

# Teach Yourself Linguistics By Jean Aitchison Ebook

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**Aitchison's Linguistics** - Jean Aitchison 2010-07-30

A comprehensive text on linguistics which includes sections on speech disorders, politeness, the language of advertising and phonetics.

**The Routledge Linguistics Encyclopedia** - Kirsten Malmkjaer 2009-12-04

The Routledge Linguistics Encyclopedia is a single-volume encyclopedia covering all major and subsidiary areas of linguistics and applied linguistics. The 79 entries provide in-depth coverage of the topics and sub-topics of the field. Entries are alphabetically arranged and extensively cross-referenced so the reader can see how areas interrelate. Including a substantial introduction which provides a potted history of linguistics and suggestions for further reading, this is an indispensable reference tool for specialists and non-specialists alike. This third edition has been thoroughly revised and updated, with new entries on: attitudes to language conversation analysis English Language Teaching gesture and language idioms language and advertising language and new technologies linguistics in schools optimality theory research methods in linguistics slang. The following entries have been recommissioned or substantially revised: Animals and Language, Artificial Languages, Computational Linguistics to Language Engineering, Contrastive Analysis/Contrastive Linguistics, Corpus Linguistics, Critical Discourse Analysis, Dialectology, Discourse Analysis, Dyslexia, Genre Analysis, Historical Linguistics, Intonation, Language and Education, Language, Gender and Sexuality, Language Origins, Language Surveys, Language Universals, Linguistic Typology, Metaphor, Pragmatics, Rhetoric, Semantics, Semiotics, Sociolinguistics, Stylistics, Systemic-Functional Grammar, Writing Systems.

*Slips of the Tongue - A Classification* - Maria Dziekonska 2012-01-14

Seminar paper from the year 2009 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Linguistics, grade: 1,3, University of Heidelberg (Anglistisches Seminar), course: Slips of the tongue, language: English, abstract: Whenever people fail to utter the message they wanted to convey correctly, they apologize and tend to explain their accidental mistake as a slip of the tongue. However, what is meant and covered by this term which is used so often to refer to speech errors? Does its universality suggest that all tongue slips are of the same kind? If not, how can they be distinguished? This term paper will try to give a more detailed categorization of speech anomalies, first providing a definition what is generally seen as a slip of the tongue. It will be shown, who were the first linguists to examine this topic and what discoveries were made. In order to give an own precise classification of speech errors, different approaches for main categorizations will be presented and taken into consideration. On the basis of these main categories, further sub-categories are elaborated and illustrated with examples given by different authors in order to explain every feature appropriately. Since many authors still not agree upon a common sub-

classification, this term paper will select the most suitable terms and definitions, try to compromise about the most common ones and give suggestions for further distinctions. To be conforming to the majority of the literature, the most common terminology shall be used. However, if provided terms are inappropriate or imprecise, they will be modified. The types of speech errors will be ordered via the main class they belong to. They will be presented as sub-classes, defined, explained and illustrated by examples in detail. Examples are marked with ordinals. The incorrect utterance is always presented with an asterisk and followed by the proper realization in brackets. The pronunciation of the slips is written in graphemes, i.e. normally w

*Building on Strength* - Ana Celia Zentella 2005-09-10

This book offers an exciting new perspective on language socialization in Latino families. Tackling mainstream views of childhood and the role and nature of language socialization, leading researchers and teacher trainers provide a historical, political, and cultural context for the language attitudes and socialization practices that help determine what and how Latino children speak, read, and write. Representing a radical departure from the ways in which most educators have been taught to think about first language acquisition and second language learning, this timely volume: introduces the theories and methods of language socialization with memorable case studies of children and their families; highlights the diversity of Latino communities: offers important insights into the ways in which children learn to speak and read by negotiating overlapping and/or conflicting cultural models; and suggests universal practices to facilitate language socialization in multilingual communities, including applications for teachers.

Language: Its Structure and Use - Edward Finegan 2014-01-01

This best-selling introductory linguistics textbooks treats language as both a system (structure) and a social tool (use) - an approach that serves students in many disciplines, especially linguistics, English, speech communication, and education. Features such as "What Do You Think?" and "Try It Yourself" prompt students to consider language in daily life and to begin thinking about language analysis, while new "Language at the Bar" features show them the real-world applications of linguistic analysis to criminal and civil legal cases. The wide range of exercises includes "Especially for Educators and Future Teachers" sections ideal for future educators, as well as "Practice Exercises," "Based on English," and end-of-chapter review sections. Based on sound scholarship and framed in a clear, friendly presentation, LANGUAGE: ITS STRUCTURE AND USE, Seventh Edition, helps students understand the uniquely human trait of language. Important Notice: Media content referenced within the product description or the product text may not be available in the ebook version.

*Words in the Mind* - Jean Aitchison 2003-01-08

*Words in the Mind* deals with words, and how humans learn them, remember them, understand them, and find the ones they want. It discusses the structure and content of the human word-store or 'mental lexicon, with particular reference to the spoken language of native English speakers. Discusses the structure and content of the human word-store, or 'mental lexicon'. Features a highly informative and accessible account of a central area of research. Incorporates new research on the mental lexicon. Written by a prominent researcher of the mental lexicon, language change, and the language of the media.

Psycholinguistics - John Field 2004

This volume offers over 170 entries covering the key areas of psycholinguistics - psychological processes, first language acquisition, the nature of language, brain and language, and language disorders - and thus provides a resource for students of English language, linguistics and psychology.

*Child Language* - Jean Stilwell Peccei 2006

*Child Language*: provides a comprehensive overview of language acquisition in children introduces students to key theories and concerns such as innateness, the role of input and the relation of language to other cognitive functions teaches students the skills needed to analyze children's language includes sections on the bilingual child and atypical language development provides classic readings by key names in the field, such as Brian MacWhinney, Richard Cromer, Jean Aitchison, and Eve Clark. The accompanying website to this book can be found at

<http://www.routledge.com/textbooks/0415281032>

*Language and Creativity* - Ronald Carter 2015-09-16

*Language and Creativity* has become established as a pivotal text for courses in English Language, Linguistics and Literacy. Creativity in language has conventionally been regarded as the preserve of institutionalised discourses such as literature and advertising, and individual gifted minds. In this ground-breaking book, bestselling author Ronald Carter explores the idea that creativity, far from being simply a property of exceptional people, is an exceptional property of all people. Drawing on a range of real examples of everyday conversations and speech, from flatmates in a student house and families on holiday to psychotherapy sessions and chat-lines, the book argues that creativity is an all-pervasive feature of everyday language. Using close analysis of naturally occurring language, taken from a unique 5 million word corpus, *Language and Creativity* reveals that speakers commonly make meanings in a variety of creative ways, in a wide range of social contexts and for a diverse set of reasons. This Routledge Linguistics Classic is here reissued with a new preface from the author, covering a range of key topics from e-language and internet discourse to English language teaching and world Englishes. *Language and Creativity* continues to build on the previous theories of creativity, offering a radical contribution to linguistic, literary and cultural theory. A must for anyone interested in the creativity of our everyday speech.

*Child Language* - Jean Stilwell Peccei 2002-03-11

Building on the established strengths of the first edition, *Child Language* has now been fully updated and includes some basic theory content, more exercises and summaries at the end of each unit. *Child Language*: \* introduces students to key areas involved in the study of children's language: vocabulary development, word and sentence structure, conversational skills and pronunciation \* contains a corpus of children's language \* includes suggestions for project work.

An Introduction to Psycholinguistics - Danny D. Steinberg 2013-10-08

*Learning About Language* is an exciting and ambitious series of introductions to fundamental topics in language, linguistics and related areas. The books are designed for students of linguistics and those who are studying language as part of a wider course. *Cognitive Linguistics* explores the idea that language reflects our experience of the world. It shows that our ability to use language is closely related to other cognitive abilities such as categorization, perception, memory and attention allocation. Concepts and mental images expressed and evoked by linguistic means are linked by conceptual metaphors and metonymies and merged into more comprehensive cognitive and cultural models, frames or scenarios. It is only against this background that human communication makes sense. After 25 years of intensive research, cognitive-linguistic thinking now holds a firm place both in the wider linguistic and the cognitive-science communities. An Introduction to *Cognitive Linguistics* carefully explains the central concepts of categorization, of prototype and gestalt perception, of basic level and conceptual hierarchies, of figure and ground, and of metaphor and metonymy, for which an innovative description is provided. It also brings together issues such as iconicity, lexical change, grammaticalization and language teaching that have profited considerably from being put on a cognitive basis. The second edition of this popular introduction provides a comprehensive and accessible up-to-date overview of *Cognitive Linguistics*: Clarifies the basic notions supported by new evidence and examples for their application in language learning Discusses major recent developments in the field: the increasing attention paid to metonymies, Construction Grammar, Conceptual Blending and its role in online-processing. Explores links with neighbouring fields like Relevance Theory Uses many diagrams and illustrations to make the theoretical argument more tangible Includes extended exercises Provides substantial updated suggestions for further reading.

**English Vocabulary Elements** - Keith Denning 2007-02-17

This unique text draws on the tools of modern linguistics to help the student acquire an effective understanding of learned, specialized, and scientific vocabulary. *English Vocabulary Elements (EVE)* helps develop familiarity with over 350 Latin and Greek word elements in English, and shows how these roots are the building blocks within thousands of different words. Along the way the authors introduce and illustrate many of the fundamental concepts of linguistics. Offering a thorough approach to the expansion of vocabulary, *EVE* is an invaluable resource that provides students a deeper understanding of the language. This book will be useful to upper level high school students, undergraduates in English, Linguistics, and Classics departments, ESL students, and anyone interested in building vocabulary skills. This edition is refined and thoroughly updated. It includes updated cultural references, and the authors have revised and improved the pedagogy based on classroom experience. In particular they account for variations in pronunciation among students; clarify when historical details are important or peripheral; and improve the many examples and exercises that form the core of the book.

An Introduction to English Phonology - April McMahon 2020-02-28

This textbook introduces the main units and concepts you require to describe speech sounds accurately. By working through the book and the various exercises included, you will come to understand the need for a dedicated system of description and transcription for speech sounds, and for a degree of phonological abstraction to support our understanding of the behaviour of sounds in particular languages and varieties. You will learn to carry out elementary, broad phonetic transcription, and be able to establish contrastive vowel and consonant systems

for your own varieties and to express simple generalisations reflecting the productive and predictable patterns of English sounds. At the end of the book there is a section guiding you through some of the exercises and there is also a detailed glossary which will be useful for assignments or revision during exams.

**The Seeds of Speech** - Jean Aitchison 2000-05-04

Clear and non-technical overview of the history of language development by popular author. Copyright © Libri GmbH. All rights reserved.

**The English Language** - Gerald P. Delahunty 2010-05-14

Grounded in linguistic research and argumentation, THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE: FROM SOUND TO SE01 General/tradeE offers readers who have little or no analytic understanding of English a thorough treatment of the various components of the language. Its goal is to help readers become independent language analysts capable of critically evaluating claims about the language and the people who use it.

**English Language Learning and Technology** - Carol A. Chapelle 2003-12-17

This book explores implications for applied linguistics of recent developments in technologies used in second language teaching and assessment, language analysis, and language use. Focusing primarily on English language learning, the book identifies significant areas of interplay between technology and applied linguistics, and it explores current perspectives on perennial questions such as how theory and research on second language acquisition can help to inform technology-based language learning practices, how the multifaceted learning accomplished through technology can be evaluated, and how theoretical perspectives can offer insight on data obtained from research on interaction with and through technology. The book illustrates how the interplay between technology and applied linguistics can amplify and expand applied linguists' understanding of fundamental issues in the field. Through discussion of computer-assisted approaches for investigating second language learning tasks and assessment, it illustrates how technology can be used as a tool for applied linguistics research.

**Warraparna Kurna!** - Rob Amery 2016-02-22

This book tells the story of the renaissance of the Kurna language, the language of Adelaide and the Adelaide Plains in South Australia, principally over the earliest period up until 2000, but with a summary and brief discussion of developments from 2000 until 2016. It chronicles and analyses the efforts of the Nunga community, and interested others, to reclaim and relearn a linguistic heritage on the basis of mid-nineteenth-century materials. This study is breaking new ground. In the Kurna case, very little knowledge of the language remained within the Aboriginal community. Yet the Kurna language has become an important marker of identity and a means by which Kurna people can further the struggle for recognition, reconciliation and liberation. This work challenges widely held beliefs as to what is possible in language revival and questions notions about the very nature of language and its development.

**Linguistics** - Jean Aitchison 1992

This book is a straightforward introduction to linguistics for those approaching this fascinating and fast-expanding field of study for the first time.

**Understanding Language Change** - April M. S. McMahon 1994-03-17

This textbook analyses changes from every area of grammar and addresses recent developments in socio-historical linguistics.

**Psycholinguistics** - Joseph F. Kess 1992-01-01

This textbook is designed to serve as an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of psycholinguistics. It is directed at filling the reading needs of courses in departments of linguistics and of psychology, presenting an integrated overview

of the ways in which both disciplines have investigated the learning, production, comprehension, storage and recall of natural languages. Also detailed are those research topics that have captured the interests of psycholinguists over the past few decades. Some current topics included are modularity vs interactionism, the role of parsing strategies in sentence comprehension, and accessing the mental lexicon in word recognition. Earlier topics that have attracted considerable energy not so long ago, such as sound symbolism and linguistic relativity, are also investigated in some detail. Psycholinguistics is an enquiry into the psychology of language, but the facts of language are what generate theories about why language is learned, produced and processed the way it is. Thus there is a wide array of examples from the languages of the world, intended to provide a feeling for what the nature and range of human language are like.

**Language Myths** - Laurie Bauer 1998-11-26

A unique collection of original essays by 21 of the world's leading linguists. The topics discussed focus on some of the most popular myths about language: The Media Are Ruining English; Children Can't Speak or Write Properly Anymore; America is Ruining the English Language. The tone is lively and entertaining throughout and there are cartoons from Doonesbury and The Wizard of Id to illustrate some of the points. The book should have a wide readership not only amongst students who want to read leading linguists writing about popular misconceptions but also amongst the large number of people who enjoy reading about language in general.

**Aitchison's Linguistics** - Jean Aitchison 2010-07-30

This classic book is a straightforward introduction to linguistics which attempts to answer two fundamental questions: 'What is language?' and 'How does language work?' It outlines the scope of linguistics, explaining basic concepts and essential terminology with examples drawn mainly from English. Sound patterning, syntax and meaning - the inner core of linguistics - are discussed simply and clearly, as are the rapidly growing areas of pragmatics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics and stylistics. You will find this contemporary, easy-to-read book essential to broadening your understanding of the subtleties and power of language. NOT GOT MUCH TIME? One, five and ten-minute introductions to key principles to get you started. AUTHOR INSIGHTS Lots of instant help with common problems and quick tips for success, based on the author's many years of experience. TEST YOURSELF Tests in the book and online to keep track of your progress. EXTEND YOUR KNOWLEDGE Extra online articles at [www.teachyourself.com](http://www.teachyourself.com) to give you a richer understanding of linguistics. FIVE THINGS TO REMEMBER Quick refreshers to help you remember the key facts. TRY THIS Innovative exercises illustrate what you've learnt and how to use it.

**Teach Yourself Linguistics** - Jean Aitchison 2004-01-26

Teach Yourself Linguistics is a straightforward introduction to linguistics, the systematic study that seeks to answer two fundamental questions: "What is language?" and "How does language work?" This book outlines the scope of linguistics, explaining the basic concepts and essential terminology. It discusses sound patterning, syntax, and meaning, as well as the rapidly growing areas of pragmatics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, and stylistics. And it explores language and linguistic typology, as well as contemporary uses of language and style in literature, advertising, and newspapers.

**The Articulate Mammal** - Jean Aitchison 1998

Requiring no prior knowledge of the subject, this text tackles basic questions central to the study of psycholinguistics, such as whether language is restricted to humans, whether there is biological evidence for innate language activity, how

children learn language, and how we understand, plan and produce language. The author investigates these issues with regard to animal communication, child language and the language of adults, and provides references and suggestions for further reading.;The book has been substantially revised, in particular taking account of the considerable changes in Chomsky's recent ideas. As a result, the chapters on grammatical innateness, child language acquisition and speech comprehension have been largely rewritten.

**New Media Language** - Jean Aitchison 2003

Investigating how changes to the world's media have affected, and been affected by, language this book explores a wide range of topics looking at the important and wide-ranging implications of these changes on the world - and our world-view.

*Understand Linguistics: A Teach Yourself Guide* - Jean Aitchison 2010-10-13

This straightforward introduction to linguistics answers two fundamental questions: 'What is language?' and 'How does language work?' *Understand Linguistics* outlines the scope of linguistics, explaining basic concepts and essential terminology with examples drawn mainly from English. Sound patterning, syntax and meaning--the inner core of linguistics--are discussed simply and clearly, as are the rapidly growing areas of pragmatics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics and stylistics.

**Revitalizing Endangered Languages** - Justyna Olko 2021-01-31

Of the approximately 7,000 languages in the world, at least half may no longer be spoken by the end of the twenty-first century. Languages are endangered by a number of factors, including globalization, education policies, and the political, economic and cultural marginalization of minority groups. This guidebook provides ideas and strategies, as well as some background, to help with the effective revitalization of endangered languages. It covers a broad scope of themes including effective planning, benefits, wellbeing, economic aspects, attitudes and ideologies. The chapter authors have hands-on experience of language revitalization in many countries around the world, and each chapter includes a wealth of examples, such as case studies from specific languages and language areas. Clearly and accessibly written, it is suitable for non-specialists as well as academic researchers and students interested in language revitalization. This book is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

*Teach Yourself* - 2010

A comprehensive text on linguistics which includes sections on speech disorders, politeness, the language of advertising and phonetics.

*The Oxford Companion to Wine* - Jancis Robinson 2015

This wine book provides comprehensive coverage on all aspects of wine making, and puts wine, wine-making and wine drinking into historical perspective.

*Trask's Historical Linguistics* - Robert McColl Millar 2015-02-20

Trask's *Historical Linguistics*, Third Edition, is an accessible introduction to historical linguistics – the study of language change over time. This engaging book is illustrated with language examples from all six continents, and covers the fundamental concepts of language change, methods for historical linguistics, linguistic reconstruction, sociolinguistic aspects of language change, language contact, the birth and death of languages, language and prehistory and the issue of very remote relations. This third edition of the renowned Trask's *Historical Linguistics* is fully revised and updated and covers the most recent developments in historical linguistics, including: more detail on morphological change including cutting-edge discussions of iconization coverage of recent developments in sociolinguistic explanations of variation and change new case studies focusing

on Germanic languages and American and New Zealand English, and updated exercises covering each of the topics within the book a brand new companion website featuring material for both professors and students, including discussion questions and further exercises as well as commentaries on the exercises within the book. Trask's *Historical Linguistics* is essential reading for all students of language, linguistics and related disciplines. The accompanying website can be found at [www.routledge.com/cw/trask](http://www.routledge.com/cw/trask)

*How Children Learn Language* - William O'Grady 2005-01-06

Adults tend to take language for granted - until they have to learn a new one. Then they realize how difficult it is to get the pronunciation right, to acquire the meaning of thousands of new words, and to learn how those words are put together to form sentences. Children, however, have mastered language before they can tie their shoes. In this engaging and accessible book, William O'Grady explains how this happens, discussing how children learn to produce and distinguish among sounds, their acquisition of words and meanings, and their mastery of the rules for building sentences. *How Children Learn Language* provides readers with a highly readable overview not only of the language acquisition process itself, but also of the ingenious experiments and techniques that researchers use to investigate his mysterious phenomenon. It will be of great interest to anyone - parent or student - wishing to find out how children acquire language.

*Language Myths* - Laurie Bauer 1998-11-26

The field of language is one full of misconceptions about the way in which language works, or is used. This collection of essays tackles beliefs, correcting a catalogue of errors such as: aborigines speak a primitive language, French people speak faster and German is ugly.

**Linguistics** - Jean Aitchison 1999

*Teach Yourself Linguistics* is a straightforward introduction to linguistics, the systematic study that seeks to answer two fundamental questions: "What is language?" and "How does language work?" This book outlines the scope of linguistics, explaining the basic concepts and essential terminology. It discusses sound patterning, syntax, and meaning, as well as the rapidly growing areas of pragmatics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, and stylistics. And it explores language and linguistic typology, as well as contemporary uses of language and style in literature, advertising, and newspapers.

*The Psychology of Language* - Trevor A. Harley 2013-12-16

This thorough revision and update of the popular second edition contains everything the student needs to know about the psychology of language: how we understand, produce, and store language.

**Language Change** - Jean Aitchison 2001

This is a lucid and up-to-date overview of language change. It discusses where our evidence about language change comes from, how and why changes happen, and how languages begin and end. It considers both changes which occurred long ago, and those currently in progress. It does this within the framework of one central question - is language change a symptom of progress or decay? It concludes that language is neither progressing nor decaying, but that an understanding of the factors surrounding change is essential for anyone concerned about language alteration. For this substantially revised third edition, Jean Aitchison has included two new chapters on change of meaning and grammaticalization. Sections on new methods of reconstruction and ongoing chain shifts in Britain and America have also been added as well as over 150 new references. The work remains non-technical

in style and accessible to readers with no previous knowledge of linguistics.

**Teaching English as a Foreign Language** - Carola Surkamp 2018-03-24

Diese Einführung in englischer Sprache präsentiert in 14 Kapiteln die grundlegenden Themen und Gegenstandsbereiche der Englischdidaktik. Gleichermaßen praxisnah wie theoretisch fundiert, behandelt der Band zentrale Prinzipien und Kompetenzbereiche eines modernen Fremdsprachenunterrichts. Ausgehend von den zentralen Akteur/innen (Lehrende und Lernende) und mit Blick auf die Teilbereiche der Sprach-, Literatur- und Kulturdidaktik werden zudem Vorschläge für den Einsatz unterschiedlicher Materialien und Medien diskutiert. Weitere Kapitel widmen sich den institutionellen Organisationsstrukturen und dem Bereich Assessment/Diagnose. Der Band erscheint in zweifarbiger Gestaltung, mit Definitionen und Beispielen sowie mit zahlreichen Abbildungen. This comprehensive introduction presents the fundamental topics and issues of TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) in 14 chapters. Integrating both profound theoretical and creative practical considerations, the central principles and competence domains of modern foreign language teaching are discussed. Starting with the main classroom agents (teachers and learners), the chapters outline a variety of content areas (language, literature, cultural issues) and thoroughly review materials, media and methods. Additional chapters are concerned with the historical development of English language teaching, its current institutional organisation as well as assessment and evaluation.

Psycholinguistics - John Field 2003

A comprehensive introduction to psycholinguistic theory with activities, study questions, commentaries and key readings.

*Cambridge International AS and A Level English Language Coursebook* - Mike Gould 2014-08-21

Comprehensive student-friendly resources designed for teaching Cambridge International AS and A Level English Language (syllabus 9093). The core aim of this Coursebook is to help students to develop and apply the key skills they need to achieve in AS and A Level English Language. They will build the skills needed for assessment through frequent activities. Divided into two distinct parts for AS and A Level studies, the book covers a wide range of reading skills, such as understanding aspects of style, voice and tone. It also addresses the conventions

of key kinds of writing and spoken language, from scripted speeches to travel articles, and looks at how they can capture these conventions in their own work.

*The Articulate Mammal* - Jean Aitchison 2011-04-01

This Routledge Classics edition includes a new foreword by the author. 'An excellent and very welcome guide to psycholinguistics...highly recommended.' The Washington Post A classic in its field for almost forty years, *The Articulate Mammal* is a brilliant introduction to psycholinguistics. In lucid prose Jean Aitchison introduces and demystifies a complex and controversial subject: What is language and is it restricted to humans? How do children acquire language so quickly? Is language innate or learned? She explains the pioneering work of Noam Chomsky; how children become acclimatized to speech rhythms before birth; the acquisition of verbs; construction and cognitive grammar; and aphasia and dementia. She also considers new topics such as language and evolution and the possibility of a 'language gene', bringing the field right up to date. Jean Aitchison was Professor of Language and Communication at the University of Oxford from 1993 to 2003, and is now an Emeritus Professorial Fellow at Worcester College, Oxford. She is the author of numerous books on language and gave the 1996 BBC Reith lectures on the topic of 'The Language Web'.

**Child Language** - Matthew Saxton 2010-03-03

Electronic Inspection Copy available for instructors here Presented with the latest thinking and research on how children acquire their first language, the reader is taken from a standing start to the point where they can engage with key debates and current research in the field of child language. No background knowledge of linguistic theory is assumed and all specialist terms are introduced in clear, non-technical language. A theme running through the book is the nature-nurture debate, rekindled in the modern era by Noam Chomsky, with his belief that the child is born with a rich knowledge of language. This book is rare in its balanced presentation of evidence from both sides of the nature-nurture divide. The reader is encouraged to adopt a critical stance throughout and weigh up the evidence for themselves. Key features for the student include: boxes and exercises to foster an understanding of key concepts in language and linguistics; a glossary of key terms; suggestions for further reading; a list of useful websites at the end of each chapter; discussion points for use in class; and separate author and subject indexes.