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Date : Published July 28th 1990 by Not Avail (first published 1971)

ISBN : 9780140135312

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Format : Unknown Binding 288 pages

Genre : Humanities, Linguistics, Nonfiction, Language, Science, Literature, 20th Century

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Claire Reed says

Yes, I am a language nerd! What Prof Crystal doesn't know about Language is not worth knowing. I read this while studying for a degree in Theoretical Linguistics. prof Crystal was one of my lecturers. This is not only a very informative book but David Crystal writes in a humorous and entertaining way.

Iván says

The version I've read was, in fact, really short. This book has some interesting point of views yes, but I wanted to see more. Nevertheless is a good pocket book. I'd check it again probably.

Hanoo Hanoo says

soooo confusing, though helpful

Chris Gager says

Well this one's old enough anyway. Meant to represent the Intro course I took at CU. The teacher was a last minute fill-in as I recall. Date is approximate.

Saboor says

nothing

Paulo De says

This is the best introduction to Linguistics I've read. Although it is an old book, the interesting and different about it is the special preoccupation to clarify the philosophical, historical and anthropological views that serve as presupposition of each linguistic models and approaches.

Also, Crystal mentions a bunch of opposite language theories, with a short but enough summary of their principles and prime book references. Many of the linguistic doctrines showed, such as generativism, functionalism and poststructuralism are still alive and productive.

Certainly, Linguistics is a must-read for any student interested in the sciences of language.

Marc says

A pretty well rounded and well written introduction to linguistics (as it was in the early 1970s). The style of writing is fluid and welcoming, never drowning you in jargon without explaining it and giving examples.

It's a bit fragmented though, concepts pop up and disappear a little bit in different areas, but maybe I was just overwhelmed by everything.

Also, I have no idea how outdated the outlines are now. The book basically goes through from the start of proper linguistic research and analysis at the start of the century and shows what the ideas were, and how they were (mostly) not good enough, and how they've evolved. It's 50 years later now, so who knows how much more they've changed?