Man Made Language
DALE SPENDER
Editor, 'Women's Studies International Quarterly'

For women, language is man-made, for it encompasses the meanings of men who have arrived at their definitions of the world from a position of dominance, a position which women as a group do not occupy; for women, these meanings are partial, and false. In this book Dale Spender presents an exciting, wide-ranging feminist study of language, its rules and uses. Readable, positive and entertaining, it argues that, since language is fundamental to humanness, it is through the patriarchal language that much of women's subordination is structured. The study demonstrates that once women expose the falseness of existing male meanings and encode their own, language and society can assume new forms, and women can move towards autonomy and self-determination and can assume a position of strength.

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Membership in the National Women’s Studies Association is for the calendar year, January 1-December 31. In recognition of the 1981 NWSA Convention theme, “Women Respond to Racism,” NWSA is offering members who join or renew their membership before June 4, 1981, the opportunity to purchase Black Women: Achievements Against the Odds at a special discount price. This 96-page, spiral-bound, three-year desk diary (1981-83), including photographs and biographies from the Smithsonian Institution exhibit, retails for $6.95. It is available to NWSA members for $5.00, including the cost of postage (N.Y. residents add $.40 per copy). Send check for your order(s) with your dues (see page 16 of this issue for dues form).

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Women's Studies Newsletter VIII:4 (Fall/Winter 1980)
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