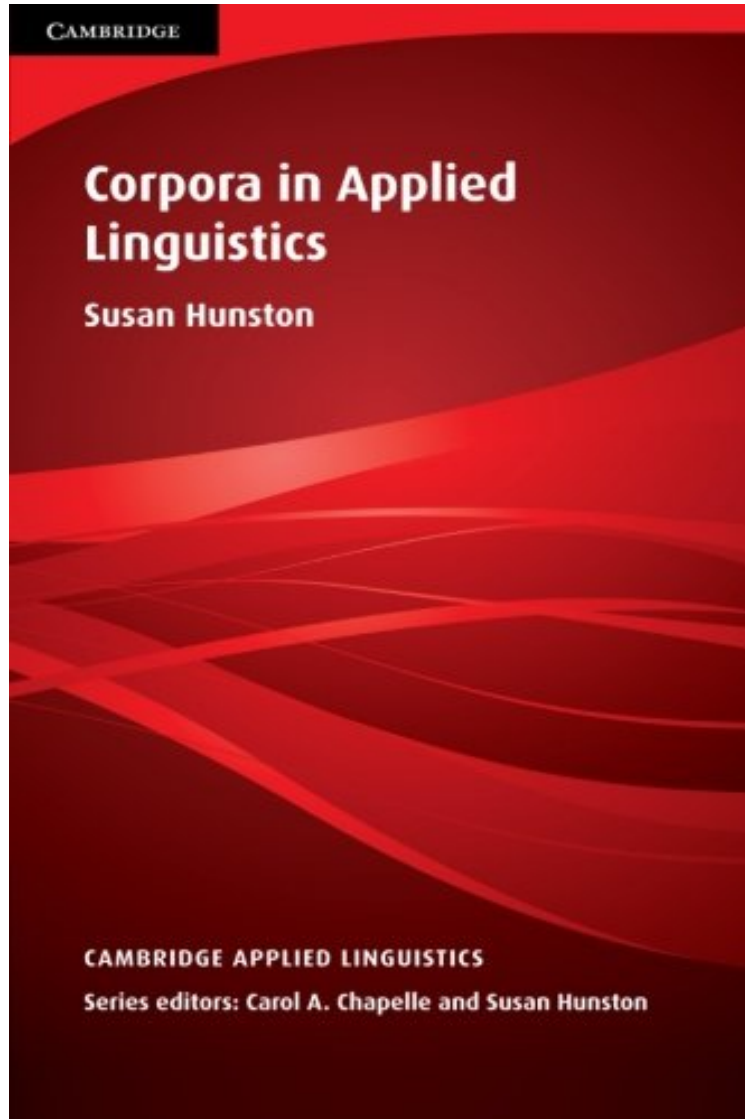


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Corpora in Applied Linguistics (Cambridge Applied Linguistics)

Susan Hunston

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Susan Hunston : Corpora in Applied Linguistics (Cambridge Applied Linguistics) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Corpora in Applied Linguistics (Cambridge Applied Linguistics):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. a great bookBy tatjana ponoracThe book is really interesting and easy to read. I recommend it to anyone who is interested in applied linguistics.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. OK, but could be better writtenBy NancyI assigned this book for a corpus linguistics course I taught. It was OK, but on the whole I think there are better options.The book is most thorough in covering issues related to

language teaching, which get three chapters. Most other areas of applied linguistics (forensics, lexicography, stylistics, translation, critical linguistics) are crammed into one chapter. My biggest problem with the book was that the writing was sometimes hard to follow. One recurrent problem is inadequate explanation of terminology. To take a random example, the introduction to chapter 8 states "I shall borrow Halliday's notions of the ideational and the interpersonal", and the first two sections of the chapter are headed by those terms---but the terms are not defined, nor is a reference given to where in Halliday's work they are discussed. Perhaps the terms are defined somewhere else in the book, but they're not in the index so it's hard to tell. I'm not familiar with Halliday's work and I certainly wouldn't expect my undergraduates to be! Overall, students did not seem very engaged by the book, and I do not plan to assign it again.

Corpus linguistics is leading to the development of theories about language which challenge existing orthodoxies in applied linguistics. However, there are also many questions which should be examined and debated: how big should a corpus be? Is the data from a corpus reliable? What are its applications for language teaching? *Corpora in Applied Linguistics* examines these and other questions related to this emerging field. It discusses these important issues and explores the techniques of investigating a corpus, as well as demonstrating the application of corpora in a wide variety of fields. It also outlines the impact corpus linguistics is having on how languages are taught in the classroom and how it is informing language teaching materials and dictionaries. It makes a superb and accessible introduction to corpus linguistics and is a must read for anyone interested in corpus linguistics and its impact on applied linguistics.

"This volume...contains an excellent description of the different kinds of tools that have been used in corpus research, and is well worth reading by novices in this field." - Florence Myles, University of Newcastle