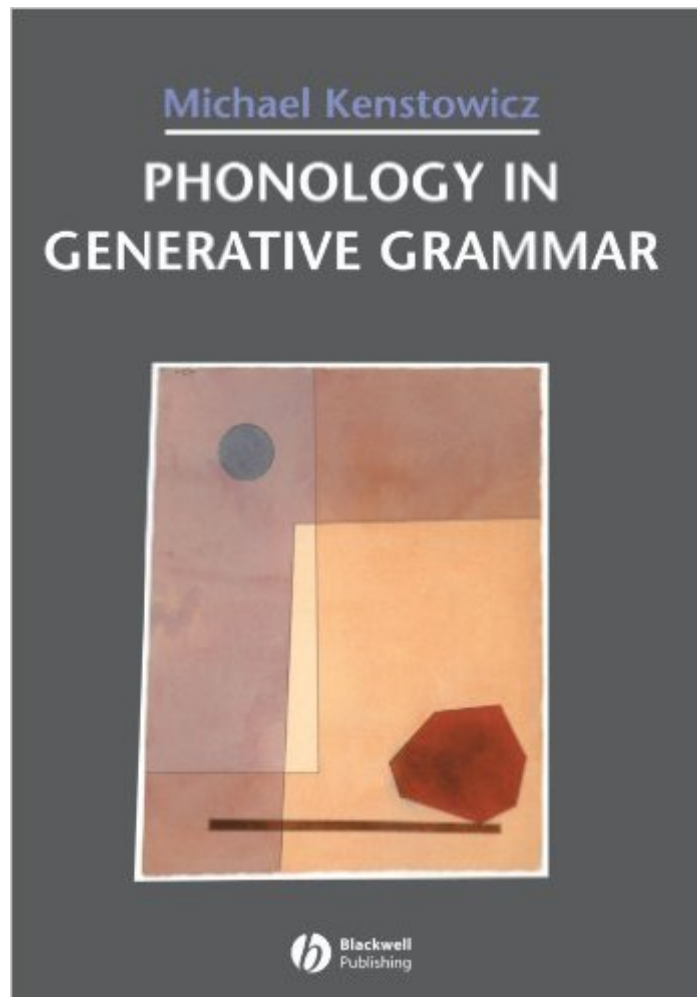


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Phonology In Generative Grammar (Blackwell Textbooks In Linguistics, No. 7)



Synopsis

This is the most comprehensive and current introduction to phonological theory and analysis. Presupposing only minimal background in linguistics, the book introduces the basic concepts and principles of phonological analysis and then systematically develops the major innovations in the generative model since Chomsky and Halle's *Sound Patterns of English* (1968). Careful study of the text will enable the student to read the current scholarly literature with critical understanding and some perspective. Some unique features of the book include a set of exercises reinforcing the basic concepts and principles, illustrations from a variety of languages based on published and unpublished materials, a survey of all the major lines of research in phonological theory, and an extensive bibliography. *Phonology in Generative Grammar* is supported by an instructor's manual.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Perhaps the best part of this book is that it has really good problem sets at the end of each chapter. Unfortunately that's where the good ends. The writing is dense and hard to understand, as if the author is unable to articulate his thoughts cogently and concisely and hides it with vague words. There is a lot of information crammed on one page and the diagrams are not explained well. If you are a researcher it is important to articulate your ideas clearly so that your work is understood. I think schools that use this do it mainly out of tradition rather than the actual quality of the book. As for me I am off to search for better books to supplement this one.

This text is a classic and should be required reading for any non-introductory student of phonology.

Its strengths include its discussion of the basic issues of phonology and its lovely problem sets. Its greatest weakness is that many of the issues so clearly laid out in this book were of great concern to phonologists in 1977, but less so today. Still, while the model that phonologists use to represent, for example, "rule ordering" has changed, the discussion of "feeding," "counter feeding," "bleeding," and "counter bleeding" in this text, and certainly the language examples are relevant today. This book may not be ideal for a student who takes only one course in phonology since some of the discussion is outdated and a bit complicated. It is, however, a good place to start for any student who wishes to understand the issues of generative, linear phonology, even if only out of historical interest.

The book is good as a ground for phonological generative grammar. However, it is not meant for people who have no or little background in phonological generative grammar.

I had to use this book for my intro phonology class at Harvard, and I have never been led so astray by a textbook in my entire life. Even my professor apologized for its horrible quality on numerous occasions. It's a shame that there aren't more textbooks on the subject available, because if there were, they would certainly be preferable to this catastrophe of a piece of academic writing.

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