status at the United Nations or the European Union of the Deaf, where the National Association of the Deaf in Romania has recently joined.

An important aspect of the work is given by the emphasis on some significant moments in the fight of deaf persons for fundamental rights, for the affirmation and development of sign language as language itself, as a form of cultural identity, as a way of thinking and expression of collective memory of those who belong to this “world of silence”. The author Barbu Florea successfully succeeds in transmitting suggestions to facilitate social interaction between those with normal hearing abilities and those with hearing difficulties, through the manifest made public through the volume.

The rich structure of the volume provides valuable and accessible information in understanding a wide audience, the subject being treated progressively starting with introductory notions concerning hearing loss and deepens aspects of daily life of people with hearing disabilities, regarding their freedom of expression, social inclusion, personal and community development.

I think that Barbu Florea is an example to be followed in the scientific conduct, his approach to improve the existence of people with hearing disabilities and the community which they belong to, deserves great appreciation.

Conclusions

The author Barbu Florea successfully succeeds in transmitting suggestions to facilitate social interaction between those with normal hearing abilities and those with hearing difficulties, through the manifest made public through the volume.

By publishing the volume *Body language. Communication and interpretation*, the author wishes to help people with hearing

impairment and also those close to them, family, community, desideratum which starts with the achievement of its profound manifest, aspect which I think he accomplished. The reviewed work covers information gaps among those who are in the situations described by the author, but also provides comfort, support, optimism and adaptation lessons to living conditions imposed by the Romanian society.

The attitude of society and the proximity of people affected by hearing loss influence their subsequent behavioral development. The author supports the adoption of a positive position by the family of concerned persons, open to learning and involvement in improving communication through sign language.

The volume reviewed represents in my opinion a great help in starting future research in this field, a challenge to understanding and social solidarity.

References

Florea, Barbu, (2011) *Limbajul gestual. Comunicare și interpretare*, Editura Lumen, Iași.