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Preface

Recent years have seen a steadily increasing interest in the relations between perception and action as well as among their specialized subsystems, along with a growing awareness that the systems and subsystems for perception-action interact extensively and cannot be studied independently from one another. This volume provides an advanced level treatment of the most salient issues within this general concern as applied to the main systems and subsystems for language perception-production; listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

The chapters in this book received their impetus from a conference entitled 'Common processes in listening, speaking, reading, and writing' which took place at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF), Bielefeld, West Germany in July 1985 as part of the Research Project on Perception and Action organized by Wolfgang Prinz. Like other books which grew out of the Perception and Action Project, the present volume carries an alphabetically determined order of editorship and reflects the interdisciplinary goals of the ZiF: though all but three of the conference participants were psychologists, the book contains information of interest not just to psycholinguists and linguists but also to cognitive psychologists, neurologists, neurolinguists, and kinesiologists.

The main thrust of the book is directed towards the uniquely human abilities and cognitive structures whereby adults perceive and produce language, whether written or spoken. The book also touches briefly on developmental issues—in children (*Studdert-Kennedy*), in the history of languages (*Cutler*), in the evolution of species-specific language abilities (*Studdert-Kennedy*), and in the evolutionary relationship between language and other types of perception-action (*Keele*). It touches on type-writing (*MacKay, Keele*) and handwriting, or at least the breakdown in writing ability known as dysgraphia (*Coltheart and Funnell*). The book also includes discussion of the relations between functional brain architecture and information processing (e.g., *Funnell and Allport, Keele, Monsell*).

Each chapter received at least two reviews, usually from fellow participants at the conference, but occasionally, when a review required special expertise, we called upon outsiders for help. The editors wish to express

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Donald G. MacKay
Alan Allport
Wolfgang Prinz
Eckart Scheerer