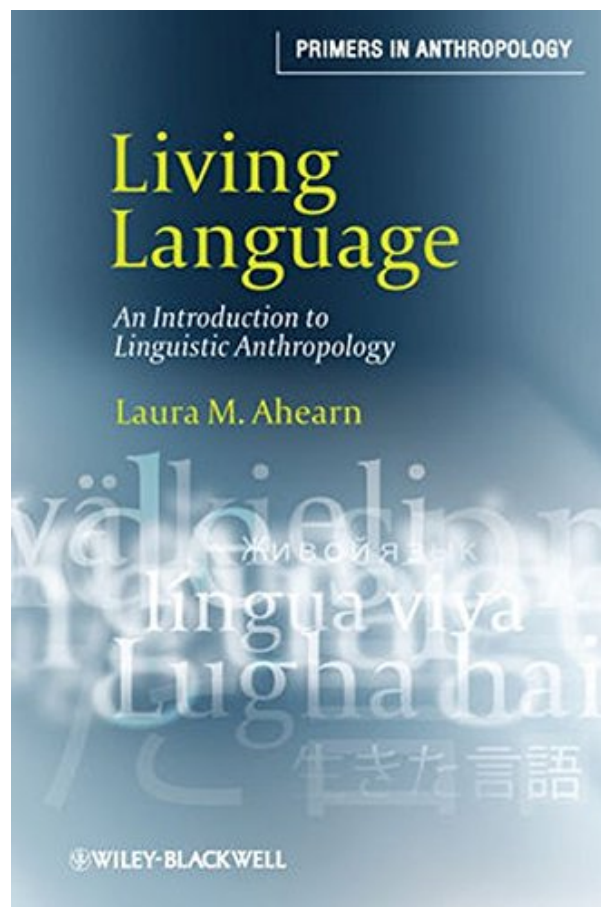


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# Living Language

*An Introduction to  
Linguistic Anthropology*

Laura M. Ahearn

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## Review

“...Laura Ahearn’s Living Language stands out for its deft integration of disparate approaches to linguistic anthropology, highlighting the field’s rich range of intellectual genealogies and contemporary innovations.”

“This book is deserving of high praise for managing to capture the field’s 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)

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## From the Back Cover

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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*.

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  - 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
- 
- Sales Rank: #12588 in Books
  - Published on: 2011-05-06
  - Original language: English
  - Number of items: 1
  - Dimensions: 9.05" h x .74" w x 6.05" l, 1.25 pounds
  - Binding: Paperback
  - 368 pages

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9 of 11 people found the following review helpful.

perfect for those interested in linguistics

By Sarah Elizabeth

I had to read this for an introductory course in linguistic anthropology at Rutgers University. While I only took this class because it's required for my major in cultural anthropology, this book was a major help. Ahearn's writing style is very organized and easy to follow, breaking up the concepts into headings and subheadings so it's easy to take notes on the chapters.

She discusses many topics. A few are different research strategies for linguistic anthropologists, how speech communities may live among each other but are very different, and also how language isn't just about language but how it incorporates into culture and how each culture is largely based on the language.

Highly recommended for anyone interested in linguistics

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.

1 of 1 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!

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