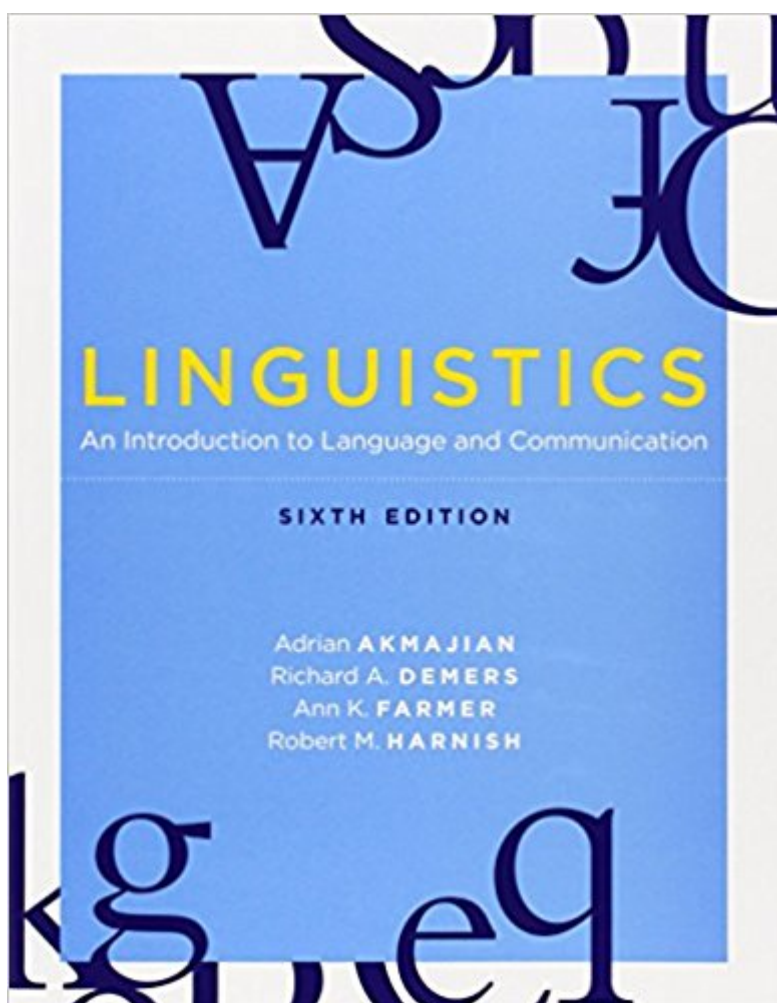


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Linguistics: An Introduction To Language And Communication, 6th Edition (MIT Press)



Synopsis

This popular introductory linguistics text is unique for its integration of themes. Rather than treat morphology, phonetics, phonology, syntax, and semantics as completely separate fields, the book shows how they interact. It provides a sound introduction to linguistic methodology while encouraging students to consider why people are intrinsically interested in language--the ultimate puzzle of the human mind. The text first treats such structural and interpretive parts of language as morphology, phonology, syntax, and semantics, then takes a cognitive perspective and covers such topics as pragmatics, psychology of language, language acquisition, and language and the brain. For this sixth edition, all chapters have been revised. New material includes updated examples, new special topics sections, and new discussions of the minimalist program, semantic minimalism, human genetic relationships and historical relationships among languages, Gricean theories, experimental pragmatics, and language acquisition. The organization of the book gives instructors flexibility in designing their courses. Chapters have numerous subsections with core material presented first and additional material following as special topics. The accompanying workbook supplements the text with exercises drawn from a variety of languages. The goal is to teach basic conceptual foundations of linguistics and the methods of argumentation, justification, and hypothesis testing within the field. By presenting the most fundamental linguistics concepts in detail, the text allows students to get a feeling for how real work in different areas of linguistics is done.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Linguistics: An Introduction to Language and Communication has long served as the yardstick introductory textbook to Linguistics. This new edition continues in that tradition, offering a carefully updated presentation of diverse aspects of the discipline. The text succeeds in being engaging without sacrificing conceptual sophistication or analytic accuracy, it challenges the reader without overwhelming. Its comprehensive coverage of traditional linguistic topics combined with its cognitive science perspective makes this textbook uniquely adaptable for a broad range of courses. It is to my mind the best overall single volume for making state-of-the-art linguistics accessible to the novice student. (Steven Franks, Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures; Chair and Professor of Linguistics, Indiana University)

The 6th edition of Linguistics: An Introduction to Language and Communication is a wonderful introductory textbook for linguistics. The book is flexible enough to be used in both introductory and more advanced survey courses by including more advanced special topic sections and lengthy reference lists for the interested student. It also combines 'famous' linguistic examples (e.g., Canadian raising) in the presentation of the material and in the exercises with new and clever examples (e.g., 'Cops-ization') to give students a range of linguistic data to consider. (Susannah Levi, Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders, New York University)

The late Adrian Akmajian was Professor of Linguistics at the University of Arizona. Richard A. Demers is Professor Emeritus of the Department of Linguistics at the University of Arizona. Ann K. Farmer is an Information Engineer at Google. The late Robert M. Harnish was Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Linguistics at the University of Arizona.

I have been studying languages for a few years on my own and had never touched upon basic linguistic concept. This was a very beneficial read. It begins with a basic overview of linguistic study and moves on to morphology and the formation of words, the way which they are formed and change, and rules that govern them. Next we break into phonetics and the study of sound structure, the vocal tract and the way which different sounds are produced from a linguistic and anatomic view. It touches on the International Phonetic Alphabet as the phonemic transcription device and touches on the sounds it uses, consonants and vowels. Phonology is introduced as a description of the sounds made with the IPA and sets rules for the sounds (long vs short vowel). Of course the main focus of the book is in English and we are advised that letters do not sound the same in every language yet they can be shown with the IPA. I don't want to make this review too long, but it goes on to touch on syntax, semantics, pragmatics, language variation and changes and finally on to the

psychological aspects of linguistic study which includes speech production and comprehension, language acquisition (in children) , and touches on various thought of language and the brain. Many of these areas overlap and are touched on and collaborated with different sciences including psychologist, neurologist, and other professions involved in the cognitive sciences.

I studied this book at the university and loved it! It is clear and complete, a wonderful introduction to the study of linguistics. I would recommend it to everybody. You don't need to be a scholar or a linguistic student to enjoy it and to get a better understanding of how language works. The only critic I can make is that the language analyzed is English and that more comparisons with other languages could be made.

This book is very dense with content. It really is a good textbook. It does, however, get very wordy and hard to understand in some places. The best part about this book is the practice exercises at the end of each chapter. Doing those exercises is really the best way to gauge whether or not you've understood the gist of the chapter.

would recommend to anyone interested or wanting to study Linguistics!! Was a great help during class and will be a consistent reference in the future!!

Its a great overview... Didn't really have what I was hoping to get out of it but it's still a good text to refer to.

Good, it's very useful for me.

The book offers a good, comprehensive review for basic linguistics. Although the text gets hard to understand from time to time, the overall quality is excellent.

Great

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