This is the fourth edition of this book edited and written mostly by speech pathologists, with either a scientist or clinician profile. Compared to previous edition, the content has been reformatted to respond to comments of previous readers and users: for example, chapters on language pragmatics or quality of life and counselling have been added. The upgraded graphic presentation of the book contains more illustrations, photos and tables. The book was also written with a clear pedagogical perspective which is illustrated by the use of case study, discussed questions or mini-test at the end of each chapter. Little inserts (“sidebar”) within the text also assure that the reader has the information put in context.

The book is organised into three sections: Foundations and Practicalities, Assessment and Treatment, and Related Cognitive-Language Disorders. Starting with a rather basic review of brain anatomy, the volume provides an excellent review of theories, models and classification systems of aphasia in a concise, though enlightening, easy to read text. In order to embrace a larger view of aphasia and its functional impact, this new edition also includes chapters pertaining to the humanistic basics of language as well as multicultural and multilingual issues in the care of subjects with aphasia. In the second sections, theoretical background of each aspects of language (e.g. naming, comprehension, reading, writing, etc) is consignet into separated chapters along with a detailed discussion of their assessment. Strengths and limits of different aphasia batteries or tests are well exposed as well as the principles guiding treatment. Very practical information such as available resources for patients, families and clinicians (e.g. list of aphasia and related disorders organisations) or available assistive technologies to improve communication and their value is provided. Finally, the last section is dedicated to related cognitive disorders such as right hemisphere damage, dementia and traumatic brain injury. These chapters expand the view of aphasia to include other possible related disorders that either co-occur or cause the language disorder. Although accurate, the information contained in these chapters is general and basic.

In view of the emphasis of the book on assessment and rehabilitation of specific attributes of language, it will be much appreciated by anyone training or working in the field of speech pathology. It will also be of interest for any physician implicated in cognitive neurology or rehabilitation. For those individuals, the rating of this book would certainly be ****. However, the general neurologist or student may find the book either too detailed and specialised (in the second section) or either too general (**).

Céline Chayer
Montreal, Quebec, Canada