

Contents

The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language is organized in 11 parts, comprising 65 thematic sections. Each section is a self-contained presentation of a major theme in language study, with cross-references included to related sections and topics.

Preface to the first edition	vi		
Preface to the second edition	vii		
I Popular ideas about language	1		
Widely held linguistic beliefs and attitudes, and the basic functions of language.			
1 The prescriptive tradition	2		
Popular notions of linguistic authority and correctness; purism and language change; the role of linguistic description.			
2 The equality of languages	6		
Myths about primitive languages and language superiority.			
3 The magic of language	8		
Linguistic superstitions and verbal taboos; the mystical power of proper names.			
4 The functions of language	10		
The many cultural, social, and personal roles which language performs.			
5 Language and thought	14		
The complex relationship between language and thinking; the notion of language relativity.			
II Language and identity	17		
The many ways in which language expresses a person's individuality or social identity.			
6 Physical identity	18		
The relationship between language and age, sex, physical type, and physical condition; voiceprints; male vs female speech.			
7 Psychological identity	22		
The relationship between language and personality, intelligence, and other psychological factors.			
8 Geographical identity	24		
The regional background of a speaker; accents, dialects, linguistic areas, and the study of dialectology.			
9 Ethnic and national identity	34		
Language, ethnicity, and nationalism; the problem of minority languages and dialects.			
10 Social identity	38		
Language and social stratification, class, status, role, solidarity, and distance; the problem of sexism; borrowings.			
11 Contextual identity	50		
Situationally determined varieties of speech and writing; restricted and secret language; verbal play and art; word games.			
12 Stylistic identity and literature	68		
The concept of style; authorship identity and forensic linguistics; literary language in poetry, drama, and prose.			
III The structure of language	83		
The dimensions of language analysis that underlie all forms of language, whether spoken, written, or signed.			
13 Linguistic levels	84		
The relationship between the main components of language analysis; models of linguistic structure.			
14 Typology and universals	86		
Analysing the structural similarities and differences among the languages of the world.			
15 The statistical structure of language	90		
The study of the statistical regularities found in language; the frequency of sounds, letters, and words.			
16 Grammar	92		
Syntax and morphology; the structure of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences.			
17 Semantics	104		
The study of meaning in language; the semantic analysis of words and sentences.			
18 Dictionaries	112		
The use and evaluation of dictionaries; the past, present, and future of lexicography.			
19 Names	116		
Patterns and trends in the use of personal names; place names and their history.			
20 Discourse and text	120		
The study of stretches of spoken and written language above the sentence; the nature of conversation; analysing textual structure.			
21 Pragmatics	124		
The factors that govern our choice of language in social interaction; speech acts and their analysis; effect of the Internet.			
IV The medium of language: speaking and listening	129		
The study of the auditory-vocal channel of communication; the production, transmission, and reception of speech.			
22 The anatomy and physiology of speech	130		
The vocal tract and vocal organs; the nature of articulation.			
23 The acoustics of speech	138		
The nature of sound waves and the way they transmit speech; the sound spectrograph and its use in speech sound analysis.			
24 The instrumental analysis of speech	144		
Some of the techniques used in the analysis of speech acoustics and physiology.			
25 Speech reception	148		
The ear, and the process of hearing; speech perception and its investigation.			
26 Speech interaction with machines	155		
The principles and practice of automatic speech recognition and speech synthesis.			
27 The sounds of speech	160		
Phonetics; the description of vowels and consonants; kinds of phonetic transcription.			
28 The linguistic use of sound	168		
Phonology; phonemes, distinctive features, and other models; comparing the sound systems of languages.			
29 Suprasegmentals	177		
The prosody of speech; the structure of intonation; tone languages; the relationship between speech and music.			
30 Sound symbolism	182		
The relationship between sounds and meaning; the role of onomatopoeia.			
V The medium of language: writing and reading	185		
The study of the development and functions of written language, in all its forms.			
31 Written and spoken language	186		
The relationship between speech and writing; how sound is portrayed in written language.			
32 Graphic expression	190		
The physical substance of written language; types of graphic expression; handwriting, print, typing, and electronic forms.			
33 Graphology	204		
The writing system of a language; the history of writing; the alphabet; spelling, punctuation, and other contrasts; systems of shorthand.			
34 The process of reading and writing	218		
Psychological accounts of the process of reading, writing, and spelling; spelling regularity and spelling reform.			
VI The medium of language: signing and seeing	229		
The development and use of deaf sign languages.			

35 Sign language	230	IX The languages of the world	293	59 World languages	367
Popular fallacies about sign language; the development and use of signs by the deaf.		The range of languages in past or present use – numbers, speakers, sources; identifying and explaining linguistic change.		The international use of languages; official languages; World English and its varieties.	
36 Sign language structure	232	47 How many languages?	294	60 Multilingualism	372
The way signs are used to convey grammatical contrasts; American Sign Language.		Identifying, counting, and classifying the languages of the world		Causes and extent of bilingual attitudes and practice; language maintenance and shift; language switching.	
37 Types of sign language	234	48 How many speakers?	296	61 Language planning	376
The range of contrived sign languages; finger spelling, cued speech, and other systems.		Determining how many people speak a language; the world's most widely used languages and families.		Government policies about language selection and use; bilingual educational programmes; endangered languages.	
VII Child language acquisition	237	49 The origins of language	298	62 Foreign language learning and teaching	388
The study of the way children learn to understand and speak their mother tongue – methods, theories, and findings; later language learning in school.		Myths and experiments about the origins of language; wolf children; humans and primates; the evidence of palaeontology.		The role and status of foreign languages in school and society; theories of language learning, and methods of language teaching; language materials and laboratories.	
38 Investigating children's language	238	50 Families of languages	302	63 Language for special purposes	398
Techniques for finding out about child language; speech production and comprehension; theories of language acquisition.		Discovering the history of languages; comparative philology; the language families of the world.		The development of special varieties of language in science, medicine, religion, the law, the press, advertising, broadcasting, and the Internet; the related problems of intelligibility and change.	
39 The first year	246	51 The Indo-European family	306	XI Language and communication	419
The development of infant vocalization; early speech perception and interaction.		The history of Indo-European languages, where they are spoken, and how they are classified.		The relationship between language and other systems of human and non-human communication, and the scientific study of language.	
40 Phonological development	250	52 Other families	314	64 Language and other communication systems	420
The acquisition of the sound system; the learning of vowels, consonants, and intonation.		The distribution, family grouping, and use of the world's languages (other than Indo-European).		Language defined; chimpanzee communication; semiotics; communication by non-linguistic sound, face, gesture, and touch.	
41 Grammatical development	252	53 Language isolates	336	65 Linguistics	428
The acquisition of grammar; growth in sentence length and complexity.		Languages which cannot be related to any of the major families.		The history of ideas in language study; domains and personalities in 20th-century linguistics; linguistic methods; natural language processing.	
42 Semantic development	254	54 Language change	338	Appendices	439
The acquisition of vocabulary; first words and their content; distinguishing the meanings of words.		The identification of change in sounds, grammar, and vocabulary; glottochronology; explanations for language change.		I Glossary	440
43 Pragmatic development	256	55 Pidgins and creoles	344	II Special symbols and abbreviations used in the encyclopedia	462
The acquisition of conversational skills; the language of twins.		The origins, distribution, and present-day use of the world's pidgins and creoles.		III Table of the world's languages	465
44 Language development in school	258	X Language in the world	351	IV Further reading	484
The study of language in school; later oral development; learning to read and write.		The problems of communication posed by the diversity of the world's languages and varieties, and the search for solutions.		V References	489
VIII Language, brain, and disability	267	56 The language barrier	352	VI Index of languages, families, dialects, and scripts	494
The neurological basis of language, and the range of physical or psychological problems that can give rise to disabilities in spoken, written, or signed language.		The problems caused by foreign languages in the field of international communication; language and the business world.		VII Index of authors and personalities	498
45 Language and the brain	268	57 Translating and interpreting	354	VIII Index of topics	501
Brain structure and function; hemispheric dominance and localization; slips of the tongue and critical periods.		The principles and practice of translating and interpreting; the role of machine translation.		Acknowledgements	514
46 Language disability	274	58 Artificial languages	362		
Incidence, causation, and classification; deafness, aphasia, dyslexia, dysgraphia; disorders of voice, articulation, and fluency; language delay; alternative communication systems and aids.		The history of artificial languages, and the present-day position; Esperanto, Basic English, and other systems.			