

# **The Palgrave Companion to Studying Language**

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## Preface

*The Palgrave Companion to Studying Language* is designed to aid and enlighten the student in the final year of secondary school, the beginning undergraduate who is contemplating or embarking on the study of linguistics and languages, or anyone who is curious to know about studying language. The *Companion* is highly suitable for those in language programs, media and communication programs, teacher training and other educational programs who need to know about the study of language. Because the book is written in English, most – though by no means all – of the exemplification comes from the English language, making the *Companion* readily accessible to all readers.

*The Palgrave Companion to Studying Language* offers basic information on the study of language and languages and on the key terms and concepts found in the discipline of linguistics. Part I talks about studying language and offers practical advice on reading and note-taking, dealing with technical terminology, writing essays and exams, time-management, taking notes, reading for information, and other basic study skills. Part II introduces the core topics and concepts of linguistics and the study of language. These include the study of the sounds used in human languages, analysis of the structure of words, phrases, sentences and longer texts, and exploration of the ways in which meaning is expressed in language. The social and psychological aspects of language are also dealt with in detail, along with the applications of linguistics in various fields, including language teaching and the law. Part III of the *Companion*, on key terms and key concepts in linguistics, is intended to function as a glossary-cum-encyclopedia that may be referred to when reading Parts I, II, IV and V, and it can also be read for its own sake. Part IV identifies some of the key researchers in linguistics and reviews their work. Part V of the *Companion* describes the nature of linguistic research in the past and present, and recommends various resources for linguistic inquiry and the study of language and languages suitable for students of these disciplines. Finally, Part VI consists of a valuable chapter on career pathways that identifies job opportunities for people who have been students of language and linguistics.

The original idea for this book came from Geoff Finch, who was to have been one of the editors. Sadly, Geoff had to withdraw from the project for personal reasons after drafting the outline and three chapters. This left Keith Allan as editor in chief and he was joined by Julie Bradshaw as co-editor. As the project progressed, its content and structure diverged a little

from Geoff's original plan which, nevertheless, remains a strong component. Of the 34 chapters in *The Palgrave Companion to Studying Language*, Geoff Finch wrote two and half, Georgina Heydon wrote four, Kate Burridge wrote six, Julie Bradshaw wrote seven, and Keith Allan wrote 14 and a half.

The editors warmly thank Harvey Mitchell for his astute reading of the manuscript, which helped expunge many infelicities. Responsibility for any faults still remaining lies with Keith Allan and Julie Bradshaw.

KA and JB, Melbourne 2009