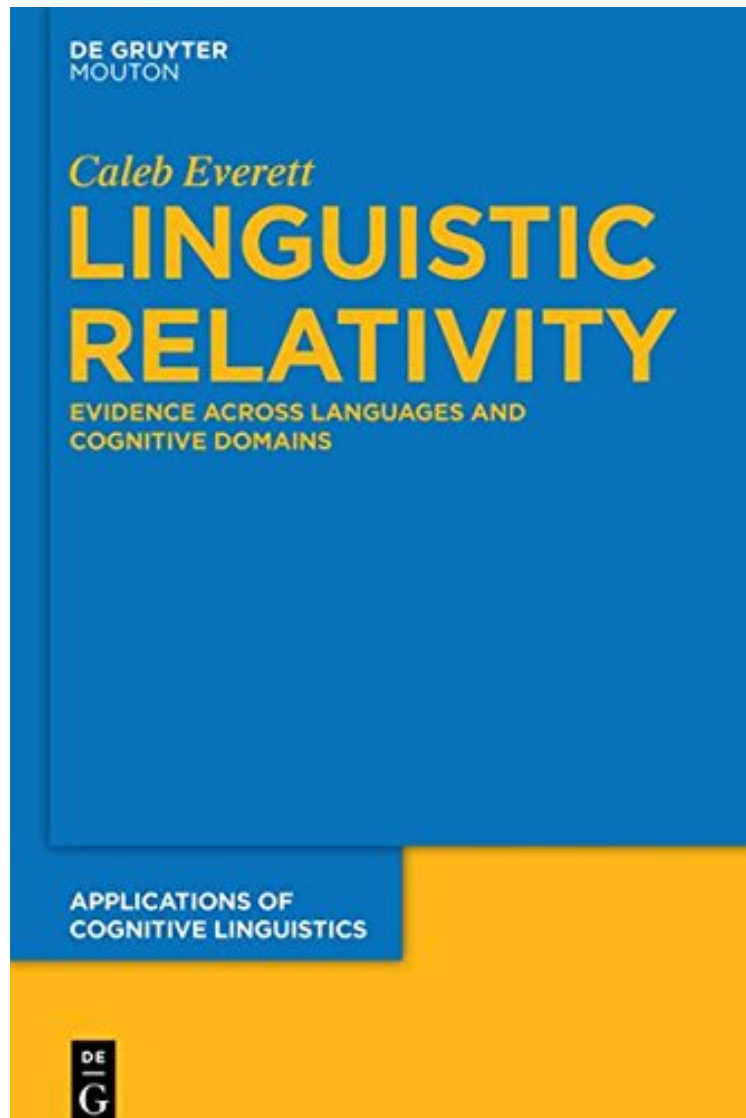


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Linguistic Relativity (Applications of Cognitive Linguistics)

Caleb Everett

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#1482321 in Books 2016-06-20 2016-06-20 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.06 x .77 x 6.101, .0 #File Name: 3110484927298 pages | File size: 40.Mb

Caleb Everett : Linguistic Relativity (Applications of Cognitive Linguistics) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Linguistic Relativity (Applications of Cognitive Linguistics):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Wonderful, Affordable Introduction to How Language Affects Thinking. By Prometheus Linguistic Relativity is a must read for those who want a good introduction to the topic. Everett does a great job going over the research and the pros and cons of various interpretations of the research. His conclusion is that both universals and relative exist. This seems to reflect a trend from many linguists that have

traditionally labeled themselves as universalists or relativists. While there are physical, psychological, ecological, and cultural constraints to how we view our world, language also seems to constrain our thinking - at least when we are using language. In fact, depending on the type of task, language influences our thinking in different ways: either a) by increasing or decreasing existing ability in a certain area or b) by creating habits that increase one's likelihood of thinking about certain ideas or concepts. An example of the former is the way numerals enable people to make a connection between precise counting of the numbers 1-3 and analog accuracy for numbers higher than 3. Everett believes that the reason people with numbers function better at precise counting of numbers over 3 is that it provides a strategy to connect the two mathematical strategies. This may or may not be conditioned by a memorization of numbers in sequence. An example of the latter is the way color terminology biases the ability of subjects to distinguish objective wavelength differences in color. Interestingly, it has been shown in research that linguistic relativity of the latter sort can be countered by linguistic interference (when an unrelated linguistic task is given during the color matching process). Linguistic relativity of the prior type can also be affected by explicit teaching of new terminology both with relation to numbers and other similar linguistic biases. The malleability of cognition suggests that linguistic relativity influences or "induces" certain types of thought, but does not determine it. As Everett says in his conclusion, language does not change how one CAN think, but only affects how one DOES tend to think. Overall, a great book, though I would make a caveat that it is a dense read. In addition, there are between half a dozen and a dozen typographical errors including at least one of substantive nature.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.
Great introduction and overview
By Dr. Language
This is the newest, most comprehensive overview of the ideas of Whorfian and neo-Whorfian linguistics available. It is written for a specialist audience, but is nevertheless readable and convincing in its arguments and exposition. Too bad it is so expensive. But worth the price if you are interested in this topic. I can't think of a better book on the subject.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Ed
Very interesting and informative introduction to the history of and recent research in the field.

This book introduces the reader to the current findings on linguistic relativity, and in so doing helps to answer one of the most vexing questions in the cognitive and social sciences: Does the language you speak affect how you think?

About the Author
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