Historical Linguistics Oxford Introduction To Language

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this is an introduction to linguistics the study of human language the author provides a succinct but lucid outline of the ways in which language has been defined described and explored and guides readers towards further exploration of their own

linguistics falls in the gap between arts and science on the edges of which the most fascinating discoveries and the most important problems are found rather than following the conventional organization of many contemporary introductions to the subject the author of this stimulating guide begins his discussion with the oldest arts end of the subject and moves chronologically through to the newest research the science aspects a series of short thematic chapters look in turn at such areas as the prehistory of languages and their common origins language and evolution language in time and space the nature of change inherent in language grammars and dictionaries how systematic is language and phonetics explication of the newest discoveries pertaining to language in the brain completes the coverage of all major aspects of linguistics from a refreshing and insightful angle about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of

titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

this is the new edition of linguistics an introduction it is a bestselling introductory textbook for all students of linguistics and language studies this reworked edition features new chapters on sign languages writing and text and discourse coverage of writing in electronic media revised and updated chapters on languages of the world and psycholinguistics firmly based around taught courses and catering to student needs it addresses all the topics that a student will need in their study of language with key terms further reading questions at the end of each chapter exercises and key paragraphs in stand out boxes this is a firmly pedagogic text that takes difficult concepts and explains them in an easy to understand way it features examples taken from a range of languages across the world global in its scope and comprehensive in its coverage this is the textbook of choice for linguistics students the book comes with a large companion website also extensively revised and expanded for lecturers and instructors a comprehensive answer book is also available to go along with the questions throughout the chapters

sociolinguistics deals with the social life of language language in its sociocultural context it is a branch of linguistics that looks less at the shape or sound of words morphology or phonology and more at how our words and sentences are influenced by the society around us for instance how the accent or the dialect we use has been shaped by where we come from or which social class we belong to in this very short introduction john edwards offers the most up to date brief overview available of sociolinguistics with side trips into the sociology of language and psycholinguistics he considers such topics as the different social evaluations of languages and dialects the loaded significance of names and the importance of politically driven language planning and policy the relationship between language and gender sexist language the language of poverty and the intertwining of language and religion are also dealt with here edwards stresses that while linguists see all dialects as equally valid in the wider world powerful attitudes have always placed language varieties in social hierarchies the author also looks at language more broadly examining the ways in which languages rise or fall the attempts to revive flagging or endangered varieties the reasons why some languages came to dominate others and the special dynamics that affect contact between big and small languages in both its role as our most powerful tool of communication and as the most immediate symbolic marker of human affiliation language is pre eminently a social phenomenon this compact volume offers an invaluable introduction to this vital aspect of language about the series oxford s very short introductions series offers concise and original introductions to a wide range of subjects from islam to sociology politics to classics literary theory to history and archaeology to the bible not simply a textbook of definitions each volume in this series provides trenchant and provocative yet always balanced and complete discussions of the central issues in a given discipline or field every very short introduction gives a readable evolution of the subject in question demonstrating how the subject has developed and how it has influenced society eventually the series will encompass every major academic discipline offering all students

an accessible and abundant reference library whatever the area of study that one deems important or appealing whatever the topic that fascinates the general reader the very short introductions series has a handy and affordable guide that will likely prove indispensable

language and society introduces a broad and exciting array of topics relating to the interaction of language and society in a clear non specialist way the book discusses the socio political roles played by dominant large languages around the world and how the growth of major national and official languages is threatening the existence of smaller minority languages leading to the widespread occurrence of language death in modern times as individuals adopt new ways of speaking many languages are disappearing others are spoken in mixed ways combining words from different languages and even very stable languages are coming to take on distinctive new shapes as young speakers create novel expressions and make use of innovative pronunciations carefully explaining the many reasons for language variation and change which relate to the structure of society and the expression of group and personal identity language and society presents a detailed but highly accessible examination of the social importance of language in our everyday lives and how our knowledge of language can either act as a facilitating gateway or inhibit access to education advances in employment and the development of social status the volume also includes chapters focused specifically on the global growth of knowledge of english multilingualism differences in the way that gender and gendered practices interact with language and the ways that language may potentially influence the ways speakers perceive the world

table of contents

an encyclopedia covering the major and subsidiary areas of linguistics and applied linguistics it includes the seventy nine entries providing coverage of the topics and sub topics of the field it is suitable for specialists and non specialists alike

this book provides a concise and accessible history of english engages with key debates concerning issues of correctness standards and dialects investigates the uses of english worldwide reflects on the future of the english language publisher description

how many languages are there what differentiates one language from another are new languages still being discovered why are so many languages disappearing the diversity of languages today is varied but it is steadily declining in this very short introduction stephen anderson answers the above questions by looking at the science behind languages considering a wide range of different languages and linguistic examples he demonstrates how languages are not uniformly distributed around the world just as some places are more diverse than others in terms of plants and animal species the same goes for the distribution of languages exploring the basis for linguistic classification and raising questions about how we identify a language as well as considering signed languages as well as spoken anderson examines the wider social issues of losing languages and their impact in terms of the endangerment of cultures and peoples about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost

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why have 1500 separate languages developed in the pacific region why do danes understand norwegians better than norwegians understand danish is ebonics a language or a dialect linguistics tends to ignore the relationship between languages and the societies in which they are spoken while sociology generally overlooks the role of language in the constitution of society in this book suzanne romaine provides a clear lively and accessible introduction to the field of sociolinguistics and emphasizes the constant interaction between society and language discussing both traditional and recent issues including language and social class language and gender language and education and pidgins and creoles the text shows how our linguistic choices are motivated by social factors and how certain ways of speaking come to be vested with symbolic value and includes examples drawing on studies of cultures and languages all over the world this new edition incorporates new material on current issues in the study of gender as well as other topics such as the linguistic dimension to the ethnic conflict in the balkans and the controversy over ebonics in the united states

doctype html public w3c dtd html 4 0 transitional en html meta content text html charset iso 8859 1 equiv content type body a philologically robust approach to the history of ancient hebrew in this book the authors work toward constructing an approach to the history of ancient hebrew that overcomes the chasm of academic specialization the authors illustrate how cross textual variable analysis and variation analysis advance research on biblical hebrew and correct theories based on extra linguistic assumptions intuitions and ideologies by focusing on variation of forms uses in the masoretic text and variation between the masoretic text and other textual traditions features a unique approach that examines the nature of the sources and the description of their language together extensive bibliography for further research tables of linguistic variables and parallels

geert booij s popular textbook examines how words are formed compounded and inflected in different languages it shows how when and why to use methods of morphological analysis and explains how morphology relates to syntax phonology and semantics the author considers the universal characteristics of morphology and how these are reflected in the workings of mind the revised edition has been revised and updated throughout it has a full glossary and a new chapter on the field s most notorious problem the status of the word the grammar of words by geert booij covers a broad range of topics from structural questions to psycholinguistic issues and problems of language change this introduction to morphology is thorough and accessible and like other works by this renowned author especially strong at showing the significance of empirical facts for theoretical reasoning ingo plag university of siegen a book that is fully comprehensive in its coverage as well as exemplary in its clarity written by one of the major scholars of contemporary lexical theory sergio scalise university of bologna

i language introduces the uninitiated to linguistics as cognitive science in an engaging down to earth style daniela isac and charles reiss give a crystal clear demonstration of the application of the scientific method in linguistic theory their presentation of the research programme inspired and led by noam chomsky shows how the focus of theory and research in linguistics shifted from treating language as a disembodied human external entity to cognitive biolinguistics the study of language as a human cognitive system embedded within the mind brain of each individual the recurring theme of equivalence classes in linguistic computation ties together the presentation of material from phonology morphology syntax and semantics the same theme is used to help students understand the place of linguistics in the broader context of the cognitive sciences by drawing on examples from vision audition and even animal cognition this textbook is unique in its integration of empirical issues of linguistic analysis engagement with philosophical questions that arise in the study of language and treatment of the history of the field topics ranging from allophony to reduplication ergativity and negative polarity are invoked to show the implications of findings in cognitive biolinguistics for philosophical issues like reference the mind body problem and nature nurture debates this textbook contains numerous exercises and guides for further reading as well as ideas for student projects a companion website with guidance for instructors and answers to the exercises features a series of pdf slide presentations to accompany the teaching of each topic

easy to follow simple to understand broad yet concise this fundamental introduction now has more study questions and new tasks

this textbook aims to answer the needs of our undergraduate students mainly second third and fourth year students who speak arabic sometimes berber french and or spanish in addition to english the target language five languages are used for illustration english french standard arabic moroccan arabic and berber the variety of english that is illustrated from is standard british english often referred to as the bbc english or the queen s english and the sound pattern of received pronunciation rp which is a standard british english accent is described broadly speaking the international phonetic alphabet ipa has been selected to transcribe all speech sounds so far as standard arabic is concerned the variety used is the one which is prevalent in the domain of mass media such as radio television and newspapers as to moroccan arabic the variety which is exemplified from is the one spoken in the regions of rabat and casablanca concerning berber the varieties used for illustration are the ones spoken in ayt hassan near demnat and ayt bouzid near beni mellal http y ennaji free fr mohaennaji books iml htm

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