



linguist society of southern africa linguistevereniging van suider-afrika

[home](#) [about us](#) [news](#) [journal](#) [member](#) [conference](#) [site map](#) [contact us](#)

Archive news

Submit
information
for the News
page

Other
website links

News

January 2009

2009 Membership Renewal

Please remember to renew your LSSA membership for 2009. Go to the [member](#) page for all the information.

Conference 2009

Joint SAALA/LSSA Conference
28-30 September 2009
Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Hotel
School, Waterfront

[Read more...](#)

English as an International Language

The rapid global spread of the English language has serious linguistic, ideological, socio-cultural, political, and pedagogical implications as it creates both positive interactions and negative tensions between global and local forces. Accordingly, debate about issues such as the native/non-native divide, the politics of an international language, communication in a Lingua Franca, the choice of a model for ELT, and the link between English and identity(ies) has stimulated scholarly inquiry in an unprecedented way. The chapters in this volume revisit, challenge, and expand upon established arguments and positions regarding the politics, policies, pedagogies, and practices of English as an international language, as well as its sociolinguistic and socio-psychological complexities.
Editor: Farzad Sharifian

[Read more...](#)

In Hot Pursuit of Language in Prehistory

Compiled in honor and celebration of veteran anthropologist Harold C. Fleming, this book contains 23 articles by anthropologists (in the general sense) from the four main disciplines of prehistory: archaeology, biogenetics, paleoanthropology, and genetic (historical) linguistics. Because of Professor Fleming's major focus on language - he founded the Association for the Study of Language in Prehistory and the journal Mother Tongue - the content of the book is heavily tilted toward the study of human language, its origins, historical development, and taxonomy. Because of Fleming's extensive field experience in Africa some of the articles deal with African topics. This volume is intended to exemplify the principle, in the words of Fleming himself, that each of the four disciplines is enriched when it combines with any one of the other four. The authors are representative of the cutting edge of their respective fields, and this book is unusual in including contributions from a wide range of anthropological fields rather than concentrating in any one of them.
Editor: John D. Bengtson

[Read more...](#)

A Critical Introduction to Phonetics

A Critical Introduction to Phonetics presents core areas of the subject from refreshing new perspectives. It takes a new stance on the presentation of basic phonetic skills for students of linguistics. Using examples drawn from a wide-range of languages Ken Lodge introduces the key aspects of phonetics, examining the difference between speech and writing, the physiology of speech production, basic and detailed articulation, and acoustic phonetics.

Author: Ken Lodge

[Read more...](#)

Commitment

Commitment is a notion widely invoked in speech-act theory, in studies on modality and in dialogue modelling, but it has never been the central topic of a monograph or a collective volume in linguistics. This volume is the very first to bring together researchers from different linguistic traditions and request them to focus on the notion. All the contributions presented here use ommitment as a key concept in accounting for a broad range of linguistic phenomena in various languages, from illocutionary acts like assertions and questions to modal expressions, through sentence-types, finite subordinate clauses, concessive markers, tense markers, and even text-types and genres. Each contributor takes pains to explicate his/her understanding of the term commitment, thus making interesting comparisons possible across theoretical boundaries. Some authors also point out potential drawbacks of the notion and argue for replacing or supplementing it with a related concept of involvement.

Editor: Philippe De Brabanter and Patrick Dendale

[Read more...](#)

The Dynamics of Linguistic Variation

Variability is characteristic of any living language. This volume approaches the 'life cycle' of linguistic variability in English using data sources that range from electronic corpora to the internet. In the spirit of the 1968 Weinreich, Labov and Herzog classic, the fifteen contributions divide into three sections, each highlighting different stages in the dynamics of English across time and space. They show, first, how increase in variability can be initiated by processes that give rise to new patterns of discourse, which can ultimately crystallize into new grammatical elements. The next phase is the spread of linguistic features and patterns of discourse, both new and well established, through the social and regional varieties of English. The final phase in this ebb and flow of linguistic variability consists of processes promoting some variable features over others across registers and regional and social varieties, thus resulting in reduced variation and increased linguistic homogeneity.

Editors: Terttu Nevalainen, Irma Taavitsainen, Päivi Pahta and Minna Korhonen

[Read more...](#)

Studies in English Language

This is the seventh volume in the Collected Works of Professor M. A. K. Halliday: Studies in English Language. Topics covered in the papers from the section on "Theoretical foundations" include transitivity, theme-rhyme, mood, and modality in English. Other sections include papers on English intonation and grammar including discussion of word order in English and the complex structures typical of informal spontaneous conversation. The grammatical analyses of English also serve to demonstrate the application of linguistics to language teaching.

Author: Michael A. K. Halliday

[Read more...](#)

Forensic Linguistics

It has already been affirmed that there are power and asymmetries in courtroom discourse. The courtroom professional such as judges, magistrates, lawyers and prosecutors have power over the defendants and witnesses. (Danet, 1984, Luchjenbroers, 1997). This book attempts to provide an explanatory account of linguistic communication between legal professional such as lawyers and prosecutors and the witnesses with a view to show the power prevalent in the courtroom discourse.
Author: Farinde Raifu Olanrewaju

[Read more...](#)**Morphology of the World's Languages**

Date: 11 June 2009 to 13 June 2009
Location: Leipzig, Germany
Contact: Jochen Trommer, jtrommer@uni-leipzig.de

This conference in the tradition of Syntax of the World's Languages seeks to bring together researchers working on the documentation or analysis of morphological data from less widely studied languages to broaden the empirical scope of morphological theory.

[Read more...](#)**Understanding Morphology, Second Edition**

This new edition of Understanding Morphology has been fully revised in line with the latest research. It now includes 'big picture' questions to highlight central themes in morphology as well as research exercises for each chapter. Understanding Morphology presents an introduction to the study of word structure that starts at the very beginning. Assuming no knowledge of the field of morphology on the part of the reader, the book presents a broad range of morphological phenomena from a wide variety of languages. Starting with the core areas of inflection and derivation, the book presents the interfaces between morphology and syntax and between morphology and phonology. The synchronic study of word structure is covered as are the phenomena of diachronic change such as analogy and grammaticalization.
Authors: Martin Haspelmath and Andrea Sims

[Read more...](#)**Understanding Phonetics**

Assuming little or no background knowledge and using original examples and exercises, Understanding Phonetics provides an introduction to the basics and present a comprehensive survey of phonetic theory. Using examples from a wide range of languages, the book is accompanied by audio material on <http://www.hodderplus.com/linguistics> in order to provide students with ear training and authentic listening material.
Author: Patricia Ashby

[Read more...](#)**Spoken Discourse and Social Interaction**

This book is an indispensable guide to a burgeoning and fascinating field of study. In twenty concise and highly readable chapters, Alan Firth outlines the key concepts, dominant approaches and major findings in spoken interaction research over the last four decades. Rather than being tied to a particular approach or paradigm, the book offers a comprehensive and inclusive overview, where emphasis is placed on describing the interactional and contextual nature of spoken discourse in a variety of contexts and social encounters.
Author: Alan Firth

[Read more...](#)**New Issue of SALALS**

A new issue of Southern African Linguistics and Applied Language Studies is now available.

To subscribe to this journal please contact sales@nisc.co.za

[Read more...](#)

International Journal of Research and Practice in Interpreting

Interpreting serves as a medium for research and debate on all aspects of interpreting, in its various modes, modalities (spoken and signed) and settings (conferences, media, courtroom, healthcare and others). Striving to promote our understanding of the socio-cultural, cognitive and linguistic dimensions of interpreting as an activity and process, the journal covers theoretical and methodological concerns, explores the history and professional ecology of interpreting and its role in society, and addresses current issues in professional practice and training. Interpreting encourages cross-disciplinary inquiry from such fields as anthropology, cognitive science, cultural studies, discourse analysis, language planning, linguistics, neurolinguistics, psychology and sociology, as well as translation studies. Interpreting publishes original articles, reports, discussions and book reviews.

Editors of journal: Miriam Shlesinger and Franz Pöchhacker

[Read more...](#)

A Linguistic History of English

This book describes the earliest reconstructable stages of the prehistory of English. It outlines the grammar of Proto-Indo-European, considers the changes by which one dialect of that prehistoric language developed into Proto-Germanic, and provides a detailed account of the grammar of Proto-Germanic. The focus throughout the book is on linguistic structure.

Editor: Donald A. Ringe

[Read more...](#)

Call for Papers: 2ND INTERNATIONAL MIDP SYMPOSIUM 'MULTILINGUALISM FROM BELOW'

14-16 September 2009, University of Antwerp, Flanders, Belgium The Symposium organisers invite papers which aim at shedding light on these dialectical processes, or on component aspects of it, from a large variety of perspectives and without restrictions as to areal scope. Paper submission date: 27 February 2009. Website: www.ua.ac.be/midp
Contact email: mfb@ua.ac.be

[Read more...](#)

The Limits to Debate

Exponents and critics of semantic presupposition have almost invariably based their discussion on the ('Standard') definition of presupposition implied by Frege and Strawson. In this study Noel Burton-Roberts argues convincingly against this definition, that leads it to a three-valued semantics. He presents a very simple semantic definition which is weaker, more general and leads to a semantics more easily interpreted as two-valued with gaps.

Author: Noel Burton-Roberts

[Read more...](#)

Networks and Knowledge in Roget's Thesaurus

In this book Werner Hüllen examines Roget's Thesaurus in relation to linguistics, philosophy and history. He explores the influence of Roget's Thesaurus abroad (Germany and the Romance countries). He epitomizes its history and compares the various editions of the book. In lexical case studies he evaluates some entries with pertinence to their cultural and political implications. He discusses the didactic potential of thesauri in general and considers the implications of the Thesaurus for the study of scholarly linguistics and psychology. He discusses how Roget's Thesaurus prepared the way for the more recent idea of network semantics. By analyzing retrieval techniques one can show, he claims, how the words of languages were (and are) stored in the minds of those who speak them. Professor Hüllen concludes by considering the role of synonymy in language from a perspective of cognitive linguistics showing that it is indispensable for communication.

Author: Werner Hüllen

[Read more...](#)

English Literary Stylistics

This refreshingly straightforward and accessible textbook introduces students who might not have a linguistic background, to the study of literary texts. Gregoriou takes an innovative, genre-based approach, providing students with the analytical skills and theoretical approaches they need to interpret the language of literature.

Author: Christiana Gregoriou

[Read more...](#)**Professional Encounters in TESOL**

This book investigates the developing discourses of English Language teachers in a variety of international contexts. By analysing how professional development takes place through participation in professional discourse, the chapters shed light on what teachers do and why they do it. The book should have particular appeal to all those working in the area of teacher development and will also be of interest to practising teachers.

Editors: Sue Garton and Keith Richards

[Read more...](#)**Narratives of Learning and Teaching EFL**

Narratives of Learning and Teaching EFL is a collection of research reports on lived experiences of the English language with a focus on the subjective meanings and emotions involved in English-as-a-Foreign-Language contexts of learning and teaching, including Japan, Brazil, and some European countries. Contributors make use of fresh theoretical frameworks and innovative methods of data collection and analysis (including verbal and visual narratives). It works as a kaleidoscope, providing a variety of perspectives on learning and teaching EFL through narrative research. The intended audience consists of experienced scholars and also students about to begin their careers as researchers. The idea is to encourage others to try out some of the theoretical frameworks or narrative methodology in their own contexts of EFL or other foreign languages or by extending these to contexts of second languages. Narratives of Learning and Teaching EFL can thus function as a source of ideas - and also as a tool kit.

Editors: Paula Kalaja, Vera Menezes and Ana-Maria Ferreira Barcelos

[Read more...](#)**Discourse and Power**

Teun van Dijk is one of the founders of Critical Discourse Studies and this collection brings together some of his most important writing, framed by new introductory material. He examines the role of discourse in the reproduction of power and domination in society and the ways in which media and political elites control access to public discourse.

Author: Teun A van Dijk

[Read more...](#)**Gender and Language Research Methodologies**

This book draws together for the first time the main current methodological approaches to the study of language and gender. These include sociolinguistics and ethnography, corpus linguistics, conversation analysis, discursive psychology, critical discourse analysis, feminist post-structuralist discourse analysis and queer theory. Each 'approach' is introduced by one of its key proponents in the field (including Ruth Wodak on CDA, Celia Kitzinger on conversation analysis and Judith Baxter on feminist post-structuralist discourse analysis), and this is followed by chapters illustrating uses of the approach.

Editors: Kate Harrington, Lia Litosseliti, Helen Sauntson and Jane Sunderland

[Read more...](#)**Multimodality and Genre**

John Bateman presents a new approach to analysing page-based documents, such as magazines, books, webpages, newspapers and so on, that combine text, graphics and pictures in more or less complex layouts. Such layouts are becoming ever more sophisticated and their interpretation and effective use present serious challenges for visual literacy, document design and document interpretation. A major claim of the book is that we need detailed empirical analysis in order to advance our understanding of the complex multimodal meaning processes involved in page-based documents. To achieve this, readers are shown how to break the layout of any page down into configurations of basic elements and to use these for uncovering intended, and

Paul Grice - Philosopher and Linguist

Paul Grice is best known for a few short articles that have been hugely influential in philosophy and particularly in linguistics. However, these form only a small part of a wide-ranging body of work covering meaning, reference, logic, metaphysics and ethics. This is the first book-length study of Grice's work as a whole. It draws on both published and unpublished material to demonstrate the development of, but also the essential coherence of, Grice's thinking. Siobhan Chapman discusses his lesser-known writings and reconsiders the ideas for which he is best known, particularly the theory of conversation, in the context of his work as a whole. She considers Grice's ideas in terms of their impact, particularly on the development of

unintended, rhetorical organisation. Multimodal rhetorical analysis of this kind provides a powerful tool for inpointing design problems. The book also explains how document genres change over time and why this forms an essential part of document production and analysis.

Author: John Bateman

[Read more...](#)

pragmatics, and assesses Grice's work in the context of the time in which it was written, examining how it was shaped by his personal philosophical influences and career, and by his character.

Author: Siobhan Chapman

[Read more...](#)

Communicating with One Another

In contrast to traditional approaches of mainstream psycholinguists, the authors of Communicating with One Another approach spontaneous spoken discourse as a dynamic process, rich with structures, patterns, and rules other than conventional grammar and syntax. Daniel C. O'Connell and Sabine Kowal thoroughly critique mainstream psycholinguistics, proposing instead a shift in theoretical focus from experimentation to field observation, from monologue to dialogue, and from the written to the spoken.

Authors: Daniel C. O'Connell and Sabine Kowal

[Read more...](#)

Meaningful Arrangement

This book takes apart and problematises the whole process of identifying and explaining the patterning of words in sentences. It brings together two concepts - syntax and text - that are normally treated separately, and shows how they can best be understood in relation to each other.

Author: Edward McDonald

[Read more...](#)

The Development of Scientific Writing

This book is one of the first applications of a functional approach to language across time. It first summarizes and evaluates previous studies of the development of scientific language, including Halliday's exploration of this fascinating topic. It then traces the development of scientific writing as a genre, in terms of its linguistic features, from Chaucer's Treatise on the Astrolabe (the first technical text written in English) almost to the present. It goes on to consider texts by major scientists of the late seventeenth century, and then analyses and discusses a corpus of texts taken from the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, covering the period 1700 to 1980.

Author: David Banks

[Read more...](#)

English Tense and Aspect in Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar

This book is aimed at fellow practitioners and researchers in functional linguistics. It offers a friendly but critical appraisal of a major component of the 'standard' version of SFL, i.e. the account given by Halliday and Matthiessen of tense and aspect in English. Supporting his criticisms with evidence from a project in corpus linguistics, Bache suggests that this account fails in several ways to satisfy accepted functionalist criteria, and hence needs revising and extending.

Author: Carl Bache

[Read more...](#)

From Language to Multimodality

This book shares the recent debates by systemic functional linguistics and other linguistic forums. Its principal focus is on how we use language to make meaning of the world, on how the systems and structures of the ideational function of language represent the realisation of our experiences of the world around us.

Editors: Carys Jones and Eija Ventola

Language and Literacy

This volume examines the relationship between language and literacy from a systemic functional perspective. The book starts with a retrospective view on the development of language education practices, written by eminent linguistics Michael Halliday and Ruqaiya Hasan, and then shows how this approach is implemented today. The second section presents a detailed analysis of how considerations of literacy education are approached in educational systems around the world. The contributors examine issues such as metadiscourse, genre, cultural politics, and how systemic functional grammar can help to raise literacy standards. The final section looks at literacy in more specific disciplines, including history, literature, science and student writing.

Editors: Rachel Whittaker, Mick O'Donnell and Anne McCabe

[Read more...](#)[Read more...](#)**A History of Cant and Slang Dictionaries (Vol III)**

This book continues Julie Coleman's acclaimed history of dictionaries of English slang and cant. It describes the increasingly systematic and scholarly way in which such terms were recorded and classified in the UK, the USA, Australia, and elsewhere, and the huge growth in the publication of and public appetite for dictionaries, glossaries, and guides to the distinctive vocabularies of different social groups, classes, districts, regions, and nations. Dr Coleman describes the origins of words and phrases and explores their history. By copious example she shows how they cast light on everyday life across the globe - from settlers in Canada and Australia and cockneys in London to gang-members in New York and soldiers fighting in the Boer and First World Wars - as well as on the operations of the narcotics trade and the entertainment business and the lives of those attending American colleges and British public schools.

Author: Julie Coleman

[Read more...](#)**A History of Cant and Slang Dictionaries (Vol I)**

This is the first volume in a complete history of the documentation of English cant and slang from 1567 to the present. It gives unparalleled insights into the early history of slang, the people who used it, and how and why it was recorded. It also provides unusual and unexpected insights into the underworlds of early modern England.

Author: Julie Coleman

[Read more...](#)**From Linguistic Areas to Areal Linguistics**

As the study of language contact has made great strides over the past two decades, areal phenomena have attracted increasing attention from scholars in a wide range of fields, including historical linguistics, sociolinguistics, second language acquisition, and typology. The appearance of volumes such as Gilbers, Nerbonne, and Schaeken 2000, Aikhenvald and Dixon 2001 and Matras, McMahon, and Vincent 2006 attests to the recent upsurge of research on diffusion and convergence among geographically proximate languages, belonging to what are traditionally called "linguistic areas" or Sprachbünde.

Editor: Pieter Muysken

[Read more...](#)**Spoken English, TESOL and Applied Linguistics**

This edited volume of twelve chapters explores whether and how [Read more...](#) the insights from current research on spoken language can be applied to Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) practice. The issues under discussion include attitudes and ideologies, prosody as a model of meaning, language pedagogy and assessment.

Editor: Hughes, Rebecca

[Read more...](#)**Intonation in the Grammar of English**

Intonation in the Grammar of English is written for scholars interested in language but not necessarily linguists or phoneticians. An introduction covers speech sound, locating it in relation to other phenomena and disciplines, discussing its representation and interpretation, and introducing the systems and strata which frame its analysis in terms of systemic functional linguistics. A CD ROM integrated with the book provides examples as the systems of intonational choices are presented, and also gives examples of these systems being drawn on in different dialects of English, and in the many different exchange situations in which speakers find themselves in the course of a day.

Author: MAK Halliday and William S. Greaves

[Read more...](#)**Towards Predicate Driven Grammar**

This book is about "Predicate Driven Grammar" (PDG), a new type of linguistic grammar. PDG is strongly influenced by the Sense-Text-Model and by the writings of Zellig Harris and Maurice Gross. Unlike most other grammars, PDG presupposes a language to be a relation over the Cartesian product of a set of texts and a set of meanings. A PDG assigns to each text the set of its meanings and to each meaning the set of its texts and, therefore, relates each two texts that are paraphrases, no matter if they are texts of the same or of different languages.

Author: Jörg Schuster

[Read more...](#)

Festival of Languages

Date: 17 September 2009 to 07 October 2009
 Location: Bremen, Germany
 Contact: Thomas Stolz (stolz@uni-bremen.de)
 The Festival of Languages will take place in September/October 2009 in Bremen/Germany. It is meant to familiarise the general public with the idea of the linguistic diversity of our world as a positive value of humankind that needs to be preserved. The Festival covers a period of altogether 21 days and takes place at various sites in the entire city-state of Bremen including among others the campus of the University of Bremen, museums, the local parliament, libraries, the Haus der Wissenschaft, the Instituto Cervantes, the Institut Français, the Institut für Niederdeutsche Sprache (INS), several local schools and the public places in the centre of town.

[Read more...](#)

Handbook of Pragmatics

This encyclopaedia of one of the major fields of language studies is a continuously updated source of state-of-the-art information for anyone interested in language use. The IPrA Handbook now contains nearly 5,000 pages. It provides easy access - for scholars with widely divergent backgrounds but with convergent interests in the use and functioning of language - to the different topics, traditions and methods which together make up the field of Pragmatics, broadly conceived as 'the cognitive, social and cultural study of language and communication'.
 Editors: Jan-Ola Östman and Jef Verschueren

[Read more...](#)

The Grammar of Repetition

Displacement is a fundamental property of grammar. Typically, when an occurrence moves it is pronounced in only one environment. This was previously viewed as a primitive/irreducible property of grammar. Recent work, however, suggests that it follows from principled interactions between the syntactic and phonological components of grammar. As such, the phonetic character of movement chains can be seen as both a reflection of and probe into the syntax-phonology interface. This volume deals with repetition, an atypical outcome of movement operations in which displaced elements are pronounced multiple times. Although cross-linguistically rare, the phenomenon obtains robustly in Nupe, a Benue-Congo language of Nigeria. Repetition raises a tension of the descriptive-explanatory variety. In order to achieve both measures of adequacy, movement theory must be supplemented with an account of the conditions that drive and constrain multiple pronunciation. This book catalogs these conditions, bringing to light a number of undocumented aspects of Nupe grammar.
 Author: Jason Kandybowicz

[Read more...](#)

Some Aspects of Speech and the Brain

What happens in the brain when humans are producing speech or when they are listening to it? This is the main focus of the book, which includes a collection of 13 articles, written by researchers at some of the foremost European laboratories in the fields of linguistics, phonetics, psychology, cognitive sciences, and neurosciences. The articles review progress achieved over the last twenty years in these areas, and present recent experimental results addressing issues of pre-lexical and semantic processing, brain activity in the perception of voicing, pitch, prosody, and pointing. A large part of the book deals with brain activation in speech and language pathologies: language-related aspects in epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, dyslexia and stuttering. Other contributions discuss speech acquisition modelling, syllabification and lexical access, and the specificity of speech in relation to other biological motor tasks.
 Authors: Susanne Fuchs, Hélène Loevenbruck, Pascal Perrier and Daniel Pape

[Read more...](#)

Dimensions of Forensic Linguistics

This volume functions as a guide to the multidisciplinary nature of Forensic Linguistics understood in its broadest sense as the interface between language and the law. It seeks to address the links in this relatively young field between theory, method and data, without neglecting the need for new research questions in the field. Perhaps the most striking feature of this collection is its range, strikingly illustrating the multi-dimensionality of Forensic Linguistics. All of the contributions share a preoccupation with the painstaking linguistic work involved, using and interpreting data in a restrained and reasoned way.

2009 Summer Institute in Applied Linguistics

Date: 22 June 2009 to 17 July 2009
 Location: State College, Pennsylvania, USA
 Contact: Jim Lantolf (cla.pennstate@gmail.com)
 The institute will have two sessions, each lasting two weeks. The first will run from June 22 through July 3 and the second session from July 6 through July 17. Participants will have the option of attending the first session, the second session, or both. A broad range of topics in applied linguistics will be represented, with particular focus on the teaching and learning of

Editors: John Gibbons and M. Teresa Turell

additional languages.

[Read more...](#)

[Read more...](#)

New Issue of 'Compass' with Author Questions

The latest issue of the Wiley-Blackwell Language & Linguistics Compass Discussion Forum is now available on LINGUIST.As a new feature in this issue, authors Matthew Baerman, Michael Jessen, and Erik Thomas have already posted some thought-provoking questions about their own articles.

[Read more...](#)

19th International Symposium on Theoretical & Applied Linguistics

Date: 03 April 2009 to 05 April 2009

Location: Thessaloniki, Greece

Contact: Eliza Kitis (symposium19@enl.auth.gr)

The 19th International Symposium on Theoretical and Applied Linguistics takes place in Thessaloniki and is organized by the Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, School of English, Aristotle University.

[Read more...](#)

The Importance of Not Being Earnest

This book is a very light and enjoyable read on the topic of humour and laughter. Chafe adopts the term "nonseriousness" in favour of the slippery notions of "laughter" and "humour", for the purpose of discussing the feeling that is understood as "a reaction to situations it would be counterproductive to take seriously" (p. 13). Such counterproductivity may arise from the fact that what is being said contradicts our "normal" view of world or state of affairs, or from the situation in which what is being said is uncomfortable or awkward in some way. Chafe investigates the physical characteristics of nonseriousness, as well as how it arises in various types of discourse (planned and unplanned, oral and written). He also includes a short section on cross-cultural examples of nonseriousness.
Author: Wallace Chafe

[Read more...](#)

The Oxford History of English

"The Oxford History of English" traces the language from its obscure Indo-European roots to its position as the world's first language. In accounts made vivid with examples from an immense range of documentary evidence, including letters, diaries, and private records, fifteen experts

describe the history of English in all its versions, written and spoken. They reveal the language's rich and protean variety over the centuries and chart the progress of all its versions, standard, regional, and international. With impeccable and approachable scholarship, they describe and explain its constantly changing sounds, words, meanings, and grammar.

Editor: Lynda Mugglestone

[Read more...](#)