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978-0-521-71814-1 - Lessons from Good Language Learners

Edited by Carol Griffiths

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To commemorate the publication of Joan Rubin's seminal article in
TESOL Quarterly (1975) and to acknowledge those who have
contributed to the field since then

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To my father

Acknowledgements

This book was begun in about March 2005, which was, in fact, the year of the 30th anniversary of the publication of Joan Rubin's (1975) article "What the 'Good Language Learner' can teach us." Naively, I planned to have it finished before the end of the year . . .

When it comes to acknowledgements for this book, it is hard to know where to start. I guess we have to start with a tribute to Joan herself. I did not know Joan when I began this project, but, of course, almost everybody in the field knows her landmark article. When I did finally meet her, in Auckland New Zealand in early 2007, I understood what Andrew Cohen in his Prologue to this volume means by describing her as someone with "an impressive abundance of energy".

And, of course, I am deeply indebted to the numerous contributors to the book. Frankly, keeping track of so many, checking that they are all kept informed, and so on, has at times been, to put it somewhat euphemistically, a challenge. However, the variety of authors, representing many of the "big names" as well as the "new blood" in the field certainly adds to both the depth and the breadth of the volume.

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When I started the project in 2005 I was working at Auckland Institute of Studies in New Zealand. Although I have moved on since to gain professional experience in China, I would like to acknowledge with gratitude the support I received from AIS St Helens in Auckland, New

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