Rethinking Linguistic Relativity

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A Wenner-Gren Foundation international symposium entitled "Rethinking Linguistic Relativity" was held in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, May 3-n, 1991. The meeting brought together scholars from seven nations and a range of disciplines including linguistics, anthropology, education, cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, and cognitive science. The hypothesis of linguistic relativity, part of relativism, also known as the Sapir–Whorf hypothesis /səˈpɪərˈhwÉ¨rf/, or Whorfianism is a principle claiming that the structure of a language affects its speakers' world view or cognition, and thus people's perceptions are relative to their spoken language. The principle is often defined in one of two versions: the strong hypothesis, which was held by some of the early linguists before World War II, and the weak hypothesis, mostly held by some of the Rethinking Linguistic Relativity, pp. 70±96. Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press. Whorf B (1956) Language, Thought, and Reality: Selected Writings of Benjamin Lee Whorf, edited by Carroll JB. Gentner D and Goldin-Meadow S (in press) Language in Mind: Advances in the Study of Language and Cognition. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Gumperz J and Levinson S (eds) (1996) Rethinking Linguistic Relativity. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.