



Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction

William D. O'Grady, John Archibald, Mark Aronoff

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"Contemporary Linguistics" is the gold standard of introductory linguistics textbooks. Meticulously prepared, it is one of the most comprehensive, authoritative, up-to-date introductory resources on the market. The book's extensive examples and exercises help students master the course material, and its lucid writing style makes complex concepts easy to understand.

Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction Details

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From Reader Review Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction for online ebook

Samantha Maloney says

Overall, this book did a pretty good job of introducing basic concepts of linguistics and still keeping it interesting.

Dan Slimmon says

This textbook is solid. It covers a wide variety of topics, from phonetic to computational, and it made me feel well prepared for further linguistics study. The glossary and additional-reading suggestions are especially great.

By the way, this was the text for the MIT OCW Intro Linguistics course, which I found excellent.

Anne Ryan says

I love the subject... I'm one of the lone students in my class who finds linguistics fascinating. However, this book makes it a lot harder than it needs to be. Without my wonderfully gentle Mr. Rogers-like prof, I'd be lost.

Simona says

Very disorganized, confusing, unclear and repetitive.

Jess says

It's not great. I mean, I get that it's an intro textbook, but a) it's not very good at being introductory, because it's not very clear, and b) it's not very good at being intermediate either, because it doesn't really *explain* anything. I was hoping I'd be able to keep it around as a reference after the end of the semester. This book isn't worth it.

Macalester Linguistics says

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Bookshelves are a way for you to organize your books. You can create as many shelves as you like and shelf a book under as many shelves as you like. Shelves are essentially what some people call 'tags'.

Jared Collier says

Solid overall depiction of language science: content, methodology, and aim.

Jordan says

Overall, a *horrible* choice for an intro course.

Chapter One is decent. It gives a general overview of the field of Linguistics, and what I can expect in my studies. It's easy to follow, and gave me high hopes for this unexpected (and largely unwanted) post-baccalaureate class choice.

Chapter Two is in a different language. Literally.

This textbook (and, unfortunately, my class) made broad assumptions regarding my understanding of the International Phonetic Alphabet and how to use it. One would expect an introductory course that is a prerequisite for so many non-Linguists (read: me) to spend a bit more time setting up a healthy foundation. Nope. My understanding was, and is, incredibly shaky.

The textbook improves in later chapters, but not by much. Luckily, my class took two steps back and taught me everything the book didn't, and this remained the trend for this term. I would make a valiant stab at deciphering the book, and then rely on lectures to translate the technical jargon and sparse examples that this textbook flung at me.

Even Sociolinguistics, which I anticipated being the most fascinating subsection of this course, is bogged down by research methods and the technical side of linguistic data collection. All of the dialectical differences between urban/rural, domestic/foreign, and even male/female speech patterns is confined to terse sub-subsections of Chapter 14.

Sigh. Hopefully next week's lectures will prove these facets of Linguistics to be more interesting.

All I know is: I am taking the highest grade I can get this term (it's shaping up to be in the neighborhood of a B+) and running far, far away from this field. My apologies to all you Linguists out there, but this book reads like stereo instructions.

Kristen says

A book which I read in 1st year university. I used it in other classes too as it was very informative

Sohaib says

A wonderful introduction into the realm of linguistics. If you are going to embark into a general study of linguistics, then this is your book. It is both inclusive and informative covering pretty much all the linguistics branches necessary. I've sure found it very helpful as a beginner course back in 2012.

Shaoola says

A main resource I used in my study as a reference

Wael says

This book is considered to be the introductory book for linguistics (Lin 201) and I think not all of the information in it is basic. The book also has some high level knowledge about all the branches of Linguistics.
