

# Introduction to Linguistics

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## Assignment 1

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I've borrowed the book *Writing Systems: A linguistic introduction* by Geoffrey Sampson [Sampson, 1985].

I borrowed the book a few weeks before the start of the summer vacation because of my personal interest in writing systems. From what I've read from the book, it seems primarily aimed at both fellow linguists and people less familiar with this field of research. The first is evident from the fact that, while Sampson does make extensive use of linguistic jargon, he always seeks to explain the meaning of these technical terms. The latter is supported by the fact that the author includes recent findings—as far as new findings from 1985 can be considered recent—in the field of writing system research in his descriptions of writing systems and explanations and writing system phenomena.

When comparing the book to [Baker and Hengeveld, 2012] I believe it could—with some refreshing—also be used as supporting literature for a university course, albeit for a course specifically on the evolution of writing systems and the types of writing systems currently in use. I think chapter 19 of [Baker and Hengeveld, 2012] could be a useful preparation or supplement when reading [Sampson, 1985], for the book also touches upon various phenomena with respect to language change. The book by Bakker doesn't really mention writing systems in depth, so I don't see any other parts of the book being of any specific use. This is also due to the fact that, as I mentioned earlier, Sampson makes sure the reader is introduced to technical topics if he/she is not familiar with t

## References

- [Baker and Hengeveld, 2012] Baker, A. and Hengeveld, K. (2012). *Linguistics*. John Wiley Sons.
- [Sampson, 1985] Sampson, G. (1985). *Writing Systems: A linguistic introduction*. Stanford University Press.