

# Language in the Mind



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The work of Gustave Guillaume (1883-1960) has had an important influence on French linguistics. But his theory of psychomechanics, which views language as systematic and semiotic, is not well known in the English-speaking world. *Language in the Mind* is the first detailed study of Guillaumian linguistics in English.

Guillaume sees the word as the link between language as potential and as actual discourse. Meaning is both the representation of the speaker's momentary experience and the determining factor in the the word's use in discourse. Walter Hirtle illustrates Guillaume's general principles with examples drawn from contemporary English

grammar and uses comparisons with other approaches, especially cognitive linguistics, to situate Guillaumes distinctive view of language as essentially a mental phenomenon.

Hirtle is the former director of the Fonds Gustave Guillaume, an archive of 60,000 manuscript pages of the theorist's work, which is housed at Laval University, the principal centre for the study of psychomechanics.

Review quotes

"This English introduction to psychomechanics finally makes Guillaume's theory accessible to a much broader audience. The examples and insightful analyses show exactly why linguists would benefit from taking the time to learn about Guillaume's theory." Richard Epstein, associate professor, English, Rutgers University

Walter Hirtle is professeur associé, Laval University, and the author of several books, including Number and Inner Space.

作者介绍:

目录: Preface ix

1 Introduction 3

2 Language and the Ability to Speak 18

3 Words, Words, Words 30

4 Meaning: Representing Experience 51

5 A System for Representing 66

6 The Method of Analysis in Psychosystematics 85

7 The Substantive: A System of Subsystems 106

8 The Substantive and the System of the Parts of Speech 120

9 Some and Any 140

10 The System of the Verb 155

11 Auxiliaries: How Do They Help? 174

12 The Proof of the Pudding 189

13 The Noun Phrase 201

14 Concord, Discord, and the Incidence of Verb to Subject 213

15 Thought and Language 225

16 Conclusion 237

Glossary 243

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