This important handbook, with chapters written by leading experts in their fields, is concerned with the integration of verbal and nonverbal features in communication. Not just a collection of readings, it examines how verbal and nonverbal systems in communication work. Contributions combine solid reviews of the current research and findings as well as important theoretical. This important handbook, with chapters written by leading experts in their fields, is concerned with the integration of verbal and nonverbal features in communication. The Prologue to the original Handbook of Language and Social Psychology sought to capture the essential history of the study of the intersect of language and social psychology in somewhat less than two pages. That could not be done now, although the field remains almost universally neglected in standard social psychological texts. The propensity of the texts to ignore language and its use is somewhat akin to a zoologist writing about fish without mentioning the role of water. It is also still rare to find undergraduate or postgraduate courses with titles linking language and social psychology. Language pervades everything we do as social beings. It is, in fact, difficult to disentangle language from social life, and hence its importance is often missed. The Handbook of Language and Social Psychology is a unique and innovative compilation of research lying at the intersection of language and social psychology. Language is viewed here as a social activity, and to understand this complex human activity requires a consideration of its social psychological underpinnings. Moreover, as a social activity, the use and, in fact, the existence of language has implications for a host of tradition
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