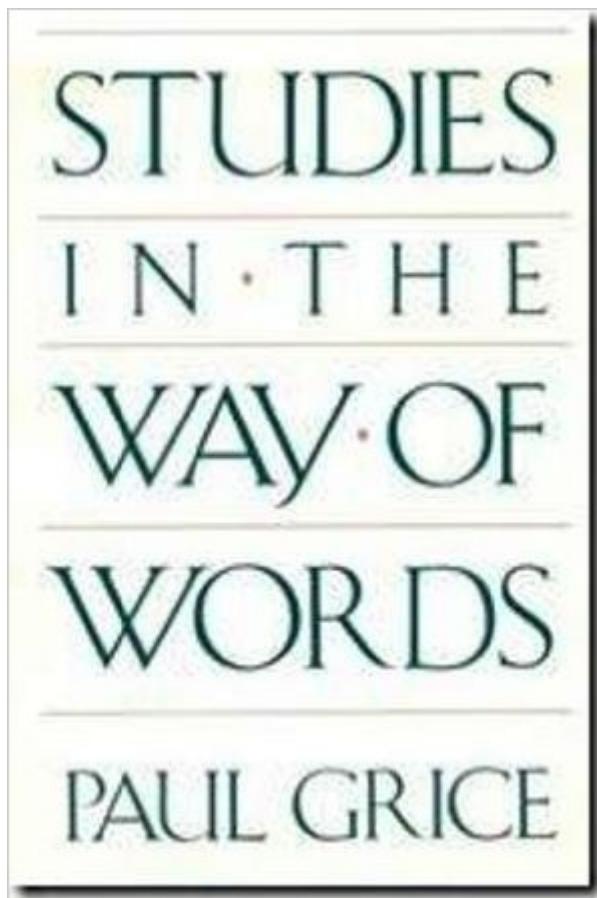


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Studies In The Way Of Words



Synopsis

This volume, Grice's first book, includes the long-delayed publication of his enormously influential 1967 William James Lectures. But there is much, much more in this work. Paul Grice himself has carefully arranged and framed the sequence of essays to emphasize not a certain set of ideas but a habit of mind, a style of philosophizing. Grice has, to be sure, provided philosophy with crucial ideas. His account of speaker-meaning is the standard that others use to define their own minor divergences or future elaborations. His discussion of conversational implicatures has given philosophers an important tool for the investigation of all sorts of problems; it has also laid the foundation for a great deal of work by other philosophers and linguists about presupposition. His metaphysical defense of absolute values is starting to be considered the beginning of a new phase in philosophy. This is a vital book for all who are interested in Anglo-American philosophy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Studies in the Way of Words, by Paul Grice, is a collection of papers by the late British philosopher of linguistics. His concepts such as the Maxims of Conversation and the basic ideas behind presupposition and implicature are vital to a robust understanding of communication through language. As a philosophical text, Grice's work is a bit difficult to plow through. His prose is quite full of flourishes and there's enough amusing references in there to keep an interested reader going, however the reader must indeed be interested for this book to be of much use. Anyone expecting to fully digest any of the papers in this book would do well to plan on reading it 3 or 4 times. However,

if done successfully, the concepts you'll take from it will indeed do much to expand your view of how linguistic communication works. Rated 5 stars for its philosophical importance and 2 for readability, the 4-star rating given here is a sort of weighted average.

This collection of papers have provided a spine for much work in pragmatics and the philosophy of language ever since they were published. Logic & Conversation, in particular, has helped to shape an entire field. Speaking against ordinary language philosophers such as Wittgenstein, Grice provided a wealth of vital distinctions, most of which have remained unshaken. In addition, and unlike many similar collections of papers, there is a sense of cohesion to the volume, put in order as it was by Grice himself. A classic, and requisite reading for anyone interested in the philosophy of language.

For any research about pragmatics and language use, you really need this one by Grice, as it is the standard in the field that everyone refers back to! Although not really recent, it is a good reference work and useful for studies.

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