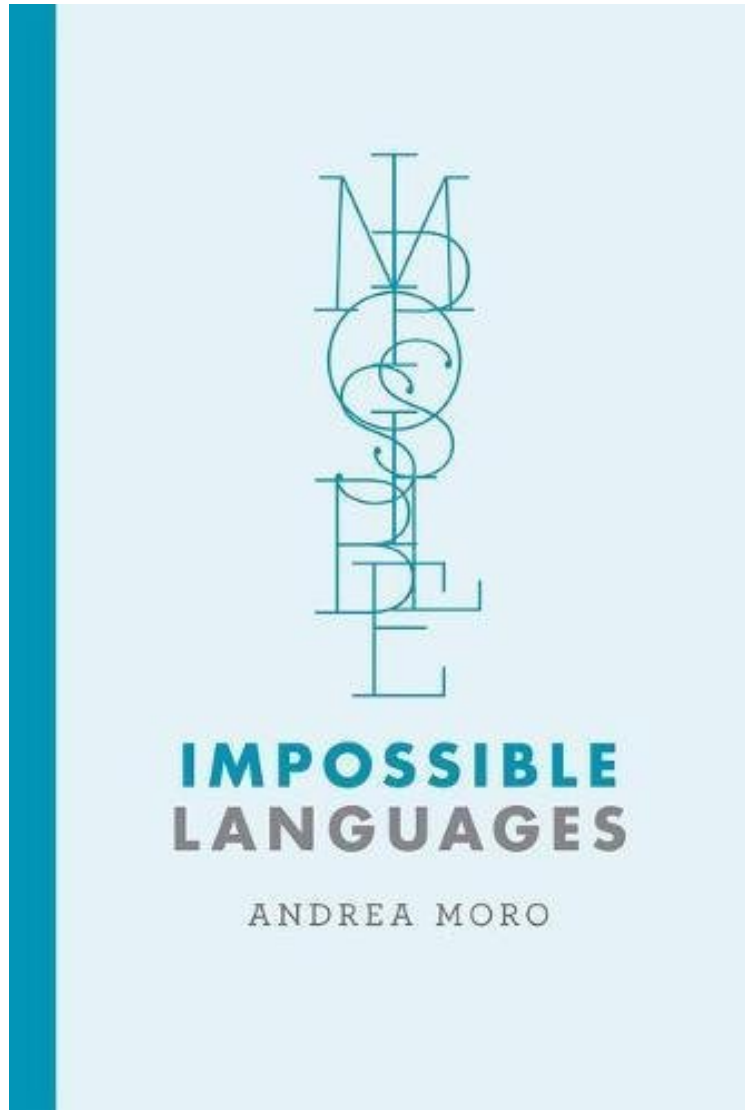


[PDF] Impossible Languages (MIT Press)

Impossible Languages (MIT Press)

Andrea Moro

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Andrea Moro : Impossible Languages (MIT Press) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Impossible Languages (MIT Press):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. a very well-written and fascinating view of human languageBy alt takes you through the fantastic world of human language as a novel but it always give you the reason to believe. Just read the table of content and you will not be able to abandon it: from the view of language as a mathematical structure through the invention of artificial languages in science and literature it will capture your imagination. It also describes actual experiments with the brain like recording the "sound of thought" from the brain while people read silently. And

as said by a leading philosopher in the back cover this book is beautifully written. I surely recommend it and reread it myself. 0 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Three Stars By Kindle Customer it was okay

An investigation into the possibility of impossible languages, searching for the indelible "fingerprint" of human language. Can there be such a thing as an impossible human language? A biologist could describe an impossible animal as one that goes against the physical laws of nature (entropy, for example, or gravity). Are there any such laws that constrain languages? In this book, Andrea Moro -- a distinguished linguist and neuroscientist -- investigates the possibility of impossible languages, searching, as he does so, for the indelible "fingerprint" of human language. Moro shows how the very notion of impossible languages has helped shape research on the ultimate aim of linguistics: to define the class of possible human languages. He takes us beyond the boundaries of Babel, to the set of properties that, despite appearances, all languages share, and explores the sources of that order, drawing on scientific experiments he himself helped design. Moro compares syntax to the reverse side of a tapestry revealing a hidden and apparently intricate structure. He describes the brain as a sieve, considers the reality of (linguistic) trees, and listens for the sound of thought by recording electrical activity in the brain. Words and sentences, he tells us, are like symphonies and constellations: they have no content of their own; they exist because we listen to them and look at them. We are part of the data.

Moro's sparkling overview of the conditions of possibility of language will entertain and instruct all who are perplexed by the mystery of human communication. Joining traditional studies of syntax to advances in neurology, Moro shows that the human mind, despite its almost infinite ingenuity, can't invent a language that doesn't share the fundamental properties of language itself. (David Bellos, Professor of French and Italian and Comparative Literature, Princeton University, author of *Is That a Fish in Your Ear? Translation and the Meaning of Everything*) Can human language vary in limitless ways? Or are there impossible human languages? In this beautifully written and insightful work Andrea Moro draws on his work on language and the brain to make a powerful case for there being intelligible limits to possible human languages. (Barry C. Smith, Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Institute of Philosophy, University of London, coeditor of *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Language*) About the Author Andrea Moro is Professor of General Linguistics at the Institute for Advanced Study IUSS Pavia, Italy, where he is also Director of the Research Center for Neurolinguistics and Theoretical Syntax (NEtS). He is the author of *The Boundaries of Babel: The Brain and the Enigma of Impossible Languages* (MIT Press) and other books.