In this extraordinarily original and profound work, Noam Chomsky discusses themes in the study of language and mind since the end of the sixteenth century in order to explain the motivations and methods that underlie his work in linguistics, the science of mind, and even politics. This edition includes a new and specially written introduction by James McGilvray, contextualizing the work for the twenty-first century. It has been made more accessible to a larger audience: all the French and German in the original edition has been translated, and the notes and bibliography have been brought up to date. The relationship between the original edition (published in 1966) and contemporary bio-linguistic work is also explained. This challenging volume is an important contribution to the study of language and mind, and to the history of these studies since the end of the sixteenth century.

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Cartesian Linguistics

A Chapter in the History of Rationalist Thought

Noam Chomsky
Professor of Linguistics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Third Edition

edited with a new introduction by
James McGilvray
## Contents

Introduction to the third edition  
**JAMES McGILVRAY**  
*page 1*

**Cartesian Linguistics**  
*page 53*

*Acknowledgments*  
*page 55*

Introduction  
*page 57*

Creative aspect of language use  
*page 59*

Deep and surface structure  
*page 78*

Description and explanation in linguistics  
*page 93*

Acquisition and use of language  
*page 98*

Summary  
*page 107*

*Notes*  
*page 109*

*Bibliography*  
*page 147*

*Index*  
*page 154*