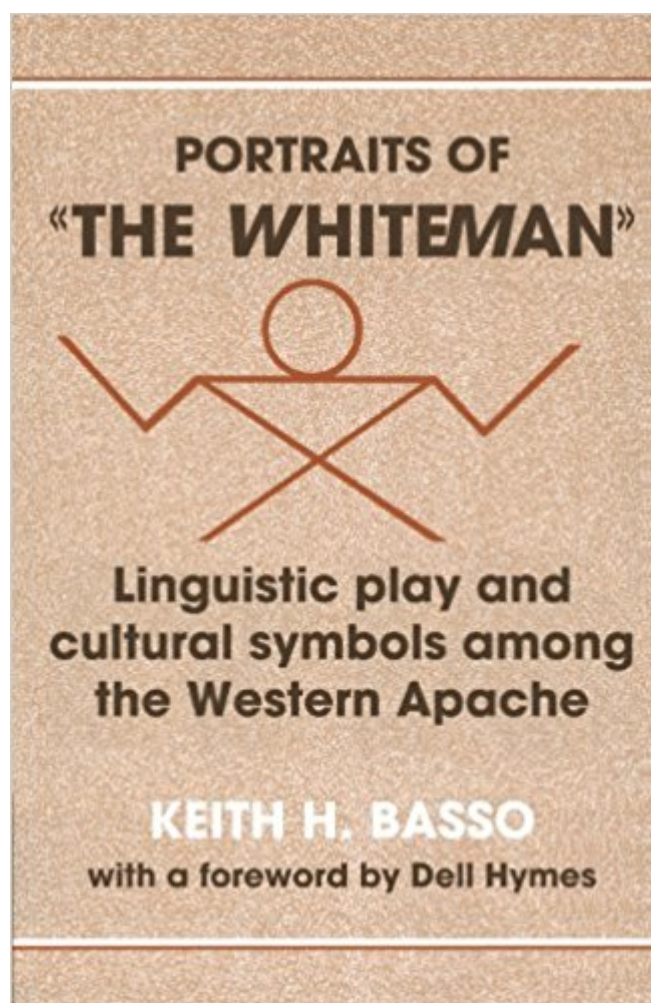


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Portraits Of "The Whiteman": Linguistic Play And Cultural Symbols Among The Western Apache



Synopsis

'The Whiteman' is one of the most powerful and pervasive symbols in contemporary American Indian cultures. Portraits of 'the Whiteman': linguistic play and cultural symbols among the Western Apache investigates a complex form of joking in which Apaches stage carefully crafted imitations of Anglo-Americans and, by means of these characterizations, give audible voice and visible substance to their conceptions of this most pressing of social 'problems'. Keith Basso's essay, based on linguistic and ethnographic materials collected in Cibecue, a Western Apache community, provides interpretations of selected joking encounters to demonstrate how Apaches go about making sense of the behaviour of Anglo-Americans. This study draws on theory in symbolic anthropology, sociolinguistics, and the dramaturgical model of human communication developed by Erving Goffman. Although the assumptions and premises that shape these areas of inquiry are held by some to be quite disparate, this analysis shows them to be fully compatible and mutually complementary.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'Portraits of 'the Whiteman' ... is an exceptional piece of work ... What it presents is something that is very different for an ethnographer to obtain; indeed, the material presented is unprecedented. The essay is well written, and it packs a wallop. It goes to the very heart of the difficulties in Anglo-American and Native American relations. It should be required reading for every Anglo-American whose work involves him with Native Americans. It will also be exceedingly useful as collateral reading in introductory courses in cultural anthropology.' Ward H.

Goodenough'Ethnographers are not the only ones who do ethnography and Portraits of 'the Whitemen' presents the most subtle evidence that this is so far for North American Indians. It is absolutely at the cutting edge of developments in mutual understanding, to say nothing of the fact that it is superb anthropology.' Alfonso Ortiz

Drawing on current theory in symbolic anthropology and sociolinguistics, this interpretive essay investigates a complex form of joking based on material collected in a Western Apache community wherein Apaches stage carefully crafted imitations of Anglo-Americans.

yes this book is everything life.... is what Res humor is... truly as satire of just how different the subtle jokes can truly be gut-rending funny to the expense of the white man or fellow in the know. But be aware there are two distinct society's of male and female genders. The thought process is dangerous if mistakenly construed; especially while in the wilderness where survival in nature is elevated to a very serious matter of quiet tones among hunters. The latter time is when the expert funny guy; will truly shine and receive the highest praise by all in thereby managing to Crack the heat with cool wind from the mind. Loved this book. I have rarely seen outsiders get the humor.

I've just started reading it for a class at school, but it certainly meets my expectations.

It was a really great Ethnography! Short, concise, and still had great depth. I quite enjoyed the topic at hand and it was great to read about such a fresh topic that I had never heard about before. Definite read. I would recommend.

When you pick up a book to learn more about nuances of different cultures, you often experience dry reading material. This book is academically rooted, yet easy to read and entertaining. I put it on my list of required reading for the Intercultural Communication class I teach. The students who select it really enjoy it.

The author is able to convey his experiences in a fluid and effective way that make reading this book not only educational but also entertaining. The Western Apache are presented as a distinct subculture in a very respectful way which I appreciated.

Great insight. This book was very enlightening.

This book is well-worth your money.

This is an absolutely great read. Perhaps a little out of the realm of "for fun" reading but if you are required to read it for class, do not fret. It's short and fun and a really quick read.

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