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Chinese: A Linguistic Introduction



Synopsis

Chinese is spoken by more people than any other language in the world, and has a rich social, cultural and historical background. This book is a comprehensive guide to the linguistic structure of Chinese, providing an accessible introduction to each of the key areas. It describes the fundamentals of its writing system, its pronunciation and tonal sound system, its morphology (how words are structured), and its syntax (how sentences are formed) - as well as its historical development, and the diverse ways in which it interacts with other languages. Setting the discussion of all aspects of Chinese firmly within the context of the language in use, *Chinese: A Linguistic Introduction* will be of great benefit to learners wishing to extend their knowledge and competence in the language, and their teachers. It will also be a useful starting point for students of linguistics beginning work on the structure of this major world language.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A comprehensive guide to the linguistic structure of Chinese, providing an accessible introduction to its writing system, pronunciation, grammar and word-formation, and its social, cultural and historical background. It will greatly benefit teachers and learners of Chinese, and also linguists beginning work on the structure of this major world language.

Chaofen Sun is Associate Professor of Chinese in the Department of Asian Languages, Stanford University, California.

I am using this book as the textbook for my Chinese Linguistics course. I found it very accessible to students who have no linguistics background at all. The introduction is "jargon-free" and fun. It is a good way to introduce the Chinese language and culture to students who have not studied Chinese or who have had very little Chinese training. But for students who have had at least a year's worth of Chinese classes, some of the chapters seem not enough for them. Such students probably benefit more from materials that are more in-depth. But for the targeted readership of this book, it is very well written and engaging. So I highly recommend this book to anyone who is interested in knowing the structure, the writing system and history of the Chinese language.

Very good book but Kindle edition (on iPad) let down by very poor han zi rendition.

I like it very much too. Chaofen Sun is a good linguist , and explains clearly . However, these books are too simple and short, they are meant as introductions, so it cannot be very comprehensive ad many subjects are missing. I like it very much , though the other one I bought here by him is better; but this one also gives you valuable preliminary insights and makes you feel like wanting to learn much more . And meet Chaofen Sun and others like him.

If you do not have an in-depth knowledge of Chinese linguistics and are looking to learn about it, I can see how this text would satisfy your quest for knowledge, it however will only do so superficially and not give you a clear, accurate, up-to-date or scientific view of the field which can still be done in a simple and readable manner without the many basic errors in this book. If you don't know the subject, then you will be blind to the many faults of this text which is highly problematic. There is obviously plenty of basic information that is perfectly acceptable, but it contains a myriad of informational errors and analytical flaws not to mention writing and grammar issues in English. One assumes that these things are peer reviewed, but it doesn't appear to have been reviewed by more than one other person who likely knows little of the subject and yet didn't even manage to catch writing errors. If you actually want more than a perfunctory understanding of Chinese linguistics do not let this text pollute your understanding of the subject.

The speed of shipping is very quickly, and the book is good. If other one need this book, you can choose the one.

Concise, clearly written. Very good linguistic analysis and it includes the characters with the

examples. It helps if you have some background with Chinese if you want to get the full benefit of the book.

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