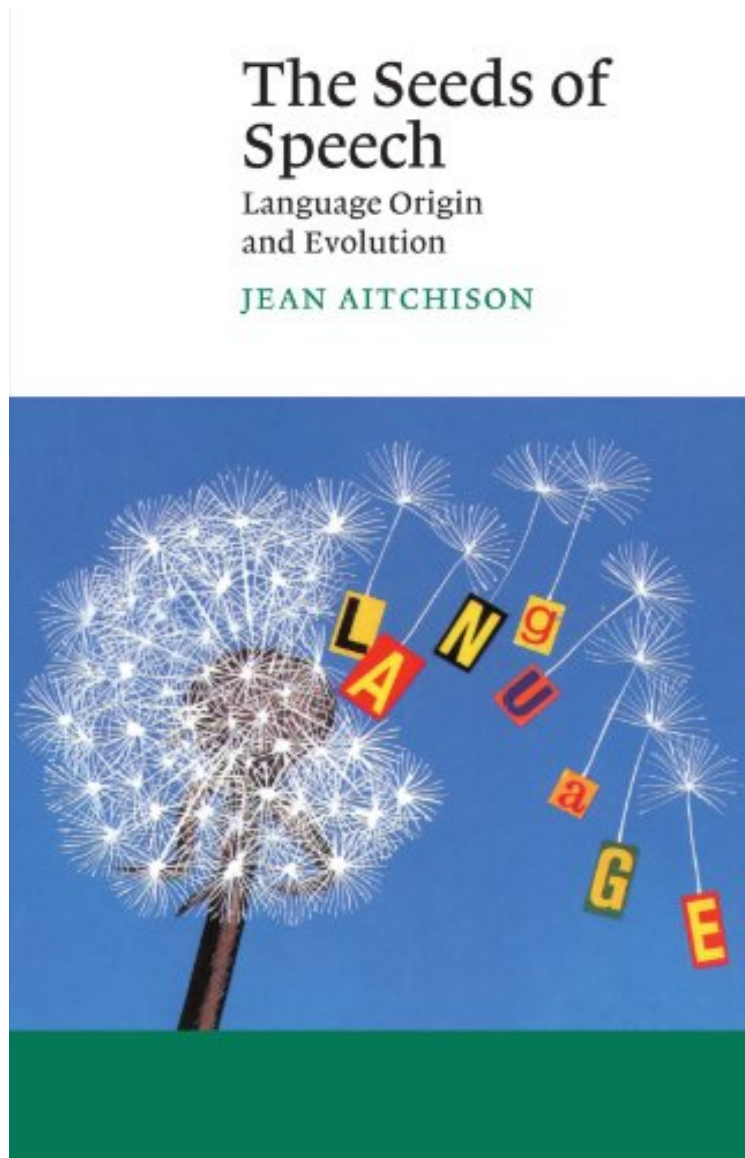


(Download free pdf) The Seeds of Speech: Language Origin and Evolution (Canto)

The Seeds of Speech: Language Origin and Evolution (Canto)

Jean Aitchison

ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1232361 in Books 2000-05-08Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .59 x 5.43l, .90 #File Name: 0521785715296 pages | File size: 22.Mb

Jean Aitchison : The Seeds of Speech: Language Origin and Evolution (Canto) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Seeds of Speech: Language Origin and Evolution (Canto):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyed the readBy JJNVery interesting and unique perspectives. Enjoyed the read.0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. perfectBy Rachel GrimaldII needed this book for a research paper. It was delivered much faster than I expected and was in better quality than I expected as well. It was

perfect! 11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. these seeds bore fruit
By Tom Reynolds
Aitchison has written another page turner. If this book doesn't keep you up until 3am desperate to finish, nothing will. It is divided into four sections: puzzles, origin, evolution, and diffusion. Puzzles deals with the theories as to how language began and developed. What was it originally for? and touches a little on the area of psycholinguistics. The second section deals with the issue of where it began on earth and how it spread out. The issues of the first chapter are expanded on and answers provided. The third section details the evolution of language based on what we currently know about language creation among the higher apes and among indigenous peoples who are exposed to foreign languages (pidgins, creoles). The last section deals with the diffusion we know today and with the idea of a universal grammar that would unite all human language under certain principles. As always Aitchison has managed to present a lot of information succinctly and without clouding the issues. A good introduction to the subject.

Human language is a weird communication system: it has more in common with birdsong than with the calls of other primates. Jean Aitchison explores the origins of human language and how it has evolved. She likens the search to a vast prehistoric jigsaw puzzle, in which numerous fragments of evidence must be assembled. Such evidence is pieced together from a mixture of linguistic and nonlinguistic sources such as evolution theory, archaeology, psychology, and anthropology. This is an accessible and wide-ranging introduction to the origins and evolution of human language.

'We must be grateful to Jean Aitchison for so very readably assembling a good deal of recent work that might seem to hint at how language began ... liberally peppered with fetching quotations from all manner of sources, ranging from the cartoon character Charlie Brown through Lewis Carroll to Jonathan Swift's satirical novel Gulliver's Travels ... the author goes out of her way to offer a restful read to all comers.' The Times'
... communicate[s] often quite complex ideas about language in a straightforward, intelligible, and often witty way ... can be recommended to anyone with a curiosity about their language, where it came from, and how it reached its present state.'
Child Language Teaching and Therapy'
She [Aitchison] carries her learning lightly and writes in a most comprehensible and often amusing way ... I wished I had been able to ask the many questions that the book raised in my mind but that is an indication of Professor Aitchison's ability to make the reader think.' The Expository Times