<<语言学导论>>

图书基本信息

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内容概要

Linguistic science has developed very rapidly in the last few decades . Books on this subject number in hundreds Courses in linguistic science are very common in olleges and universities in China . Students of foreign languages and literature are now required to take a variety of courses in linguistics. Linguistic science has a great influence on foreign language teaching and learning. No language teacher , especially no foreign language teacher , can escape linguistic theories and principles if he or she expects to do his or her teaching work effectively and on a scientific basis. There are some excellent introductions to linguistics published in recent fifty years in China , but most of them are written in Chinese. Besides , they are mostly concerned with the Chinese language. Being students of English , they should have not only some common knowledge of general linguistics , but also some linguistic knowledge of their target language . which , I am sure , will help them a lot with their further students of English AN INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS is an attempt to meet the needs of Chinese students of English who wish to do their linguistic course work in their target language.

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章节摘录

Most of the languages mentioned above are livinglanguages, which are still spoken as a medium of communication the communities concerned. But there are some deadlanguages, which are no longer used as a general medium of spoken communication, such as Cornish, a Celtic language akinto Breton. A language dies when no children learn it as theirmother tongue. This may come about in two ways: either all thespeakers of the language are annihilated by some tragic event, say, a volcanic eruption, a war, or more commonly, assimilationthat the speakers of the language are completely assimilated byanother community that speaks a different language. Thechildren, at first bilingual, grow up using the language of thedominant culture, and their children and childrens children, failto learn the old language, and so it dies. This is what hasbecome of many American Indian languages. It is also true of theeast branch of the subfamily of the Germanic languages. TheGermanic language had, at first, three branches 2,000 yearsago: the North Branch, the West branch and the East Branch.Latin is a dead language, because nobody speaks it as his mothertongue. With the disintegration of the Roman Empire, Latingradually became a number of dialects, which later developedinto indepnendent languages: French, Italin,

Spanish, Portuguese, Romanian, Catalan and Provincal. From what we discussed above, though very briefly, we arenow clear that most of the European languages are genetically related, and a genealogical or historical classification can be made accordingly. All the languages of the world can be similarly classified. As we know, most of the world languages do not belong to the Indo-European Language Family, linguists have also attempted to classify the non-European languages according to their genetic relationships, so as to identify the languages that constitute a family and the relationships that existamong those languages. But this work is far from completed.

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