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On Language: Chomsky's Classic Works Language And Responsibility And Reflections On Language In One Volume



Synopsis

Restoring to print two of Chomsky's most famous and popular books in one omnibus volume, *On Language* features some of the noted linguist and political critic's most informal and highly accessible work, making it an ideal introduction to his thought. In Part I, *Language and Responsibility*, Chomsky presents a fascinating self-portrait of his political, moral, and linguistic thinking. In Part II, *Reflections on Language*, Chomsky explores the more general implications of the study of language and offers incisive analyses of the controversies among psychologists, philosophers, and linguists over fundamental questions of language. "Language and Responsibility is a well-organized, clearly written, and comprehensive introduction to Chomsky's thought." — "New York Times Book Review" "Language and Responsibility brings together in one readable volume Chomsky's positions on issues ranging from politics and philosophy of science to recent advances in linguistic theory... The clarity of presentation at times approaches that of Bertrand Russell in his political and more popular philosophical essays." — "Contemporary Psychology" "Reflections on Language is profoundly satisfying and impressive. It is the clearest and most developed account of the case of universal grammar and of the relations between his theory of language and the innate faculties of mind responsible for language acquisition and use." — Patrick Flanagan

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Customer Reviews

Noam Chomsky is a renowned linguist who has taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology since 1955. He developed a theory of transformation grammar which has changed the study of language. He is also very active in politics and has several books on a variety of political issues. "On Language" contains two of Chomsky's classic works, "Language and Responsibility", and "Reflections on Language", and while these books deal mainly with Linguistics, there are a couple of sections which cover his political thought. "Language and Responsibility" was first published in 1977 in France and 1979 in the U.S., and it is a conversation between Chomsky and Mitsou Ronat, the French transformationalist. While the conversation opens with politics, the greater portion of this book is about Generative Grammar. "Reflections on Language" was first published in 1975 and is an important work in the field of Linguistics. The section titled "Problems and Mysteries in the Study of Human Language" covers interesting aspects such as the philosophy of language and the acquisition of language. Chomsky also spends some time discussing other Linguistic works and where he agrees and disagrees with them. This book would not make a good choice for someone unfamiliar with Linguistics. However, the "Language and Responsibility" section does serve as an excellent introduction to Chomsky and his thoughts. While one may not agree with all of his political positions, Chomsky does provide some excellent points and forces the reader to re-examine their own position. His Linguistic theories are important to any study of the subject, and "Reflections on Language" is probably the best way to learn about his position.

Absolutely for anyone interested in all aspects of language. Well structured observations on what and how we say and tell or has been said and told to us. A wonderful mind-f**k, necessary for understanding the bending and re-shaping of contextual usages, the evolution of the label placed, replaced, and misplaced on the image and how it affects the difference between hearing and listening to what is said and reading and understanding what is written. Never mind my opinion, just read it for yourself.

Chomsky is essential reading for a better understanding of how and why we communicate the way we currently do. Insightful and readable.

Thanks finding this is helping me to get a better grasp of transformational grammar.

Chomsky's challenges to (you name it) the status quo, the politics of the world or, above all, the language and its use, are evident on every page of this interview.

The cover design was different from the one portrayed here. However, the content was more than up to par :)

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