

On Nature and Language

By Noam Chomsky

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In On Nature and Language Noam Chomsky develops his thinking on the relation between language, mind, and brain, integrating current research in linguistics into the burgeoning field of neuroscience. Following a lucid introduction is a penetrating interview with Chomsky, in which he provides the clearest and most elegant introduction to current theory available. It makes his Minimalist Program accessible to all. The volume concludes with an essay on the role of intellectuals in society and government. A significant landmark in the development of linguistic theory, On Nature and Language will be welcomed by students and researchers in theoretical linguistics, neurolinguistics, cognitive science and politics, as well as anyone interested in the development of Chomsky's thought. Noam Chomsky is Professor of Linguistics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Chomsky has written and lectured extensively on philosophy, intellectual history, and international affairs. His works include The Architecture of Language, Aspects of the Theory of Syntax; Cartesian Linguistics; Language and Mind; American Power and the New Mandarins; At War with Asia; For Reasons of State; Peace in the Middle East? Reflections on Language; Rules and Representations; The Culture of Terrorism; Rethinking Camelot; JFKm the Vietnam War and US Political Culture; World Orders, Old and New and The Common Good.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal
Including transcripts of three lectures and an interview, this work presents results from noted linguist Chomsky's November 1999 visit to the University of Siena's Certosa di Pontignano, a secluded research center. The varied collection of essays offers a unique introduction to the minimalist approach to linguistics, which views language as optimally enabling the brain to express thought. Adriana Belletti and Luigi Rizzi, two University of Siena linguistics professors, contribute a lengthy introductory essay highlighting progress in linguistic research (Chapter 1) as well as a transcript of their interview with Chomsky (Chapter 4). Both in the interview and the lectures reproduced in Chapters 2 and 3, Chomsky explains how the minimalist approach fits with other scientific research. In Chapter 5, he discusses political topics. Among Chomsky's other publications exploring minimalism, New Horizons in the Study of Language and the Mind is the most similar to this work. While comparable in length, New Horizons offers seven essays that provide more depth than the Italian lectures or interview. Recommended for academic libraries that support linguistics programs.
Marianne Orme, Des Plaines P.L., IL
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Review
"...important...fascinating..." Geolinguistics

"Chomsky's writing is more powerful than Orwell's, and his documentation more compelling and up-to-date. This book is important for those interested in Chomsky's linguistic and political writings and, especially, the link between them. Graduate students, researchers, and faculty." Choice

"...an interesting read for those who like to keep up to date on the current positions of one of today's most important public intellectuals." Metapsychology

About the Author
Noam Chomsky is Institute Professor at the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Professor Chomsky has written and lectured extensively on a wide range of topics, including linguistics, philosophy, and intellectual history.

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