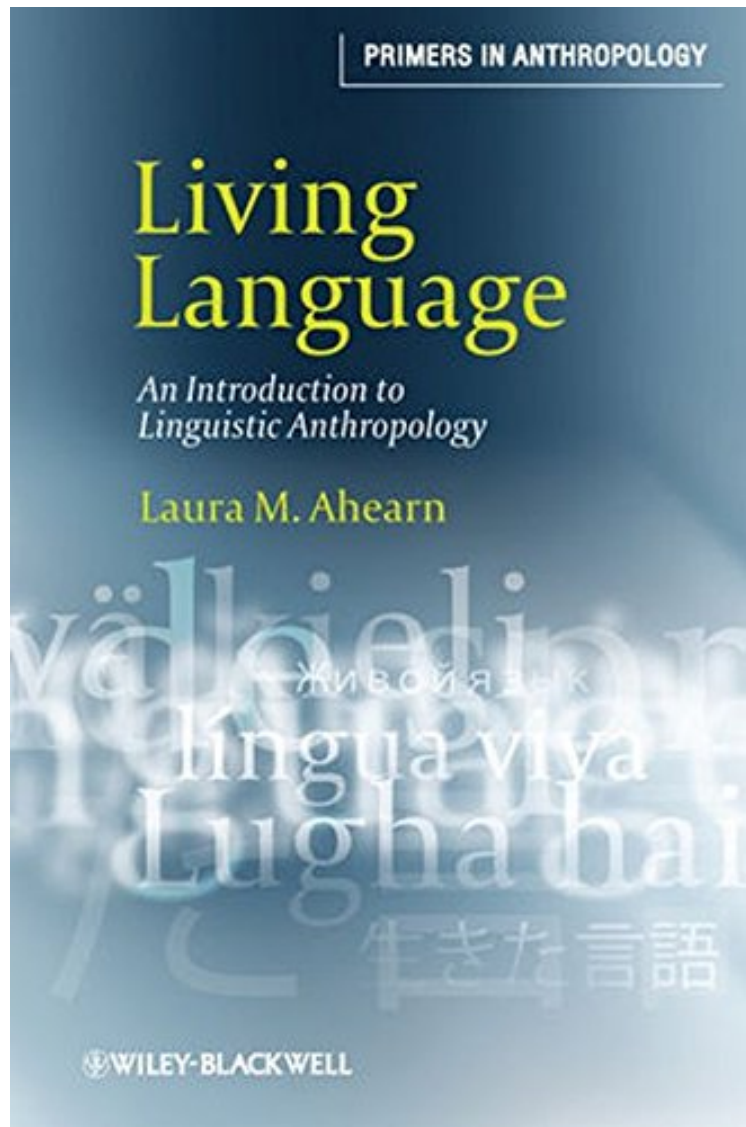


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## Living Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology

Laura M. Ahearn

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**Laura M. Ahearn : Living Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Living Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book leaves out the most essential parts of language ...By Paul V. McDowellThis 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 Viktor 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. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Really a fascinating and enjoyable introduction... By James Hunter Ross 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. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Definitely better than most textbooks. By krystimarie 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!

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

Laura Ahearns *Living Language* stands out for its deft integration of disparate approaches to linguistic anthropology, highlighting the fields rich range of intellectual genealogies and contemporary innovations. This book is deserving of high praise for managing to capture the fields nuance and complexity, while doing so in a way that is accessible, timely, and of interest to both specialists and non-specialists alike. (*Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, 5 December 2014) Overall, this reviewer finds the book balanced, appreciable and well written. (*Anthropological Notebooks*, 1 October 2012) 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) From the Back Cover *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. About the Author Laura M. Ahearn is Associate Professor of Anthropology at Rutgers University, USA. She is the author of *Invitations to Love: Literacy, Love Letters, and Social Change in Nepal*.