

Language Myths Laurie Bauer

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2023-01-18

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A Survey of English Spelling Oxford University Press

A detailed look at language-related myths that explores both what we know and how we know it.

Sociolinguistics Cambridge University Press

The Five-Minute Linguist has been a popular introduction to the subject of language because it is succinct, clear, accurate - and fun to read. It is used by beginning students of linguistics, language education and anthropology, and has broad appeal for general readers, people who read for enjoyment as well as knowledge. The book started life as a series of five-minute radio broadcasts and for this reason its conversational style feels more like a series of fireside chats than a regular college textbook.

Those radio broadcasts were highly acclaimed and won the 2007 Linguistics, Language, and the Public Award from the Linguistic Society of America. The chapters are short, suitable for browsing or reading on the run. But although it is intentionally light in tone, the book is full of up-to-date information, written by more than 60 experts from around the world. This expanded second edition of the book is produced under the sponsorship of the Linguistic Society of America and the US National Museum of Language.

Praise for this volume: 'An excellent, very accessible, and extremely easy- and fun-to-read introduction to some of the basic questions (and misconceptions) regarding language, language learning, and linguistics. The book clearly meets the editors' intended goals; with each essay, the reader is engaged in a five-minute, light and informal conversation about the passionate topic of language.' *Linguist List* 23.4805, November 2012 'This book is for anyone who has a question about languages or the nature of language-which means just about all of us. But it's not just a musty academic text for specialists. While written by leading experts on the subject of language, The Five-Minute Linguist is a user-friendly exploration of the basics, a linguistic start-up kit for general readers. It assumes nothing on your part except interest in the subject. Its bite-sized chapters (no more than 3-4 pages each) give authoritative answers to the most frequently asked questions people have about language, and tell the story in a lively and colloquial style. It is a delightful read.'

From the Foreword by Bret Lovejoy, Executive Director, American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language

Introducing Linguistic Morphology Penguin UK

Discusses attitudes toward the English language and the slang, swearing, grammar, and differences in pronunciation that have changed the language

International English Penguin UK

How reliable are all those stories about the number of Eskimo words for snow? How can lamps, flags, and parrots be libelous? These and many other odd questions are typical topics in this collection of essays that present and occasionally zany, often wry, but always fascinating look at language and the people who study it.

Bloomsbury Publishing

This book considers how far social factors explain why human societies produce different kinds of language at different times and places and why some languages and dialects get simpler while others get more complex. It does so in the context of a wide range of languages and societies.

Sociolinguistic Typology Routledge

Applied Linguistics Methods: A Reader presents the student with three contemporary approaches for investigating text, practices and contexts in which language-related problems are implicated. Divided into three parts, the reader focuses in turn on the different approaches, showing how each is relevant to addressing real world problems, including those relating to contemporary educational practices. Part One introduces the reader to Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) as an approach particularly well suited to the description of language and language-related problems in social contexts. Part Two examines Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) as a means of uncovering the relationships between language use, power and ideology. Part Three presents Ethnography (and linguistic ethnography) as a methodology for observing the use and significance of language in real-life events as they unfold. The editors's general introduction introduces the student to the tools of SFL, CDA and ethnography and explains how the three approaches each offer distinct as well as, in some cases, complementary perspectives on language in use. Each part is made up of one classic theoretical reading, one cutting-edge theoretical reading, and three problem-oriented readings and includes an introduction, which provides synopses of the individual readings making the book highly usable on courses. *Applied Linguistics Methods: A Reader* is key reading for advanced level undergraduates and postgraduates on Applied Linguistics, English Language, and TESOL/TEFL courses.

Linguistics Pearson Higher Ed

Language is the medium in which we humans compose our thoughts, explain our thinking, construct our arguments, and create works of literature. Without language, societies as complex as ours could not exist. Geoffrey Pullum offers a stimulating introduction to the many ways in which linguistics, as the scientific study of language, matters. With its close relationships to psychology, education, philosophy, and computer science, the subject has a compelling human story to tell about the ways in which different societies see and describe the world, and its far-reaching applications range from law to medicine and from developmental psychology to artificial intelligence.

Introducing Polity's Why It Matters series: In these short and lively books, world-leading thinkers make the case for the importance of their subjects and aim to inspire a new generation of students.

Listen to Your Child Penguin Mass Market

From Scotland to Singapore, Canada to the Channel Islands, Namibia to New Zealand and beyond, *International English* takes you on a fascinating journey through the varieties of Standard English spoken around the world. Comparisons across the varieties provide a comprehensive guide to differences in phonetics, phonology, grammar and vocabulary, providing a

useful resource for teachers of English as a foreign language and linguistics students alike. In this fifth edition the authors have added a new discussion of what Standard English really is, as well as an outline of typologies of varieties of English including ELF 'English as a lingua franca'. This new material will be of particular interest to teachers and advanced learners of English as a foreign or second language as well as students of sociolinguistics, English language and language variation. MP3 files, ideal for use in class, at home or on the move, are free to download from our website, www.hodderplus.com/linguistics, and feature audio examples from throughout the text. The new material, coupled with a thorough updating of the remaining text and references, ensures that International English will remain a favourite and indispensable resource for teachers and students for many years to come.

The Handbook of Language Variation and Change Oxford University Press, USA

Published at a time when literacy and spelling are issues of topical concern, *A Survey of English Spelling* offers an authoritative, comprehensive, and up-to-date overview of this important but hitherto neglected area of the English language. The text brings together a vast body of knowledge, both synthesised from diverse sources and original, unpublished research. The emphasis is on a functional exploration of the spelling regularities and markers that underpin literacy in English. An extensive database has been used throughout to provide a wealth of examples, statistics and analyses. The carefully signposted text and detailed contents listing allow students, professionals, teachers and academics in all areas of English Language, Linguistics and Speech Pathology to access specific information with ease.

Language Myths and the History of English Edinburgh University Press

Despite a history of hundreds of years of research analysing aspects of English grammar, there are still open problems which continue to baffle language researchers today. Such 'grammar mysteries' arise for a number of reasons: because the language is changing; because different speakers of the language adhere to distinct norms and thus introduce and maintain variation in the system; because there are differences between the grammar of spoken and written English. This book illuminates some of the complexities of the subject, the areas where new discoveries await and why it matters. Through a series of accessible and engaging case studies on various aspects of grammar, from multiple negation to possession, the authors present grammar as an intellectual challenge. This book brings out into the open questions about language usage to which we still do not have good answers in a bid to make variation overt and to revel in the mystery of the English language. Both aimed at the interested general reader and the beginning student of English language and linguistics, this is a fresh take on grammar.

Morphological Productivity University of Chicago Press

"We frequently see one idea appear in one discipline as if it were new, when it migrated from another discipline, like a mole that had dug under a fence and popped up on the other side." Taking note of this phenomenon, John Goldsmith and Bernard Laks embark on a uniquely interdisciplinary history of the genesis of linguistics, from nineteenth-century currents of thought in the mind sciences through to the origins of structuralism and the ruptures, both political and intellectual, in the years leading up to World War II. Seeking to explain where contemporary ideas in linguistics come from and how they have been justified, *Battle in the Mind Fields* investigates the porous interplay of concepts between psychology, philosophy, mathematical logic, and linguistics. Goldsmith and Laks trace theories of thought, self-

consciousness, and language from the machine age obsession with mind and matter to the development of analytic philosophy, behaviorism, Gestalt psychology, positivism, and structural linguistics, emphasizing throughout the synthesis and continuity that has brought about progress in our understanding of the human mind. Arguing that it is impossible to understand the history of any of these fields in isolation, Goldsmith and Laks suggest that the ruptures between them arose chiefly from social and institutional circumstances rather than a fundamental disparity of ideas.

How English Works Edinburgh University Press

The Handbook of Language Variation and Change, written by a distinguished international roster of contributors, reflects the vitality and growth of the discipline in its multifaceted pursuits. It is a convenient, hand-held repository of the essential knowledge about the study of language variation and change. Written by internationally recognized experts in the field. Reflects the vitality and growth of the discipline. Discusses the ideas that drive the field and is illustrated with empirical studies. Includes explanatory introductions which set out the boundaries of the field and place each of the chapters into perspective.

An Introduction to the Grammar of English Cambridge University Press

Is Ebonics really a dialect or simply bad English? Do women and men speak differently? Will computers ever really learn human language? Does offensive language harm children? These are only a few of the issues surrounding language that crop up every day. Most of us have very definite opinions on these questions one way or another. Yet as linguists Donna Jo Napoli and Vera Lee-Schoenfeld point out in this short and thoroughly readable volume, many of our most deeply held ideas about the nature of language and its role in our lives are either misconceived or influenced by myths and stereotypes. *Language Matters* provides a highly informative tour of the world of language, examining these and other vexing and controversial language-related questions. Throughout, Napoli and Lee-Schoenfeld encourage and lead the reader to use common-sense and everyday experience rather than preconceived notions or technical linguistic expertise. Both their questions and their conclusions are surprising, sometimes provocative, and always entertaining. This thoroughly revised second edition updates the book with a new co-author, and includes new chapters on language and power, language extinction, and what it is linguists actually do. *Language Matters* is sure to engage both general readers and students of language and linguistics at any level.

Describing Morphosyntax Routledge

The media are ruining English"; "Some languages are harder than others"; "Children can't speak or write properly anymore." Such pieces of "cultural wisdom" are often expressed in newspapers and on radio and television. Rarely is there a response from experts in the fields of language and language development. In this book Laurie Bauer and Peter Trudgill have invited nineteen respected linguists from all over the world to address these "language myths"--showing that they vary from the misconceived to the downright wrong. With essays ranging from "Women Talk Too Much" and "In the Appalachians They Speak Like Shakespeare" to "Italian Is Beautiful, German Is Ugly" and "They Speak Really Bad English Down South and in New York City," *Language Myths* is a collection that is wide-ranging, entertaining, and authoritative.

Introduction to English Sociolinguistics Cambridge University Press

Designed for beginning undergraduates studying for degrees in English, this textbook provides an introduction to a range of sociolinguistic theories and the insights they provide for a greater

understanding of varieties of English, past and present. Drawing on both qualitative and quantitative approaches to sociolinguistic variation, the book provides a systematic overview such topics as: *English' as a social and as a linguistic concept *English speech communities *Social and regional dialectology in relation to varieties of English *English historical sociolinguistics, from Old English to late Modern English *Sociolinguistics and change in English *Outcomes of contact involving varieties of English *English and language planning *English, sociolinguistics and linguistic theory. The book contains data drawn from studies of English as it is used around the world. Throughout, there is an emphasis on facilitating a deeper understanding of linguistic variation in English and the social, political and cultural contexts in which speakers and writers of English operate.

Introduction to International Varieties of English Routledge

This collection brings together Peter Trudgill's essays on the sociolinguistic aspects of historical linguistics for the first time.

Language Myths Cambridge University Press

"DeFrancis's book is first rate. It entertains. It teaches. It demystifies. It counteracts popular ignorance as well as sophisticated (cocktail party) ignorance. Who could ask for anything more? There is no other book like it. ... It is one of a kind, a first, and I would not only buy it but I would recommend it to friends and colleagues, many of whom are visiting China now and are adding 'two-week-expert' ignorance to the two kinds that existed before. This is a book for everyone." --Joshua A. Fishman, research professor of social sciences, Yeshiva University, New York "Professor De Francis has produced a work of great effectiveness that should appeal to a wide-ranging audience. It is at once instructive and entertaining. While being delighted by the flair of his novel approach, the reader will also be led to ponder on some of the most fundamental problems concerning the relations between written languages and spoken languages. Specifically, he will be served a variety of information on the languages of East Asia, not as dry pedantic facts, but as

appealing tidbits that whet the intellectual appetite. The expert will find much to reflect on in this book, for Professor DeFrancis takes nothing for granted." --William S.Y. Wang, professor of linguistics, University of California at Berkeley

Millennia of Language Change Language Myths

This book covers the basic elements of linguistics in a lucid style, taking a subject that is generally considered quite complicated, and making it accessible to virtually anyone who requires a basic understanding of it. Specialists in language related fields, including Speech-Language Pathology, Experimental Phonetics, Communication, Education, and English as a Second Language will find *Linguistics for Non-Linguists* a must-have reference. The book's self-teaching approach provides students and specialists in fields neighboring linguistics with a basic introduction to the principles and methods of linguistic theory. Concepts are defined and illustrated simply. Non-linguistics majors will find this book comprehensive and clear. For anyone with an interest in phonetics and language.

The Great Eskimo Vocabulary Hoax and Other Irreverent Essays on the Study of Language Oxford University Press

Language Myths and the History of English aims to deconstruct the myths that are traditionally reproduced as factual accounts of the historical development of English. Using concepts and interpretive sensibilities developed in the field of sociolinguistics over the past 40 years, Richard J. Watts unearths these myths and exposes their ideological roots. His goal is not to construct an alternative discourse, but to offer alternative readings of the historical data. Watts raises the question of what we mean by a linguistic ideology, and whether any discourse--a hegemonic discourse, an alternative discourse, or even a deconstructive discourse--can ever be free of it. The book argues that a naturalized discourse is always built on a foundation of myths, which are all too easily taken as true accounts.

Battle in the Mind Fields Penguin UK

The updated and expanded edition of the most comprehensive and accessible introductory linguistics textbook on the market.