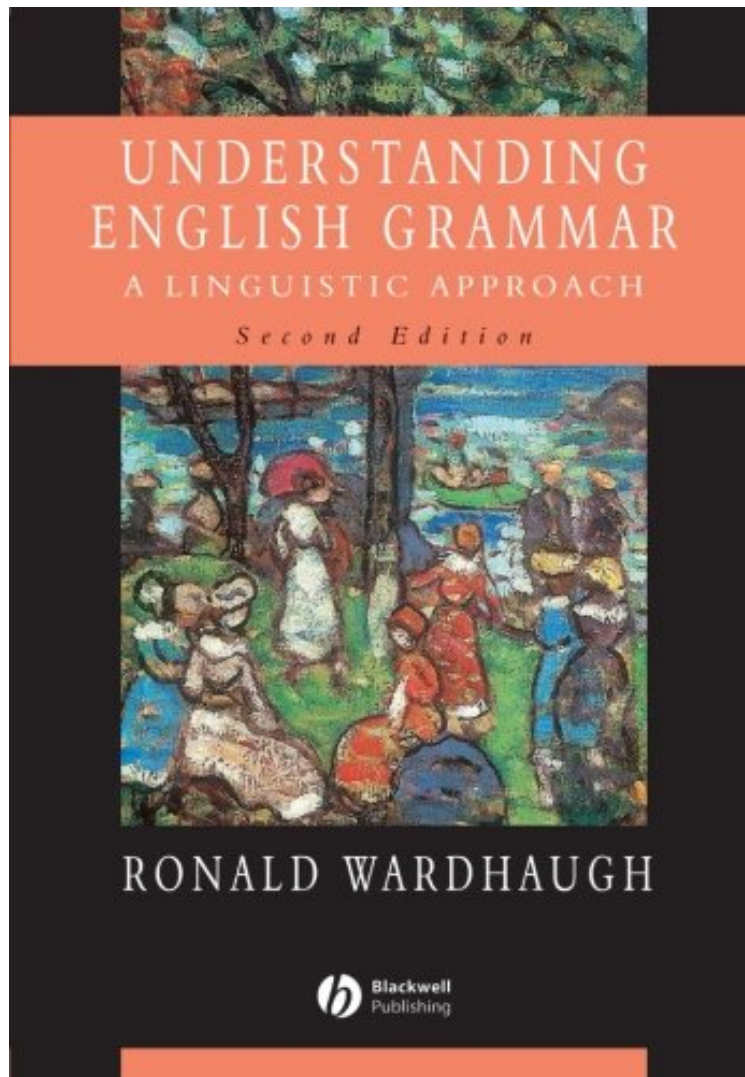


Understanding English Grammar: A Linguistic Approach

Ronald Wardhaugh

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#1399068 in Books Wiley-Blackwell 2002-11-01 2012-11-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.70 x .89 x 6.801, 1.17 #File Name: 0631232923296 pages | File size: 64.Mb

Ronald Wardhaugh : Understanding English Grammar: A Linguistic Approach before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Understanding English Grammar: A Linguistic Approach:

10 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Section on sounds is very misleading By Anonymous This book devotes several chapters to the sounds and phonology of spoken English. This part of the book is extremely misleading because Wardhaugh assumes that the speaker uses a particular accent, which I presume is Canadian because Wardhaugh is based in Toronto. For example, the "schwa" vowel is initially defined as the sound of the vowel in the words "but" and "nut" (a bad example, as in most British and US accents the vowel of "but" is only pronounced as a

schwa when unstressed, and "nut" is never so pronounced). Two pages later, the schwa is equated with the sound of the second syllable of "comma" (which is correct for nearly all English speakers). Another example Wardhaugh chooses is more bizarre than misleading: he uses "Ginn" as his only example in his initial definition of the hard "g" sound (as in "gun"). What on earth is "Ginn"? Someone famous in Canada maybe? The problem here is not that Wardhaugh is using Canadian English (or whatever it is) as his reference -- he has to use something -- but that he doesn't warn the reader that what he is saying will only make sense to speakers using a particular accent. This is particularly unforgivable in a book that is aimed at students with no prior knowledge of linguistics or phonetics. Wardhaugh uses a script based on IPA for representation of sounds: however he makes a few changes to standard IPA (e.g. a "s hachek" for the "sh" sound in "shin") that seem to have no particular motivation behind them. Why not just use regular IPA? At least then people wouldn't have to know what a "Ginn" is! I have focused this review on the phonetics sections because that is where my main interest lies. The majority of the book is not about phonetics, so it may not be fair to judge the whole work on the basis of what Wardhaugh says about sounds. Nevertheless I am not tempted to venture further: if the remainder is anywhere near as misleading then this book is just about worthless. I of 4 people found the following review helpful. Just like new By Christopher George I am holding my purchase "Understanding English Grammar" close by as I write. This is so that I will not miss anything. I am deeply satisfied with the book. It is like new. Not only that, I received it in good time although I live in the West Indies. CG

Understanding English Grammar presents a linguistic introduction to the structure of English that is accessible to students who have had little or no opportunity to study the language. Familiarizes students with the essential structural characteristics of English. Features accessible coverage of syntax, morphology, and phonology, as well as basic linguistic concepts. Includes numerous examples, exercises, and an indexed glossary. Is supported by an online instructor's manual available at: <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/wardhaugh>.

"As a linguistics author writing for the more general student audience, Wardhaugh has that uncommon ability to explain in a clear and readable style the essentials of English grammar." William Rutherford, University of Southern California "The profession desperately needs introductory texts that bring linguistics to students in a readable style without compromising the integrity of linguistic enquiry. Understanding English Grammar is such a text." Walt Wolfram, North Carolina State University "This is ideal for a full discussion of sentence complexity within a one-semester English grammar course." Bethany Dumas, University of Tennessee From the Back Cover Understanding English Grammar presents a linguistic introduction to the structure of English that is accessible to students who have had little or no opportunity to study the language. The book features information about the essentials of English words, sentences, and sounds within a framework derived from modern linguistic theory. The volume also provides students with an introduction to the scholarly study of language and a comprehensive exploration of English grammar. Understanding English Grammar is designed as a teaching tool; there are numerous exercises at the end of each chapter, a list of further readings, and an indexed glossary. This second edition has been updated throughout with additional examples and enhanced discussion, as well as an increased emphasis on the study of meaning. The book is supported by an instructor's manual. About the Author Ronald Wardhaugh is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Toronto. His many successful books include An Introduction to Sociolinguistics (fourth edition, Blackwell 2002) and Proper English (Blackwell 1998).