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*BOOK NOTICE of KUIPER, KOENRAAD & ALLAN, SCOTT W.,  
2024. AN INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE: WORD,  
SOUND AND SENTENCE (5<sup>TH</sup> EDITION). BLOOMSBURY  
PUBLISHING PLC. ISBN: 978-1-3503-8012-7.*

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Kuiper and Allan's *An Introduction to English Language: Word, Sound and Sentence 5<sup>th</sup> Edition* is a very useful text for many introductory linguistics courses. Originally written by two New Zealand linguists, it has been revised for this edition by the first author after the untimely passing of the second. Addressing all the familiar levels of language structure, it starts at the lexical level, rather than phonetics/phonology as most such texts do, because, as Kuiper explains, it allows readers to encounter all of the levels of language before exploring them in more depth in later sections. Following an introductory chapter about the nature of language, Part One therefore consists of two chapters covering 'The form and function of words' and 'Word meanings and vocabularies'. Part two then concerns itself across three chapters with phonetics and phonology ('Speech sounds', 'The phonology of English', and 'Syllables and suprasegmentals'). Part three covers 'The structure of simple sentences' and 'Complex syntax', including standard phrase structure grammar (with trees) for constituent analysis; a movement analysis to capture questions and relative clauses; and an ellipsis analysis of empty constituents. The final chapter covers pragmatics, taking a Relevance Theory approach to utterance understanding.

As with all textbooks, this one will suit some audiences and not others. It is unapologetically about English language, and the literary examples (of which there are many) represent a deep knowledge and appreciation of dominant history, culture and literature in English. As such the volume could form a useful component of English literature programmes of study; of professional training programmes for teachers of English; or in speech and language therapy training programmes that value a strong foundation in linguistics. It is also a significant source of well-designed exercises (with answers) and activities that any lecturer in linguistics can tap into and use. However, the intentional focus on the English language and its linguistic culture and literature means that although it does address some aspects of dialects and language variation, the volume does not (and does not intend to) reflect other languages of the world and other literary heritages.

When we are awash with information in multiple formats, it might seem antiquated to argue for an old-fashioned course textbook. However, many students who are new to linguistics will find the carefully curated coverage of a textbook provides a stable basis from which to explore our field. Moreover, while some instructors avoid asking students to buy a text because

of the cost, the self-study aspects of this book, with its exercises for both introduction and consolidation, glossary, and companion website provide a wealth of material that goes beyond the text itself. The companion website includes PowerPoint slides, mini lectures and audio files for supporting linguistic thinking articulated (by Kuiper) in a clearly spoken English comprehensible to both first language English speakers and those for whom English is an additional language.

Individual instructors will have their preferences for what to focus on in an introductory course as well as the theoretical framework for that focus. However, this textbook provides a launching point that will appeal (and certainly has appealed or it would not be in its fifth edition) to many students approaching linguistics for the first time.