Contents

Pr	eface		vii
1	Hov	w might we talk about 'talk'?	1
	1.1	Some traditional views	1
	1.2	A more promising approach	7
	1.3	A variety of possibilities	12
	1.4	Still wider considerations	18
	1.5	Further issues	27
2	Do	only humans talk?	34
-	2.1		36
	2.2		42
	2.3		56
	2.4		61
3	Are	we 'wired' for language?	67
	3.1		69
	3.2	The puzzle of the brain	82
4	Does the mind matter?		
	4.1		94
	4.2		98
	4.3		107
	4.4	,	115
	4.5	Some general issues	118
5	Why	do languages vary so?	130
	5.1	Speaking a language differently	133

Contents

	5.2	Relating different languages	145
	5.3	Other types of variation	157
	5.4	Is variety useful?	166
_	0(1 1 . 245591880	1.00
6	0 0		168
	6.1	0 0	170
	6.2	Language in action	179
	6.3	The functions of language	190
	6.4	Can language use us?	197
7	Hov	v do we 'learn' a language?	208
	7.1	'Facts' to be explained	210
	7.2	What does 'learning theory' tell us?	216
		Is the 'mind' in control?	223
	7.4	Is language ability 'innate'?	232
	7.5	What we do 'learn'	239
	_	g months in manife anna p 8	
8	Des	cribing language	250
		At the state of th	
Gl	Glossary of language terms		264
Further reading			273
References			275
Index		288	