



preface

In 2004, Frank Silverman authored the third edition of *Essentials of Speech, Language, and Hearing Disorders*. In his Preface to that edition, Frank said that his primary objective was to “provide users with essential information for understanding ‘at a gut level’ the symptomatology, phenomenology, and etiology of speech, language, and hearing disorders as impairments, disabilities, and handicaps.” When revising the book not long afterward, I retained much of his original objective of providing readers with the essential information they need to understand and help people with communication disorders while at the same time expanding the content to include a description of communication, language development, children’s language disorders, and multicultural issues and concerns regarding communication and communication disorders.

This fifth edition includes the information students enrolled in their first course in communication sciences and disorders need to retain an overview, rather than a complete understanding, of the field. As in edition four, I hope this edition stimulates students’ interests in particular topics so that they pursue in more depth additional coursework or independent work related to communication sciences and disorders.

Major changes in this edition include the following:

- A less formal writing style that speaks more directly to you, the reader. This less formal style makes the content more readable and easier to grasp for students encountering most of these topics for the first time.
- A reduction from 17 chapters to 14, to reflect my hope that the material included in the book can be covered in one semester.
- Thoroughly updated and reorganized chapters.
- Complete revision of Chapters 11, 12, 13, and 14.
- The addition of sections on assessment for voice and adult neurogenic disorders.
- Updated and expanded sections on diversity and multicultural issues, including several new sections on these two topics.
- A discussion of the impact of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders—Fifth Edition* on the field of communication sciences and disorders, with an accompanying expansion of information about the communication needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorder.



- A description of how evidence-based practices have emerged as a guiding force for clinicians providing services to clients with communication disorders.
- A new design to make the book more user-friendly and easier to access
- The option of an e-book format.
- Updated graphics to reflect current knowledge and advances in technology since the last edition was published.
- The inclusion of current technologies and methodologies.
- A complete overhaul of references.
- A reorganization into five sections: Introduction to Communication and Communication Disorders (two chapters); Language Development and Disorders (three chapters); Speech Disorders (four chapters); Hearing Disorders (one chapter); and Communication Sciences and Disorders: The Profession (four chapters).
- The boldface terms in the chapters are defined in the glossary.

Throughout this edition, as in the previous one, I use language that reflects the fact that people have disorders, not the other way around. In other words, I refer to people with disorders (e.g., “adult with aphasia,” “student with a language disorder”) rather than to disorders attached to people (e.g., “the aphasic,” “the language-disordered student”). I do this deliberately in order to focus our attention on the human who has a communication disorder rather than on the disorder. Although the field of communication sciences and disorders is based on understanding the science of communication and its disorders, the profession relies on the abilities of speech–language pathologists and audiologists to provide services in a way that is caring, humane, and professional. To do this, I believe, requires that we begin by remembering our human connections.