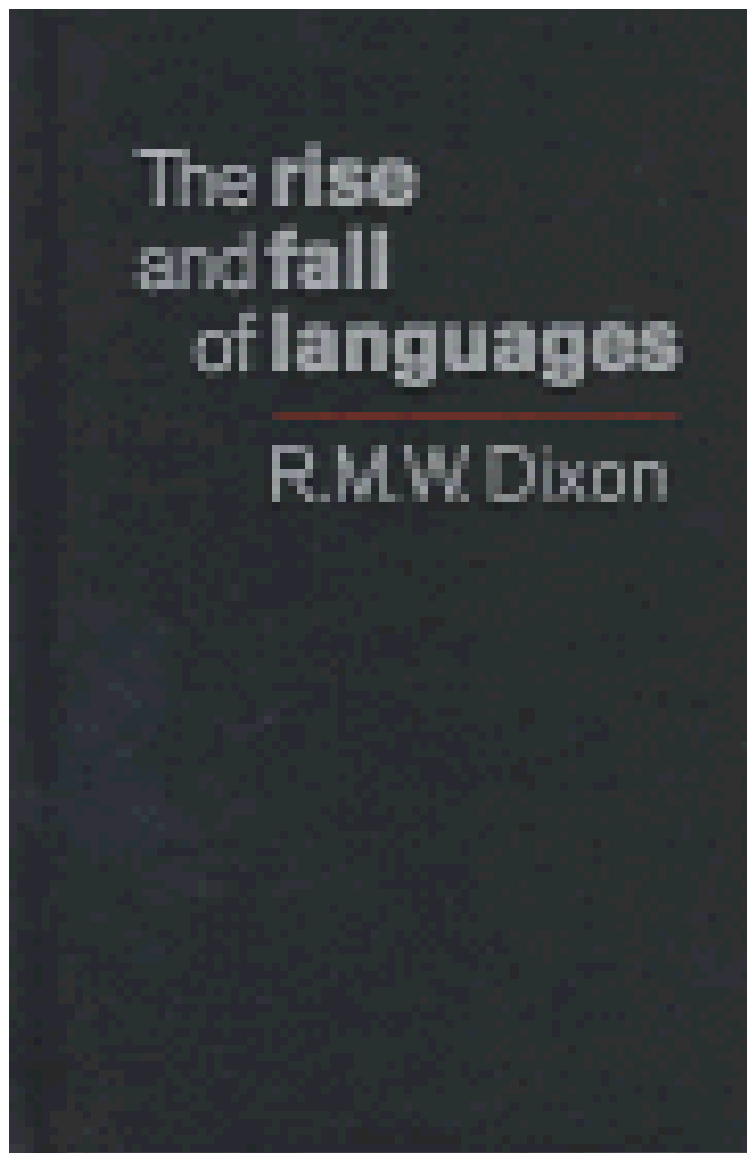


[Download] The Rise and Fall of Languages

The Rise and Fall of Languages

Von R. M. W. Dixon

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Von R. M. W. Dixon : The Rise and Fall of Languages before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rise and Fall of Languages:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Weckruf an alle, die sich mit Sprache(n) befassen...Von Holly Short...denn was Linguisten tun sollten, ist nicht, sich ber Formalismen zu streiten, sondern hinaus in die Welt gehen und zusehen, dass zumindest noch einige der heute aussterbenden Sprachen fr die Zukunft dokumentiert werden!Das ist die Kernaussage, die Dixon mit diesem Essay

bermitteln möchte. Doch behandelt er nicht nur diese, sondern befasst sich auch mit der "nostratischen" Theorie, die sucht, alle Sprachen der Welt auf eine gemeinsame Protosprache zurückzuführen, wobei es an der Methodologie oft hapert; außerdem stellt er sein Modell des Sprachwandels vor: das "Punctuated-Equilibrium-Modell", das Ähnlichkeiten zwischen verschiedenen Sprachen anhand ihres gegenseitigen Austauschs anstatt anhand einer genetischen Verwandtschaft zu erklären sucht, vor allem bei jenen Sprachfamilien, bei denen es für eine Verwandtschaft keine eindeutigen Beweise gibt. Eine Freude zu lesen für jeden, der ein bisschen an Syntax-Formalismen-Frust leidet, aber das Buch sollte auch alle anderen Sprachinteressierten überzeugen, was wirklich zu tun ist! 4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Good review of language history and origin Von Ein Kunde R M Dixon is a well known linguist who specializes in the aboriginal languages of Australia. In this captivating book, Dixon presents his theory of punctuated equilibrium (adopted from the idea of the same name by evolutionary theorists Stephen Jay Gould and Niles Eldredge) to describe how languages change. Dixon challenges linguists to dedicate more time to the study and description of the thousands of languages on the verge of extinction, rather than devote their energies to arcane formalisms. The author is also highly critical of those historical linguists who claim to have found evidence for the "mother of all languages", accusing them of poor methodology. Historical linguistics involves slow and painstaking analysis of language forms, and Dixon is not the first to chastise newcomers for shoddy work. Dixon's book is not overly technical, and is thus suited for both a professional and a lay audience. Anyone interested in learning more about the evolution of language should read Dixon's latest work. 0 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Excellent for the dabbler in linguistics Von Ein Kunde I'm interested in linguistics, and I took a few classes in it in college twenty years ago. This was a very interesting book for someone like me, since it presents new ideas in diachronic linguistics, without assuming more background than I had. It was great to be taken out to the edge of the field, where science is being done, without having to battle through a mass of technicalities. Plus, it's very well-written and fun to read.

Kurzbeschreibung This book puts forward a different approach to language change, the punctuated equilibrium model. This is based on the premise that during most of the 100,000 or more years that humans have had language, states of equilibrium have existed during which linguistic features diffused across the languages in a given area so that they gradually converged on a common prototype. From time to time, the state of equilibrium would be punctuated, with expansion and split of peoples and of languages, most recently, as a result of European colonisation and the globalisation of communication which are likely to result in the extinction, within the next hundred years, of 90% of the languages currently spoken. Professor Dixon suggests that every linguist should assume a responsibility for documenting some of these languages before they disappear. Pressestimmen 'I recommend this publication be read by all linguists no matter what their field of interests or specialization are. D's style is witty and to the point, but more relevantly, his previous achievements qualify him to serve as the ideal spokesman on these most significant and sensitive issues, as linguistics enters the new millennium.' Alan S. Kaye, California State University, Fullerton 'It is a work which anyone interested in the prehistory of languages will wish to read. I predict that it will have a significant and healthy influence upon the development of research in this area and in historical linguistics as a whole.' Cambridge Archaeological Journal 'Certainly the most refreshing and stimulating work in the field of historical linguistics I have had the pleasure of reading.' Colin Renfrew, Cambridge Archaeology 'Ground-breaking work in the true sense of the term.' Robert Orr, Diachronicaber das Produkt Professor Dixon challenges many of the views held by linguists, archaeologists and geneticists about the origins and development of human language, notably those concerning the usefulness of the 'family tree' model of language relationships and the speculation concerning the reconstruction of a 'proto-language'.