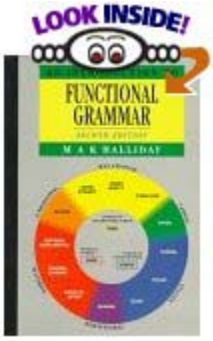
Introduction to Functional Grammar

by Michael A. K. Halliday



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- **ISBN:** 0340574917
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Editorial Reviews

Book Description

This book quickly established itself as a classic treatment of its subject on first publication in 1985. Nearly ten years on it has undergone revision, drawing not only on fresh research and new understandings but also on the detailed reaction of readers and reviewers to the original edition. A comprehensive index has also been added.

The book presents an outline of the grammar of modern English in the framework of systemic-functional linguistic theory and serves as an introduction to functional theory in general, which can be used for describing any language in its own terms. The description of English presented here has been widely used in a number of applied linguistics contexts, particularly artificial intelligence and language education, both second language and mother tongue, but also in literary stylistics and other fields requiring a rich interpretation of the text.

All Customer Reviews

★★★★★ **A grammar that's about Meaning**, March 29, 2003

Reviewer: **jaylemke** from Ann Arbor, Michigan United States

Halliday's Introduction to Functional Grammar, now in its revised and improved Second Edition, is the best book you can read if you want to understand how English grammar is a resource for making meaning. Most formal grammar is just about syntax -- how words get put together grammatically, with no consideration of how people use language to communicate a meaning. This book has been the basis for many of the most successful applications of linguistics to education, language teaching, and studies of culture, communication, mass media, politics, etc. It's a book to read, use, and keep.

★★★☆☆ **Don't be a stranger**, May 23, 2000

Reviewer: **imarij** from Amsterdam

It often happens when you read an introduction into a linguistic theory, whichever linguistic theory, that you lose track somewhere halfway page 3 or so. The terminology that gets thrown at you is confusing and before you know it you decide that you are not a welcome visitor in this particular area of linguistics. That is one thing that will not happen to you when reading Halliday's Introduction into Systemtic Functional Grammar. The book is clear, well-written and provides a lot of examples which are analyzed in detail. With regard to the theory that is discussed in the book, one may feel compelled to attack the necessity of some of the concepts that Halliday has thought up; one may want to contest the definition of other concepts (especially the concept of Theme is heatedly debated), or one may want to vehemently disagree with their application (I certainly do at times). But when you are looking for a quick and clear introduction into this theory (for instance, because you would like to join the discussion on Theme), this is the book to get your hands on.