Making Sense Of Language: Readings In Culture And Communication
Most of us use language without giving much thought to the way it works or how it functions differently across cultures; however, the ability to use language is perhaps the most uniquely human of all our characteristics. Each of the forty-five readings in Making Sense of Language: Readings in Culture and Communication acts as a window—a particular perspective—on language. Chosen for their accessibility, these classic and contemporary selections engage students in thinking about language and how it relates to many aspects of being human. A broad range of topics and viewpoints provides the ideal introduction to the study of language and presents instructors with a variety of options for teaching from the text. Introductions to each part, thematic unit, and reading offer succinct historical and intellectual context to guide students and help them make connections among the topics and articles. Pre- and post-reading questions, suggested activities, lists of key terms, suggested further readings, and a glossary aid students’ understanding of the material. Alongside canonical works, the volume includes selections on exciting contemporary topics—hip-hop, gossip, and the language of nerds, for example—that are familiar and accessible to students.

About the Editor
Susan Blum is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Notre Dame. She is a cultural and linguistic anthropologist whose research has examined an array of issues in China and the United States.
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