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# Exploring Language and Linguistics

*Exploring Language and Linguistics* introduces the key concepts of linguistics and the application of these concepts to real-world settings. The first eight chapters cover the standard topics of introduction to linguistics courses, while subsequent chapters introduce students to applied topics such as media discourse, literary linguistics and psycholinguistics. Each chapter has been written by a subject expert and experienced teacher, ensuring that the text is both up-to-date and clearly presented. Numerous learning features provide extensive student support: exercises allow students to review their understanding of key topics; summaries encourage students to reflect on the main points of each chapter; figures, photos, tables and charts clarify complex topics; and annotated suggestions for further reading point students to resources for self-study. A companion website, with 170 self-test questions, suggested group exercises, audio files and links to additional web resources, completes the learning package.

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and
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# PREFACE

*Exploring Language and Linguistics* is designed to meet the needs of undergraduate students approaching linguistics for the first time. As teachers of first-year linguistics courses ourselves, we have always welcomed students from a range of academic backgrounds. The key challenge for instructors on introductory-level linguistics/English language modules is to introduce a wide range of topics, approaches and concepts in an accessible manner to students with little or no prior experience of studying language. Meanwhile, the key challenge for students lies in their ability to understand and then apply their learning to real-world settings. Our volume seeks to address these challenges with writing which is concise, accessible and richly illustrated with examples. We make no assumptions about prior experience with grammar or with learning foreign languages. In this book, we aim to provide readers with a thorough grounding in the terminology and techniques of linguistic description, as well as taking them forward into more specialist fields in the subject.

Linguistics is a developing subject, and new areas of enquiry are opening up. This book features chapters on language and ideology, media discourse, including a discussion of the language of computer-mediated discourse in social media, and clinical linguistics. Such wide but detailed coverage of developing areas makes this book stand out from other textbooks in linguistics.

The textbook is aimed at readers who are likely to be first-year undergraduates taking their first course in linguistics. Our students have told us that what excites them about the subject are the many applications to real-world problems. Each of these chapters is written by an expert in the field and will contain introductory as well as more challenging material. The first eight chapters introduce readers to the different *levels* of linguistic analysis: sound (phonetics and phonology), grammar (morphology, grammar, syntax), meaning (semantics and pragmatics) and structure beyond the sentence (discourse analysis). These chapters will all be preparatory reading for approaching the subsequent chapters, as students will be required to bring this body of knowledge to the study of applications of linguistics. The order in which the chapters are presented suggests the order of reading, but they may be read in any order.

Some unique features of the book will aid students in developing their understanding of each topic. Each chapter has: frequent boxes summarizing key points, exercises (with answers provided at the end of the chapter) so that students can check understanding and online exercises, including some designed to facilitate group work. Students will find

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themselves well prepared for second- and third-year undergraduate work in linguistics if they have worked through this book.

Most introductory textbooks in linguistics contain omissions in content which detract from their suitability, particularly as regards typical curricula in the UK. They also tend to discuss fewer applications of the theoretical concepts outlined. Also, in the UK strategies of teaching and learning in linguistics have evolved to the point where we wish to offer an approach which supports students' learning with both accessible content and interactive exercises. Most importantly, introductory textbooks tend to be written by generalists, that is, single authors or small groups of co-authors, who write about all the subdisciplines of linguistics in a general way. This textbook differs from the vast majority of competitor publications in that it features chapter contributions written by eminent experts in each of the subdisciplines of linguistics.

We have thought carefully about the features of a textbook which help students to learn, and we hope students will enjoy the following:

- An introduction to the fundamentals of the subject
- An introduction to a wide range of applications of the subject
- Key terms for each chapter
- A glossary which defines the key terms as well as specialist terminology
- A comprehensive index
- Chapters written by experts in the field
- Exercises to practise new skills and knowledge
- Online exercises which give feedback
- Tasks which stimulate group learning

As communication technologies continue to develop, there is likely to be a greater focus upon online learning, while at the same time encouraging interactivity and group work in the classroom. We include the in-text exercises in the expectation that instructors may choose to use these in classroom activities. Students may then follow up by doing the online questions independently.

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