

**LINGUISTIC CHANGE, AN  
INTRODUCTION  
TO THE HISTORICAL  
STUDY OF LANGUAGE**

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Linguistic change, an introduction to the historical study of language by E. H. Sturtevant

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**E. H. STURTEVANT**

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# LINGUISTIC CHANGE

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE  
HISTORICAL STUDY OF  
LANGUAGE

By  
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Columbia University*



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## PREFACE

This little book, which has grown out of lectures to students beginning their scientific study of language, is primarily intended as a textbook for similar introductory courses. It is hoped, however, that it will appeal to a wider public, and consequently technical terms and symbols that are not familiar to all educated people have been eliminated as far as possible. Some readers will be offended at the lack of any exact system of phonetic notation; but such a notation would have required a long explanation, which some readers would have skipped, and which would have caused others to lay the book aside. No real ambiguity seems to result from our attempt to use ordinary symbols and terms in their familiar values.

Since the book is the result of reading and thought extending over more than fifteen years, the author cannot now recall the source of each idea expressed. He is under obligation at some point or many to most of the standard works on linguistics. In addition to books mentioned in the text and to the handbooks which stand at the elbow of every linguist, we may specify Paul Passy's *Petite phonétique comparée* and Leonard Bloomfield's *An Introduction to the Study of Language*. Much of the book, perhaps more than the author is aware, is traceable to the classroom lectures of Professors William Gardner Hale, Frank Frost Abbott, and Carl Darling Buck. Dr. W. M. Patterson has read and

corrected the section on rhythm. Professors Roland G. Kent and Charles Knapp have read the book in manuscript, and their criticism has improved it in many places. Professor Knapp has also read the proof.

E. H. STURTEVANT

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
July, 1917

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