



Neutralization (Key Topics in Phonology)

By Daniel Silverman

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The function of language is to transmit information from speakers to listeners. This book investigates an aspect of linguistic sound patterning that has traditionally been assumed to interfere with this function - neutralization, a conditioned limitation on the distribution of a language's contrastive values. The book provides in-depth, nuanced and critical analyses of many theoretical approaches to neutralization in phonology and argues for a strictly functional characterization of the term: neutralizing alternations are only function-negative to the extent that they derive homophones, and most surprisingly, neutralization is often function-positive, by serving as an aid to parsing. Daniel Silverman encourages the reader to challenge received notions by carefully considering these functional consequences of neutralization. The book includes a glossary, discussion points and lists of further reading to help advanced phonology students consolidate the main ideas and findings on neutralization.

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Neutralization (Key Topics in Phonology) By Daniel Silverman Bibliography

- Rank: #3106735 in eBooks
- Published on: 2012-08-31
- Released on: 2012-08-31
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Review

Advance Praise: "A detailed and critical exploration of neutralization that will be a valuable resource for both beginning and advanced scholars, regardless of theoretical orientation." --Beth Hume, The Ohio State University

"Neutralization is a must-read for students and researchers interested in neutralization, a long-standing issue in phonological theory. Silverman's comprehensive survey of traditional and current approaches is both useful and stimulating." --Jongho Jun, Seoul National University

About the Author

Daniel Silverman is Associate Professor in the Department of Linguistics and Language Development at San José State University, California.

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