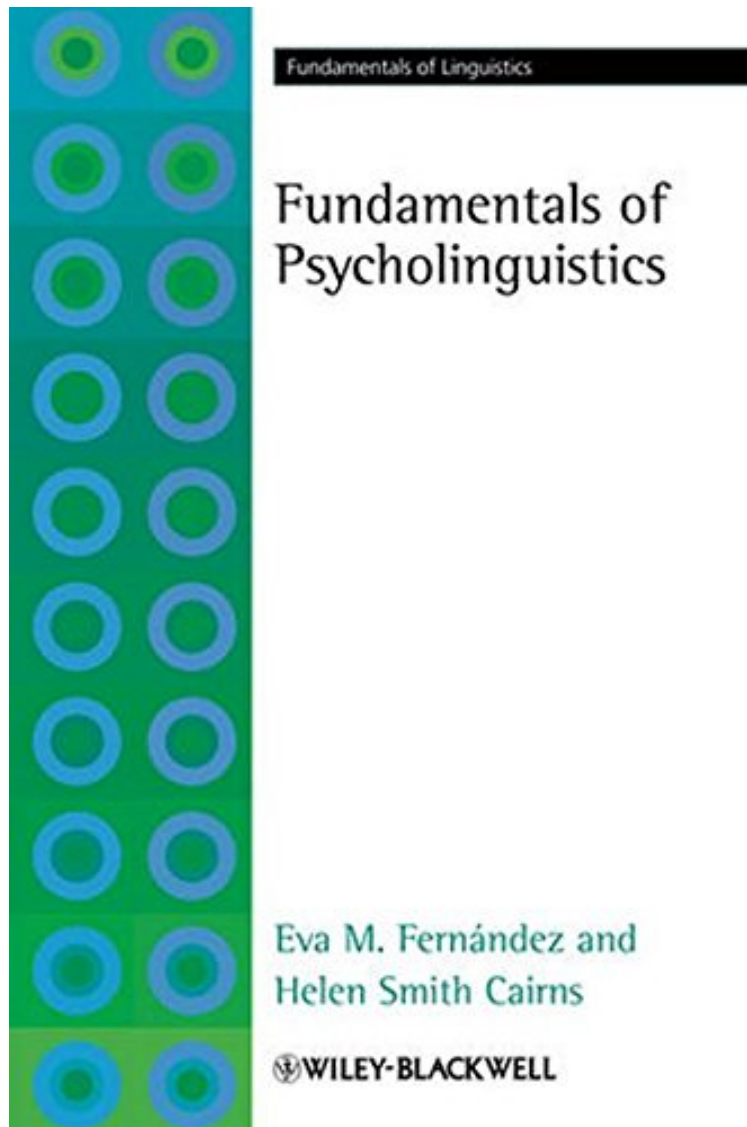


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# Fundamentals of Psycholinguistics

*Eva M. Fernández, Helen Smith Cairns*  
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**Eva M. Fernández, Helen Smith Cairns : Fundamentals of Psycholinguistics** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fundamentals of Psycholinguistics:

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Introducing the fundamental issues in psycholinguistics, this book explores the amazing story of the unconscious processes that take place when humans use language. It is an ideal text for undergraduates taking a first course in the study of language. Topics covered include the biological foundations of language; acquisition of first and second languages in children and adults; the mental lexicon; and speech production, perception, and processing. Structured as an engaging narrative that takes the reader from an idea in the mind of a speaker to its comprehension in the mind of the hearer. Reflects the latest empirical developments in psycholinguistics, and is illustrated throughout with examples from bilingual as well as monolingual language processing, second language acquisition, and sign languages. Student-friendly features include chapter-by-chapter study questions and discussion summaries; the appendix offers an excellent overview of experimental designs in psycholinguistics, and prepares students for their own research. Written by an internationally-regarded author team, drawing on forty years of experience in teaching psycholinguistics.

"It provides a wide-ranging, clearly written and organised introduction to many aspects of the field of psycholinguistics. It also encourages the reader to consider partaking in experimental psycholinguistics as much as theoretical study." (Linguist, 15 June 2011) "The strengths of the book are many: its attention to monolingual and bilingual contexts, its clear explanation of methodology and its selection of key illustrated studies." (Times Higher Education Supplement, 4 November 2010) "It is an ideal text for undergraduates taking a first course in the study of language." (Forbes.com, 2 November 2010) "Fundamentals of Psycholinguistics contains an astonishing amount of information about speech and language use, all presented so deftly that reading is a pleasure." Janet Dean Fodor, Graduate Center, City University of New York "Fernandez and Cairns expose the mysteries of the human language ability by weaving together the insights gained from fifty years of psycholinguistic research into a highly readable introductory text." Lyn Frazier, University of Massachusetts, Amherst "The coverage of this textbook is exactly right for an introductory-level course. It offers clear and up-to-date information in every area without overwhelming the reader. The thread on multilingualism is unique." Dana McDaniel, University of Southern Maine "The authors have done a masterful job of reviewing current and long-standing issues in Psycholinguistics in a balanced, engaging fashion. An excellent introduction to the field!" Janet Nicol, University of Arizona "What most shines through is the authors' great enthusiasm for elucidating the ideas that drive contemporary research in psycholinguistics. The wealth of their experience has produced a fresh, modern, and above all appealing introduction to this interdisciplinary field." Dianne Bradley, Graduate Center, City University of New York

From the Back Cover

Introducing the fundamental issues in psycholinguistics, this book explores the amazing story of the unconscious processes that take place when humans use language. Spanning key topics including the biological foundations of language; acquisition of first and second languages in children and adults; the mental lexicon; and speech production, perception, and processing, it is a very welcome addition for those seeking a linguistically-oriented yet balanced textbook. Reflecting the experience and knowledge gained by the authors in their combined 40 years of teaching psycholinguistics, the book is structured as an engaging narrative: from an idea in the mind of a speaker, to its comprehension in the mind of the hearer. It includes the very latest empirical developments in psycholinguistics, and is illustrated throughout with examples from bilingual as well as monolingual language processing, second language acquisition, and sign languages. Each chapter concludes with study questions, a review of the key concepts discussed, and further readings where appropriate. An appendix discussing experimental designs in psycholinguistics offers an excellent overview of work being done in the field, and prepares students for their own research.