

Book Review

Introduction to the English Language: System and Structure

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For educators, teachers, learners, or individuals who are interested in English as a second or foreign language, one of the best resources in the English language is the book titled “Introduction to the English Language: System and Structure” by Associate Professor Praromrat Jotikasthira. The author had developed the contents of the book for many years before it was first published in 1999. The second edition came out in 2006, followed by the third one in 2014.

This book has 491 pages which are divided into nine chapters. **Chapter 1** has its focus on sounds of English in details such as the speech organs, phonetic alphabets which are based on English consonants and vowels, classifications of consonant and vowel sounds, spelling versus pronunciation, problem sounds, phonemes and allophones, and syllable structure. **Chapter 2** covers word stress, sentence stress, juncture, pitch, and various types of intonation in English. **Chapter 3** is focused on morphemes and allomorphs in English with details in English roots, prefixes, and suffixes from Latin and Greek. **Chapter 4** explains phonological processes of consonant change, vowel change, and stress shift in English. **Chapter 5** presents parts of speech in terms of the identifications of nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. **Chapter 6** concentrates on function words such as determiners, auxiliaries, modals, intensifiers, quantifiers, prepositions, Wh-words, and connectives. **Chapter 7** includes finites and non-finite verb phrases, along with details in tense, voice, and usages. In **Chapter 8**, there are syntactic structures such as structure of modification, structure of predication, structure of complementation, structure of coordination, and structure of subordination. Last, **Chapter 9** describes the two types of ambiguity: structural ambiguity and lexical ambiguity.

The contents of this book display a wide range of the English linguistic background from the field in phonetics (Chapters 1 and 2), to the fields in phonology (Chapter 4), morphology (Chapters 3, 4, 5, and 6), syntax and semantics (Chapters 7, 8, and 9), as well as the impressive details of the English phonetic transcriptions, sound system, morphemes (roots, prefixes, and suffixes), and syntactic structures. In each chapter, there are extensive exercises with answers at the end of the book. These exercises help strengthen the knowledge of readers, who can complete these exercises as in-class assignments or self-studied ones. Thus, this book is a way to support the self-learning and lifelong learning of EFL learners.

Altogether, this book has greatly benefited EFL learners, teachers, and interested individuals to have learned the English language in breadth and depth. They can use and apply the knowledge gained from this book in many ways, including the English language teaching and learning or the experimental research designs based on the English language.

References

Jotikasthira, P. (2014). *Introduction to the English Language: System and Structure*. Third Edition. Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University Press.

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