Language in Society **27**, 285. Printed in the United States of America

NOTE

ROGER BROWN, 72, professor of psychology emeritus at Harvard University, died on Dec. 11, 1997, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was probably best known for his pioneering study of Adam, Eve, and Sarah's development of syntax (*A first language*, 1973). But by training and deeper interest, he was a social psychologist, especially interested in how the meanings of language relate us to our world and to each other (*Words and things*, 1958; *Social psychology*, 1965/1986). A meticulous scientist (member of the National Academy of Science), Roger also loved literature and music, and he often drew on those fields for examples. His article, "The pronouns of solidarity" (1960) – co-authored with Albert Gilman, his partner of 40 years – is still often cited by sociolinguists, as is his "Address in American English" (with Margaret Ford, 1964). His only article in *Language in Society*, again co-authored with Gilman, was "Politeness theory and Shakespeare's four major tragedies" (1989).

In his last years, Roger suffered from back trouble, pancreatic cancer, and a coronary heart ailment. After Al Gilman's death in 1989, he suffered the loneliness of an aging homosexual, described in his raw but courageous autobiography, *Against my better judgment* (1996). Close to the anniversary of Al's death, Roger took his own life.

He remains for me, as for all his former students, the finest example of teacher, researcher, and writer – generous with time and ideas, warm and witty in professional relationships, and modest to a fault, never wanting more than a footnote of thanks in return for his generosity. [COURTNEY CAZDEN, *Harvard University*.]

© 1998 Cambridge University Press 0047-4045/98 $9.50

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0047404500019977 Published online by Cambridge University Press