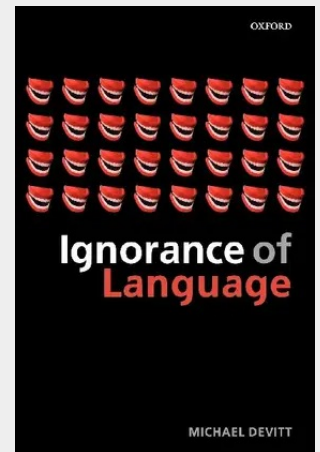


Ignorance of Language

The Chomskian revolution in linguistics gave rise to a new orthodoxy about mind and language. Michael Devitt throws down a provocative challenge to that orthodoxy. What is linguistics about? What role should linguistic intuitions play in constructing grammars? What is innate about language? Is there a 'language faculty'? These questions are crucial to our developing understanding of ourselves; Michael Devitt offers refreshingly original answers. He argues that linguistics is about linguistic reality and is not part of psychology; that linguistic rules are not represented in the mind; that speakers are largely ignorant of their language; that speakers' intuitions do not reflect information supplied by the language faculty and are not the main evidence for grammars; that the rules of 'Universal Grammar' are largely, if not entirely, innate structure rules of thought; indeed, that there is little or nothing to the language faculty. Devitt's controversial theses will prove highly stimulating to anyone working on language and the mind

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71,50 €

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Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9780199250974

Medium: Buch

ISBN: 978-0-19-925097-4

Verlag: OUP Oxford

Erscheinungstermin: 10.04.2008

Sprache(n): Englisch

Auflage: Erscheinungsjahr 2008

Produktform: Kartoniert

Gewicht: 488 g

Seiten: 320

Format (B x H): 156 x 234 mm

