

Fred W. Riggs, ed. *Ethnicity: INTERCOCTA Glossary – Concepts and Terms Used in Ethnicity Research. International Conceptual Encyclopedia for the Social Sciences, Vol. I.* (Privately distributed: order from Fred W. Riggs, COCTA, Department of Political Science, University of Hawaii, 2424 Maile Way, Honolulu, HI 96822; 1985) xxix, 205 pp., \$25.00.

An unconventional reference work, the planned *International Conceptual Encyclopedia for the Social Sciences* should prove useful to persons conducting research in the social sciences or information science. Ethnicity specialists will have an opportunity to make first use of the results of the effort to produce such an encyclopedia because of the early publication of this pilot edition of the ethnicity volume.

The conceptual encyclopedia is a project of the Committee on Conceptual and Terminological Analysis (COCTA) of the International Social Science Council, with support from UNESCO, to promote terminological unity by developing an instrument which social scientists can use to identify terms that have been employed to denominate concepts that appear in their research. The project is a worthy one. Researchers have a tendency to coin new terms to label concepts that might have already been given names by others investigating similar phenomena. Although adequate review of literature should limit terminological fragmentation, the task of coming to terms with existing terminology is facilitated by the Riggs volume.

The glossary presents concepts as the main entry, followed by one or more terms that have been used to denominate each concept and, in most cases, examples from the literature in which those terms have been employed. A “conspectus,” in which concepts are grouped from the general to the specific facilitates the researcher’s location of terminology appropriate to the concept being investigated. Terms are designated as “unequivocal,” “equivocal,” or “suggested,” and alternatives are presented for a number of the concepts. For example, a researcher dealing with the concept of relations between ethnic communities in multicultural environments would find “intercommunal relations” presented as an “unequivocal term” to denote that concept and an example of the term’s use from the work of Milton Esman: “Intercommunal relations in Southeast Asia are so diverse that they cannot possibly fit a single mode of explanation.”

The glossary may be used as a thesaurus by a researcher seeking terminology with appropriate shades of meaning or a dictionary by one seeking definitions of unfamiliar language. An adequate index permits access to the material by term as well as by concept.

The glossary is a product of an ongoing international collaboration. Introductory essays, one by the editor and one by Eric S. Casino, explore

the significance of terminology to research on ethnicity and explain the process by which the glossary was developed. The production of the glossary is, by design, a continuing process. In a sense it is incomplete. This pilot edition contains a number of entries that are to be completed later. The expressed intent of the editor is to have constant updating as new concepts, terminology, and uses are noted and entered into computer files.

The potential impact of this volume on the unification of scholarly terminology is considerable. Actual impact will depend, however, on the extent of its use. Although its utility is clear, a major publisher or a subsidy to promote distribution will be necessary if the potential impact is to be realized.

— Vagn K. Hansen
High Point College

Sonia Sanchez. *homegirls & handgrenades*. (New York: Thunder's Mouth Press, 1984) 77 pp., \$6.95 paper.

homegirls & handgrenades is a book of poetry and prose pieced together with a multitude of colors and a variety of shapes that form a large blanket that covers many aspects of life in this country, of people in general, and of black people specifically.

Sonia Sanchez speaks through this book in a pressing, yet easy language, the language of the streets, the language of the brothers and sisters in the city as they struggle to survive. The words are transferred from the page to the eye then quickly to the heart and soul as they create a warmth of feeling and understanding. The blanket spreads as in "Depression":

i have gone into my eyes
bumping against sockets that sing
smelling the evening from under the sun
where waterless bones move
toward their rivers in incense.
a piece of light crawls up and down
then turns a corner.

. . .

am I a seed consumed by breasts
without the weasel's eye
or the spaniel teeth of a child?

In "After Saturday Night Comes Sunday" we are in the city with its problems of abuse: drug abuse and spousal abuse. We watch Sandy as