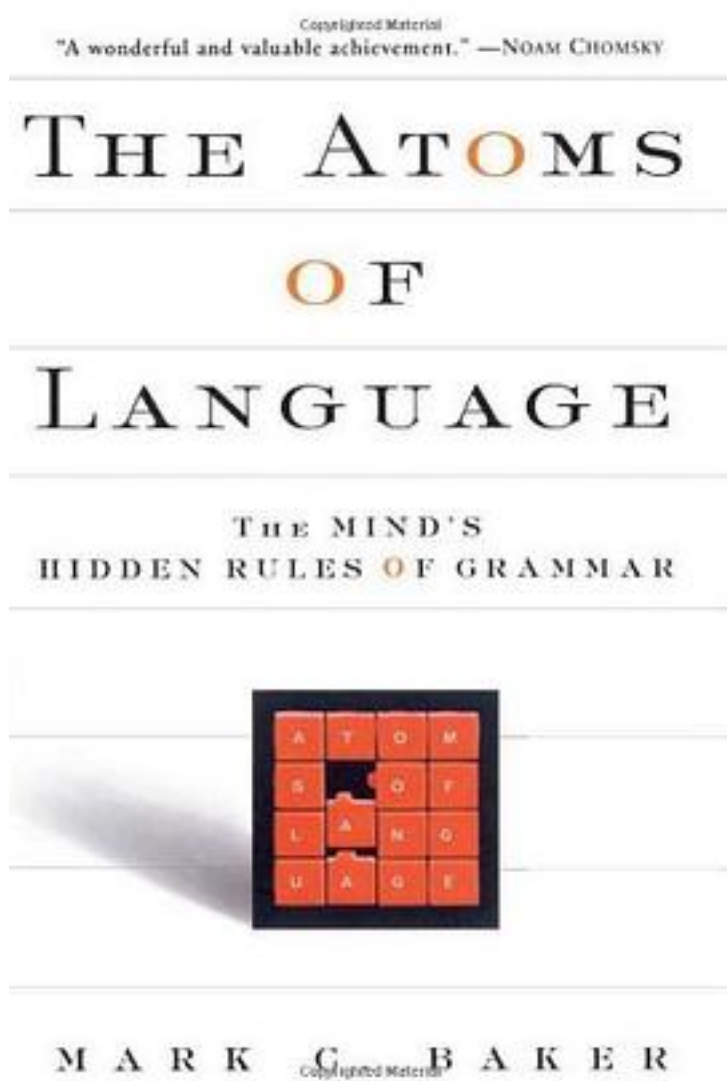


The Atoms of Language



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This skillfully crafted work...combines acute theoretical insight, deep understanding of a wide variety of typologically different languages, and impressive lucidity. It is a wonderful and valuable achievement."--Noam Chomsky. Whether all human languages are fundamentally the same or different has been a subject of debate for ages. This problem has deep philosophical implications: If languages are all the same, it implies a fundamental commonality--and thus mutual intelligibility--of human thought. We are now on the verge of solving this problem. Using a twenty-year-old theory proposed by the world's greatest living linguist, Noam Chomsky, researchers have found that the similarities among languages are more profound than the differences. Languages whose grammars seem completely incompatible may in fact be structurally almost identical, except for a difference in one simple rule. The discovery of these rules and how they may vary promises to yield a linguistic equivalent of the Periodic Table of the Elements: a single framework by which we can understand the fundamental structure of all human language. This is a landmark breakthrough both within linguistics, which will herewith finally become a full-fledged science, and in our understanding of the human mind.

作者介绍:

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标签

语言学

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Baker

语言

评论

作者是个吃货，讲语言老讲到烤面包的事情上去，但正因为如此灵活地运用类比，把语言学中parameter这个概念讲地和其他自然科学科目一样透彻！

语言学 8/100 All about parameters P.62 "Linguistics now seems to be in a stage similar in many ways to where chemistry was in the mid-nineteenth century, just prior to Mendeleyev. The key theoretical idea of the parameter is in place, together with an appreciation of how it can be used to solve linguistic problems."

Baker全书用类比写出来，是想达到通俗科普的效果，不过绝对是超级硬核的科普，感觉这本书的内容相当于很多篇句法论文和专著，head parameter, verb movement, polysynthesis parameter, null subject核心大问题以及其他参数都讨论了，还讨论了习得、历史演变、和最为根本的语言或者参数进化的原因，最后一章why parameter很好看！让我想起了要区分对待现象世界和事物的原理，桌子和能做出稳定桌子所用到的数学原理是两码事，语言的交际功能和语言内在的原理也要区分。Baker是神仙作者，聪明知识面巨广，小幽默也是跃然纸上，用recipe类比也是对他叫烤箱的一个自嘲吧。喜欢理论语言学的原因就是很多事情的本质根本不是看到或者以为的那样，就很惊喜。

语言学书籍，以拟语言以化学的手段，阐述Chomsky的理论

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书评
