○ CRYSTAL, D., *INTERNET LINGUISTICS: A STUDENT GUIDE.*
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I approached this book as a teacher of novices, taking seriously David Crystal's proposition that *Internet Linguistics:A Student Guide* is an introduction to a nascent field for someone with no subject-matter knowledge beyond raw experience and no language research expertise beyond simple thematic analysis. From that perspective, Crystal succeeds in building an easily grasped overview of the way in which the linguistic discipline might approach the Internet as a principled research enterprise.

Generalist overviews of fields of research always encounter debates over disciplinary roots, inclusion and exclusion of fields, fairness of coverage, polemics within the field, and incursions from and into other fields. Introductory textbooks are perhaps even more difficult, combining the problems of a generalist overview with finding the appropriate level of detail and justifying claims about what is central, medial, and peripheral. Crystal, to his credit, treats untangling some of this complexity as his primary problem to solve for the novice student of linguistics and allied language-oriented disciplines. He does so by focusing on how the broad issues of characterisation and methodology of the linguistic discipline (p.ix) have been or could be applied to Internet linguistic phenomena. Used in a class with supplementary materials of original sources to fill out details, I believe teachers and novices alike would find this a useful index to many basic Internet phenomena as well as the overall thorny question of how to define and demonstrate the value of an academic discipline.

Crystal's introductory chapter on "Linguistic Perspectives" and "The Internet as Medium" provides an easily understood initiation into the field's boundaries, an attempt to demonstrate its public value beyond pure academia, its terminology, and its challenges. Chapter 2 expands upon the major challenge of the field: how the Internet infrastructure supports an extremely wide and complexly inter-related set of media and subsequent forms of linguistic outputs. Crystal's discussion of this problem ends by supporting Susan Herring's (2007) "faceted classification scheme for computer-mediated discourse", which he references throughout. From the novice perspective, this provides a very clear structure for understanding much of what Crystal has to say in both case studies (one on Twitter and one on forensic investigations of chat room talk) and wider discussions of field issues.

Following the introductory chapters, in Chapter 3, Crystal presents a case study of Twitter. He defines Twitter and some of its primary conventions, and then works through the process of establishing the requirements and overcoming the challenges of providing an overall

description of the linguistic features of the medium from a sample of 200 random tweets containing the word "language". Crystal's aim is not to provide truly generalizable results. Rather, he is, as he suggested in Chapter 1, demonstrating the choices of characterisation and methodology that would allow a linguist to provide principled answers to questions about language use on Twitter.

The next three chapters take a much broader approach to describing the discipline, covering major field issues in language change (Chapter 4), multilingualism (Chapter 5), and applied Internet linguistics (Chapter 6). All three chapters are broken down into sub-issues that tend to follow a similar pattern: set out a basic research interest or problem, provide a basic answer or description of research that addresses it, and end with a brief sense of future research directions. The language change chapter covers vocabulary, orthography, grammar, pragmatics, and styles. The multilingualism chapter covers policy and methodology issues. These two chapters are more or less only descriptive. Crystal puts forward more of an argument in the chapter on applied Internet linguistics. Given that applied linguistics is potentially extremely large, Crystal takes on the issue of dictionary versus encyclopaedic analysis and makes a case for a combined lexipedic approach. This argument is carried through the remainder of the chapter, in which Crystal discusses the challenges and opportunities of semantic analysis.

Having laid out a cornucopia of issues, Crystal then provides a second case study in which he shows how a linguist might approach a real-world forensic problem. He presents his analysis of how to detect paedophilic grooming behaviour in chat rooms with a form of cumulative lexipedic analysis that compares several innocent conversations to an example of a documented grooming conversation. Again, Crystal's intention here is not to provide generalizable findings, but rather to open up the methods of linguistic research to inspection. As with the Twitter example, the value here for novices is to be very clearly stepped through the decision-making processes that underpin linguistic findings.

Crystal ends the book with a chapter speculating on the challenges and direction of theory in his nascent field of Internet Linguistics, and then provides a chapter of potential research activities drawn from all of the prior chapters. These research activities are both likely future directions in professional Internet Linguistics as well as useful class projects.

The book has some limitations. Crystal is careful to point out that his version of "Internet Linguistics", at least as espoused by this book, has some boundaries. This begins with his terminological discussion in Chapter One as to why he names the field "Internet Linguistics" rather than use other names such as "Computer-Mediated Communication". The first boundary is a distinction between language and communication. Crystal claims that language includes written and spoken outputs, but the only speech-specific issue addressed is that of latency (and that briefly). While he does mention pragmatics and applied linguistics, he

largely avoids anything sociological in nature. Crystal also explicitly rules out discussing the implications of wider multi-modal outputs such as images, video etc. as muddying the waters of the notion of language, which he takes as the primary definer of a linguistics field. As such, his version of the field is focused on the written language of the Internet. His case has merit, and this kind of boundary work is to be expected, but experienced readers will see that Crystal does not include primary theories and issues from allied communication technology fields (e.g. the historical changes in theories of social presence).

Crystal also displays his long-standing preoccupations with certain aspects of linguistics especially lexicography, syntax, semantics, and language change, so various versions of these receive extended coverage, while others are covered more briefly. The problem here is not so much bias as it is that it leads to a lack of discussion of methodological or theoretical arguments within the field. Rather than dealing with these polemics Crystal prefers to consider public debate about Internet language and show how linguistics can respond. For a novice reader, this is probably more initially captivating and less confusing, but the final result may feel somewhat uneven to experienced linguists or specialists in communication technology.

As an undergraduate textbook Internet Linguistics would serve quite well, especially supplemented by original articles for depth or comparison and contrast of positions. Crystal suggests that the book assumes a basic knowledge of linguistic concepts, but most terms are understandable in context and he usually defines technical terms when they are critical to his point, so technical terms should not be a barrier. Internet Linguistics is certainly worth consideration as conveying a broad sense of a principled discipline in a format that is easy to read.