

Alena Štulajterová

An Introduction to Language Studies

Third extended and modified edition

An Introduction to Language Studies

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PREFACE

This textbook is intended as an introductory course of English linguistics for students entering on the study of the English language at faculties of arts, philological and pedagogical faculties. The main purpose of the book is to introduce past and present of the English language, as well as to present general linguistic issues in a concise and coherent way.

I have tried to present the fundamentals of traditional linguistic disciplines – phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, lexicology, semantics and stylistics – whose comprehension is necessary for the study of more specialized linguistic courses in the next semesters. The comprehension of the historical development of the English language (Part I), as well as of essential linguistic terminology (Part II) should be an inseparable part of general linguistic knowledge of future English teachers, translators or interpreters. At the end of the book (Part III), series of study questions related to particular chapters in Part II are offered, which provide the students with more detailed treatments of presented issues.

The aim of the book was not to bring new ideas and new solutions to linguistic problems, the main purpose is to provide students with basic terminology, and offer them a review of opinions by combining both traditional and the most recent approaches. I believe that this method will enable the students to achieve an adequate understanding of the subject as a whole and that after reading the book they will have

sufficient knowledge about the internal structure of language (its form) and the varied uses of language in human communication (its function).

I have drawn inspiration from many sources, particularly linguistic studies written by (in alphabetical order) David Crystal, John Lyons, David Nunan, Pavol Štekauer, Josef Vachek and George Yule. Their influence will be evident to all who are familiar with their work.

Author