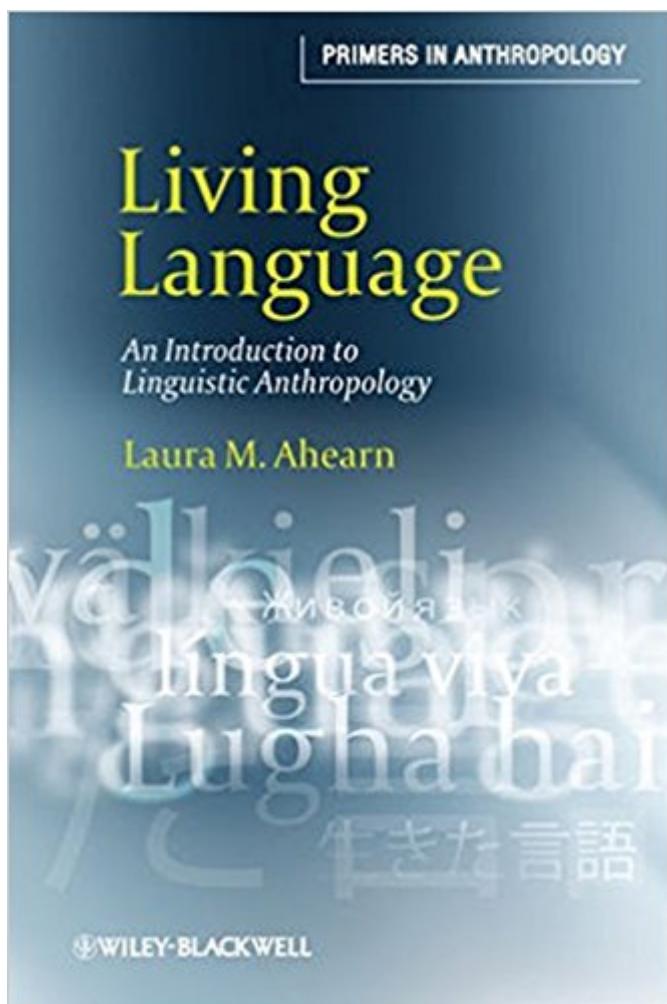


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# Living Language: An Introduction To Linguistic Anthropology



## Synopsis

Accessible and clearly written, *Living Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology* introduces readers to the study of language in real-life social contexts around the world through the contemporary theory and practice of linguistic anthropology. A highly accessible introduction to the study of language in real-life social contexts around the world Combines classic studies on language and cutting-edge contemporary scholarship and assumes no prior knowledge in linguistics or anthropology Provides a unifying synthesis of current research and considers future directions for the field Covers key topics such as: language and gender, race, and ethnicity; language acquisition and socialization in children and adults; language death and revitalization; performance; language and thought; literacy practices; and multilingualism and globalization

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Åçâ ¬Å“Åçâ ¬Å|Laura AhearnÅçâ ¬å„çs Living Language stands out for its deft integration of disparate approaches to linguistic anthropology, highlighting the fieldÅçâ ¬å„çs rich range of intellectual genealogies and contemporary innovations.Åçâ ¬Å• Åçâ ¬Å“This book is deserving of high praise for managing to capture the fieldÅçâ ¬å„çs nuance and complexity, while doing so in a way that is accessible, timely, and of interest to both specialists and non-specialists alike.Åçâ ¬Å• Å (Journal of Linguistic Anthropology, 5 December 2014) Åçâ ¬Å“Overall, this reviewer finds the book balanced, appreciable and well written.Åçâ ¬Å• Å (Anthropological Notebooks, 1 October 2012) Åçâ ¬Å“In conclusion, we strongly recommend the book for both

undergraduate and graduate introductory courses. In conclusion, we strongly recommend the book for both undergraduate and graduate introductory courses. (Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, 1 November 2012) "It is a very useful as a library resource and for general readers, as it is well organized, clearly written, and supported with both classic and recent studies. Summing Up: Recommended. General and undergraduate libraries." (Choice, 1 January 2012)

Living Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology is a clear and accessible exploration of the prominent theoretical issues in linguistic anthropology and a student-friendly introduction to the study of language in real-life social contexts around the world. Combining classic studies on language in social contexts and cutting-edge, contemporary scholarship, Ahearn provides a unifying synthesis of research in linguistic anthropology and looks towards future research in the field. Treating language as inextricably intertwined with culture and social relations Living Language combines theory with examples of contemporary language use to explore the way in which language creates, maintains, challenges, and reconfigures social hierarchies. Chapter topics include gender, race, and ethnicity, language acquisition and socialization, performance, literacy practices, multilingualism, and globalization. Laura Ahearn introduces the fascinating field of linguistic anthropology as well as underlining the value of an ethnographically grounded approach to the study of language.

This book leaves out the most essential parts of language and how they work: articulatory phonetics, phonemics, morphology, and syntax. Without these basics, one cannot show the interrelationship between language, culture, and society. One is hard put on how children acquire language without Chomsky's model of critical age of language acquisition. As Secrets of the Wild Child shows, Genie and Vicktor never thoroughly acquired a language because they both had passed puberty before they were trained for a language. Any anthropological linguistics course that ignores the basics of descriptive linguistics is a fraud. I know this because I taught the subject for 10 years with more than 50 students per semester from 2012 on.

Yes, here is a keeper; what a fascinating realm of humanity, and what a fine introduction! I write software, and have a fascination with language, semiotics, "meaning making", so I read this just for fun, not part of a class. There are so many unexpected dimensions/realms here, most fascinating and illuminating, a college class would have been a treat. Aside from the subject area itself, she covered the material in a manner that flowed naturally throughout the book, mixing ideas and

examples artfully, so the material just does not seem like textbook stuff. This is the most interesting book I've read in quite a while, and is a perfect first-look into the field. (Another great one is Semiotics; The Basics by Daniel Chandler) I'd love to know what to read next on Linguistic Anthro, but I suspect this one will be tough to top in terms of pure enrichment and enjoyment.

As a student, I personally loved the book as a textbook for class. The material was easy to understand, because she broke down hard concepts into easier terminology. I would definitely recommend it as an in class textbook. Easier to read than most textbooks, shorter than most textbooks, and definitely extremely light, which made it easier to carry around. My professor definitely used the book a lot, so there was no escaping it. I was glad she chose a book that did not make me want to scream every time I read it. If you are a professor, considering using this book for class, take it from a fellow student: Go for it!

Easy read. Many people could learn a lot about linguistics and how they function. Also for those several that love to learn more about themselves.

Excellent for my accelerated anthro course!

Needed for class. Easy to understand

I had to read this for an introductory course in linguistic anthropology at Rutgers University. While I only took this class because it's required for my major in cultural anthropology, this book was a major help. Ahearn's writing style is very organized and easy to follow, breaking up the concepts into headings and subheadings so it's easy to take notes on the chapters. She discusses many topics. A few are different research strategies for linguistic anthropologists, how speech communities may live among each other but are very different, and also how language isn't just about language but how it incorporates into culture and how each culture is largely based on the language. Highly recommended for anyone interested in linguistics

Very good book. I loved it!

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