

# Contents

The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language is organized in 11 parts, comprising 65 thematic sections. Each section is a self-contained presentation of a major theme in language study, with cross-references included to related sections and topics.

Preface to the first edition

Preface to the second edition

# ı Popular ideas about language

Widely held linguistic beliefs and attitudes, and the basic functions of language.

1 The prescriptive tradition Popular notions of linguistic authority and correctness: purism and language change; the role of linguistic description.

2 The equality of languages Myths about primitive languages and language superiority.

3 The magic of language Linguistic superstitions and verbal taboos; the mystical power of proper names.

4 The functions of language The many cultural, social, and personal roles which language performs.

5 Language and thought The complex relationship between language and thinking; the notion of language relativity.

## и Language and identity

The many ways in which language expresses a person's individuality or social identity.

6 Physical identity

The relationship between language and age, sex, physical type, and physical condition; voiceprints; male vs female speech.

7 Psychological identity The relationship between language and personality, intelligence, and other psychological factors.

8 Geographical identity The regional background of a speaker; accents, dialects, linguistic areas, and the study of dialectology.

9 Ethnic and national identity Language, ethnicity, and nationalism; the

10 Social identity

Language and social stratification, class, status, role, solidarity, and distance; the 11 Contextual identity Situationally determined varieties of speech and writing; restricted and secret language; verbal play and art; word games.

12 Stylistic identity and literature The concept of style; authorship identity and forensic linguistics; literary language in poetry, drama, and prose.

## 111 The structure of language

The dimensions of language analysis that underlie all forms of language, whether spoken, written, or signed.

13 Linguistic levels The relationship between the main components of language analysis; models of linguistic structure.

14 Typology and universals Analysing the structural similarities and differences among the languages of the world.

15 The statistical structure of language 86 The study of the statistical regularities found in language; the frequency of sounds, letters, and words.

16 Grammar Syntax and morphology; the structure of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences.

17 Semantics The study of meaning in language; the semantic analysis of words and sentences.

18 Dictionaries The use and evaluation of dictionaries; the past, present, and future of lexicography.

Patterns and trends in the use of personal names; place names and their history.

18 20 Discourse and text The study of stretches of spoken and written language above the sentence; the nature of conversation; analysing textual structure.

22 21 Pragmatics The factors that govern our choice of language in social interaction; speech acts and their analysis.

IV The medium of language: speaking and listening

The study of the auditory-vocal channel of communication; the production, 34 transmission, and reception of speech.

> 22 The anatomy and physiology of 124 speech

The vocal tract and vocal organs; the nature of articulation.

48 23 The acoustics of speech

The nature of sound waves and the way they transmit speech; the sound spectrograph and its use in speech sound analysis

24 The instrumental analysis of speech 138 Some of the techniques used in the analysis of speech acoustics and physiology.

25 Speech reception The ear, and the process of hearing; speech perception and its investigation.

26 Speech interaction with machines 149 The principles and practice of automatic speech recognition and speech synthesis.

27 The sounds of speech Phonetics; the description of vowels and consonants; kinds of phonetic transcription.

28 The linguistic use of sound Phonology; phonemes, distinctive features. and other models; comparing the sound systems of languages.

29 Suprasegmentals The prosody of speech; the structure of intonation; tone languages; the relationship between speech and music.

30 Sound symbolism The relationship between sounds and meaning; the role of onomatopoeia.

The study of the development and functions of written language, in all its forms.

112 31 Written and spoken language The relationship between speech and writing; how sound is portrayed in written language.

> 32 Graphic expression The physical substance of written language: types of graphic expression; handwriting, print, typing, and electronic forms.

33 Graphology The writing system of a language; the history of writing; the alphabet; spelling, punctuation, and other contrasts; systems of shorthand.

34 The process of reading and writing 210 Psychological accounts of the process of reading, writing, and spelling; spelling regularity and spelling reform.

The development and use of deaf sign languages.

35 Sign language Popular fallacies about sign language; the development and use of signs by the deaf.

36 Sign language structure The way signs are used to convey grammatical contrasts; American Sign Language.

37 Types of sign language The range of contrived sign languages; finger spelling, cued speech, and other systems.

### vii Child language acquisition

The study of the way children learn to understand and speak their mother tongue - methods, theories, and findings; later language learning in school.

38 Investigating children's language 230 Techniques for finding out about child language; speech production and comprehension; theories of language acquisition.

39 The first year 171 The development of infant vocalization; early speech perception and interaction.

40 Phonological development The acquisition of the sound system; the 176 learning of vowels, consonants, and intonation.

> 41 Grammatical development The acquisition of grammar; growth in sentence length and complexity.

42 Semantic development The acquisition of vocabulary; first words and their content; distinguishing the 180 meanings of words.

248 43 Pragmatic development The acquisition of conversational skills; the language of twins.

184 44 Language development in school 250 The study of language in school; later oral development; learning to read and write.

#### VIII Language, brain, and handicap 259

The neurological basis of language, and the range of physical or psychological problems that can give rise to disabilities in spoken, written, or signed language.

45 Language and the brain Brain structure and function; hemispheric dominance and localization; slips of the tongue and critical periods.

46 Language handicap 266 Incidence, causation, and classification; deafness, aphasia, dyslexia, dysgraphia; disorders of voice, articulation, and fluency; language delay; alternative communication systems and aids.

#### 1X The languages of the world

The range of languages in past or present use - numbers, speakers, sources; 224 identifying and explaining linguistic

47 How many languages? Identifying, counting, and classifying the 226 languages of the world

> 48 How many speakers? Determining how many people speak a language; the world's most widely used languages and families.

49 The origins of language Myths and experiments about the origins of language; wolf children; humans and primates; the evidence of palaeontology.

50 Families of languages Discovering the history of languages; comparative philology; the language families of the world.

51 The Indo-European family The history of Indo-European languages, where they are spoken, and how they are classified.

242 52 Other families The distribution, family grouping, and use of the world's languages (other than Indo-European).

244

53 Language isolates Languages which cannot be related to any of the major families.

54 Language change The identification of change in sounds, grammar, and vocabulary; glottochronology; explanations for language change.

55 Pidgins and creoles The origins, distribution, and present-day use of the world's pidgins and creoles.

## x Language in the world

The problems of communication posed by the diversity of the world's languages and varieties, and the search for solutions.

56 The language barrier The problems caused by foreign languages in the field of international communication; language and the business world.

260 57 Translating and interpreting The principles and practice of translating and interpreting; the role of machine translation.

> 58 Artificial languages The history of artificial languages, and the present-day position; Esperanto, Basic English, and other systems.

59 World languages

The international use of languages; official languages; World English and its varieties.

60 Multilingualism Causes and extent of bilingual attitudes and practice; language maintenance and shift; language switching.

366

372

61 Language planning Government policies about language selection and use; endangered languages; bilingual educational programmes.

62 Foreign language learning and teaching

290 The role and status of foreign languages in school and society; theories of language learning, and methods of language teaching; language materials and laboratories.

294 63 Language for special purposes The development of special varieties of language in science, medicine, religion, the law, the press, advertising, and broadcasting; the related problems of intelligibility and

The relationship between language and other systems of human and non-human communication, and the scientific study of language.

64 Language and other communication systems

Language defined; chimpanzee communication; semiotics; communication by non-linguistic 330 sound, face, gesture, and touch.

> 65 Linguistics 408 The history of ideas in language study; domains and personalities in 20th-century linguistics; linguistic methods; natural language processing.

#### Appendices

354 VIII Index of topics.

Glossary. 420 11 Special symbols and abbreviations used 438 in the encyclopedia. 344 III Table of the world's languages. 440 rv Further reading. 448 References. 452 VI Index of languages, families, dialects, 456 and scripts. VII Index of authors and personalities. 460

462