



Feifei Zhou

Models of the Human in Twentieth-Century Linguistic Theories

System, Order, Creativity

- Offers a wholly new perspective for investigating linguistic texts using three themes that are fundamental to discussions of the human
- Highlights the inherent tension in linguistic theorizing, based on a close reading and elucidation of a wide range of major linguistic texts
- Includes in-depth discussions on posthumanism, machines and language by incorporating insights from philosophy, the information sciences, cognitive sciences, and artificial intelligence

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This book provides a refreshingly new perspective for investigating linguistic texts, which foregrounds models of the human. It presents a close reading of major linguistic theories in the twentieth century with a focus on three main themes: linguistic system and the individual speaker; social order; and linguistic creativity. The examination of these three fundamental themes concerning language and human nature, on the one hand, provides a fine-textured exposition on the implicit and explicit models of human nature endorsed by major theorists; on the other, it reveals the methodological dilemmas faced by linguistics. In light of the fact that the importance of considering posthumanist ideas is increasingly being underscored today, both within and outside linguistics, this focus on the human makes the book highly topical.

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