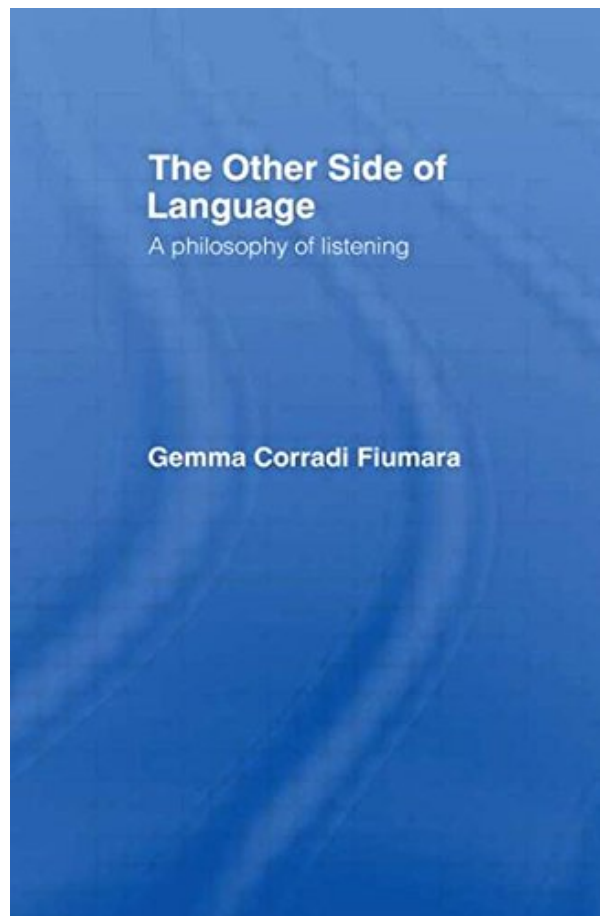


THE OTHER SIDE OF LANGUAGE: A PHILOSOPHY OF LISTENING BY GEMMA CORRADI FIUMARA



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The Other Side of Language

A philosophy of listening

Gemma Corradi Fiumara

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Review

"This book serves as a cultural, social and personal "wake-up call" to a world culture awash in too many words that are useless, destructive and meaningless. It is also a superlative instrument for theological/homiletical dialogue.."

-Homiletic, Winter 1998 Vol XXIII, No 2

"This remarkable book reflects the main issues of contemporary philosophy . . . [Corradi Fiumara's] arguments for an integral understanding of Western logic . . . are convincing and . . . they open new perspectives as well as outlooks on the future of philosophy."

From reviews of the cloth edition:

-Manfred Riedel

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: Italian

About the Author

Gemma Corradi Fiumara is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Rome.

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The Other Side Of Language: A Philosophy Of Listening By Gemma Corradi Fiumara. In undertaking this life, lots of people consistently aim to do and also get the ideal. New understanding, encounter, lesson, and everything that can improve the life will certainly be done. Nonetheless, many individuals in some cases really feel puzzled to get those things. Feeling the limited of experience and resources to be far better is among the does not have to own. Nonetheless, there is a quite easy thing that could be done. This is exactly what your instructor always manoeuvres you to do this. Yeah, reading is the response. Reading a book as this *The Other Side Of Language: A Philosophy Of Listening By Gemma Corradi Fiumara* and also various other referrals could enhance your life quality. Exactly how can it be?

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We are inhabitants of a culture that knows how to speak but not how to listen. Against a tradition that has endorsed the power of discourse, where warring monologues are mistaken for genuine dialogue, Gemma Corradi Fiumara examines and reveals the other side of language - listening.

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Most helpful customer reviews

36 of 37 people found the following review helpful.

The most thoughtful book on listening as listening

By Chauncey Bell

Amazon today lists 1760 books on a search for "listening." 99% of them fall into (1) language training, (2) Christian and Spiritual Direction texts, and (3) tips and techniques for listening in different contexts. This book is different. Fiumara attempts to bring listening into the light -- what listening is, really, what happens when we listen, and what listening does to us.

As she shows carefully in the first few chapters, what people think of today as a "philosophy of listening" -- what we can use as a basis for thinking about listening -- is a whole lot of talking about talking. There is

almost nothing at all on the subject of what listening is about.

Listening, especially listening to what we have not listened to before, is going to get more and more important in this world, as change accelerates all around us. And Fiumara is right; we are operating without basic maps or carefully wrought structures for thinking about listening. Paraphrasing Heidegger, we have the unfortunate habit of listening only to what we already understand. My children, I notice, like many other people in the world today, get angry when I ask them to begin to listen to something they have not before encountered. Listening is bloody important.

The ambition of this book -- a philosophy of listening -- is an astonishingly important ambition for our times. I don't think Fiumara fully realizes the ambition here, but she has done a superb job of aiming us in the right direction and raising all kinds of the right warnings and concerns. I have read this book half a dozen times. I quote it regularly when I am giving talks. I use it for thinking how to construct a marriage, a community, and how to get my children to listen to me, others, the world, and to be better listeners for themselves.

I recommend this as one of the top 10 books on the shelf of anyone who is committed to thinking about growing people in this era we are entering.

Thank you, Dr. Fiumara.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Great food for thought in what "Western Civilization" has come ...

By Linda R.

Fascinating uncovering of the unity between speaking and listening. Great food for thought in what "Western Civilization" has come to believe are important for freedom. Perhaps it is not only the podium or the soap box that is so important, but the ears that hear the sound that emanates from such places

6 of 10 people found the following review helpful.

A difficult read

By R. Russell

I found the ideas in this book interesting and stimulating. The philosophical approach is refreshing. Most listening books focus more on the mechanics, rather than the spirit, of good listening.

Please beware that either the author, (Gemma Corradi Fiumara) or the translator (Charles Lambert), or both, are terrible writers. Maybe I'm on the "listening for dummies" level, but I found comprehension difficult even with rereadings. Out of curiosity I took one section and applied the Gunning formula to see how it scored. Gunning scores are supposedly equivalent to the grade level the reading best matches. So a score of 12 equals high school senior level; a 16 is college senior level. The section I checked scored 36! Granted, the section was a real head-scratcher, but the whole book reflects that "level" of writing.

The ideas (that I could understand) are good. The reading is challenging. The writing is just plain bad. Be prepared.

See all 4 customer reviews...

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