

Language in Thought and Action: Fifth Edition by Alan R. Hayakawa

Incredible

A revised, updated edition of S. I. Hayakawa's classic work on semantics. He discusses the role of language, its many functions, and how language shapes our thinking. Introduction by Robert MacNeil; Index.

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I am a prospective linguistics major, and earlier this summer I went to the bookstore to pick up a good book about language in order to have a little background before starting classes in the fall. I bought this book out of the four or five language-subject books there (perhaps because it was shorter and seemed to be written in a more friendly tone). I am so glad I chose this one.

S.I. Hayakawa does a terrific job of keeping the reader focused and interested. Whenever he makes a theoretical point, he is sure to provide at least one (and usually two or more) examples so that the reader can understand and relate the theory to real life--in effect, Kayakawa uses one of his own arguments in his book, and it works tremendously.

If you have any interest in language, especially about the more social aspects of it, such as its purpose in groups, connotations, and the necessity to take great care in choosing the words we speak, pick up this book. If youre busy, then just read one section (5-8 pages) a night. Hayakawas commentary on the philosophy of language is outstanding, and Language in Thought and Action will make you appreciate the finest aspects of language and will urge you to use language in the most effective way possible.

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