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2234. **Communication Disorders in Multicultural Populations**, 3rd edition edited by Dolores E. Battle. Woburn, MA, Butterworth-Heinemann, 2002. 524p., bibliog., index. (Butterworth-Heinemann Series in Communication Disorders). [ISBN 0-7506-7323-0](https://www.isbn-international.org/product/9780750673230). LC Call no.: RC423.C6425 2002. NLM Call no.: WM 475 C7343 2002.

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Table of Contents:

Part I: Cultural Diversity: Implications for Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologist

1. Communication Disorders in a Multicultural Society 3
2. African Americans in the Americas 33
3. Asian and Pacific American Cultures 71
4. Middle Eastern and Arab American Cultures 113
5. Living in Harmony: Providing Services to Native American Children and Families 135
6. Latino Culture 179

Part II: Communications Disorders and Development in Multicultural Populations

7. Bilingual Language Development and Language Disorders 205
8. Multicultural Issues in the Management of Neurogenic Communication and Swallowing disorders 233
9. Fluency Disorders 267
10. Voice and Voice Disorders 299
11. Multicultural Aspects of Hearing Disorders and Audiology 335
12. Multicultural Aspects of Deafness 361
13. Assessing the Communicative Abilities of Clients from Diverse Cultural and Language Backgrounds 415

14. Clinical Practice Issues 461
15. Research Involving Multicultural Populations 487

Index 505

Communication Disorders in Multicultural Populations offers a broad portrait of ethnic and racial diversity in the United States, providing detailed cultural knowledge of the largest groups of minorities in the nation. Dolores Battle provides a concise opening chapter on the indistinguishable mix between culture and communication. The study of multicultural communication and its disorders requires the investigation of ethnography and the subtle inter-workings of tradition, historical and societal determinants of communication. One cogent example of this is her explanation of the various contexts in which clinical work is understood by people with different cultural expectations. Attitudes toward gender, traditional deference to authority, Additionally, Battle encapsulates the historical waves of immigration to the United States over the last 150 years with an emphasis on immigration in the 90s.

The book is divided into two parts, the first of which describes the broad groupings of minorities, ethnicities, and cultures in America, including African Americans, Asian and Pacific Islanders, Middle Eastern and Arab Americans, Native Americans and Latinos. It is acknowledged that these categories are broad and that homogeneity does not exist across a minority group. For example, the group considered Latino includes cultures as disparate as Central Americans, Brazilians, Cubans, or the African influenced, Spanish-speaking countries of the Caribbean. The book's second half more accurately describes the title. Part II offers nine chapters on various communication and language development disorders in the multicultural context. If part one sensitizes the reader to cultural differences that a language pathologist or therapist needs to be aware, part two is a handbook of the disorders and recommendations.

The discussion of communication disorders in particular is less a focus than is how these disorders are related to issues like bilingual language development, cultural traditions and behaviors related to the management of clinical practice, and multicultural considerations in the treatment of fluency, hearing and audiological disorders. The final chapter deals with research topics and methodology involving multicultural populations. Each chapter includes an extensive bibliography, and some chapters include appendices with assessment tools or sample reports.

The resounding chorus of this work is the fairly simple idea that one must take care to consider cultural background when assessing or treating

communication disorders of ethnic minority clients. Its strengths are the specific issues and possible attitudes one might be confronted with when assessing or treating multicultural populations. A large health sciences library with a program in speech pathology would find this a useful work, as would academic libraries serving programs associated with deafness and hearing loss.