



## The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rules of Grammar

By Mark C. Baker

Download now

Read Online 

**The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rules of Grammar** By Mark C. Baker

Whether all human languages are fundamentally the same or different has been a subject of debate for ages. This problem has deep philosophical implications: If languages are all the same, it implies a fundamental commonality--and thus mutual intelligibility--of human thought. We are now on the verge of solving this problem. Using a twenty-year-old theory proposed by the world's greatest living linguist, Noam Chomsky, researchers have found that the similarities among languages are more profound than the differences. Languages whose grammars seem completely incompatible may in fact be structurally almost identical, except for a difference in one simple rule. The discovery of these rules and how they may vary promises to yield a linguistic equivalent of the Periodic Table of the Elements: a single framework by which we can understand the fundamental structure of all human language. This is a landmark breakthrough both within linguistics, which will herewith finally become a full-fledged science, and in our understanding of the human mind.

 [Download The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rule ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Ru ...pdf](#)

# The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rules of Grammar

*By Mark C. Baker*

**The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rules of Grammar** By Mark C. Baker

Whether all human languages are fundamentally the same or different has been a subject of debate for ages. This problem has deep philosophical implications: If languages are all the same, it implies a fundamental commonality--and thus mutual intelligibility--of human thought. We are now on the verge of solving this problem. Using a twenty-year-old theory proposed by the world's greatest living linguist, Noam Chomsky, researchers have found that the similarities among languages are more profound than the differences. Languages whose grammars seem completely incompatible may in fact be structurally almost identical, except for a difference in one simple rule. The discovery of these rules and how they may vary promises to yield a linguistic equivalent of the Periodic Table of the Elements: a single framework by which we can understand the fundamental structure of all human language. This is a landmark breakthrough both within linguistics, which will herewith finally become a full-fledged science, and in our understanding of the human mind.

**The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rules of Grammar** By Mark C. Baker Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #390874 in Books
- Published on: 2002-10-08
- Released on: 2002-10-08
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .75" w x 5.00" l, .71 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 288 pages

 [Download The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rule ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Ru ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online *The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rules of Grammar* By Mark C. Baker

---

### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Rutgers University linguist Baker delivers a milestone in the field of linguistics. In fact, the book goes far in establishing linguistics as a hard science. But before diving into linguistic jargon, Baker engagingly describes the success of the Navajo Code Talkers during WWII; their language proved the one cipher that eluded Japanese cryptographers. While most people would consider words the components of language a lexical rather than a grammatical issue Baker explores the "parametric theory" posited by, among others, Noam Chomsky, which cites grammatical structure or "parameters as the atoms of linguistic diversity." Many linguists find these parameters "recipes" for how words are put together to form meaning a satisfactory explanation for both the similarities and the differences between languages of completely different origins. English and Edo (West African), for example, are grammatically closer than English and French. Baker and others do not believe that word-order formulae stem from either cultural factors or "the survival dynamics of evolutionary biology." He doesn't, however, deny the cultural implications of language: numerous parameters prevented Napoleonic French, for example, from dominating Europe. Certain issues have weak explanations, such as the reasons that various Latinate languages developed divergent parameters. The concluding, somewhat indirect discussion of "hints of what parameters are related to" feels like a push for page count. Though Baker's comparison between linguistics and chemistry i.e., between the detection of grammatical "recipes" and chemists' long struggle to establish the periodic table may seem extreme to some, his clarification of complicated linguistics theories is more accessible than most. Sadly, few Americans care about word order (even in English), so this significant book may only get attention from specialists and libraries.

Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

### Review

*"The Atoms of Language is a welcome introduction to what many linguists are actually engaged in every day." -- John McWhorter, Books & Culture*

*"A milestone in the field of linguistics." -- Publishers Weekly*

### About the Author

**Mark C. Baker** is a professor in the Department of Linguistics and the Center for Cognitive Science at Rutgers University. He lives in Camden, New Jersey.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

#### Charles Wilkerson:

What do you regarding book? It is not important to you? Or just adding material when you really need something to explain what you problem? How about your time? Or are you busy person? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? Everyone has many questions above. They have to answer that question since just their can do that will. It

said that about e-book. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is appropriate. Because start from on jardín de infancia until university need this kind of The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rules of Grammar to read.

**Ashley Staley:**

The reserve untitled The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rules of Grammar is the reserve that recommended to you to see. You can see the quality of the publication content that will be shown to a person. The language that author use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The writer was did a lot of research when write the book, so the information that they share to you is absolutely accurate. You also could get the e-book of The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rules of Grammar from the publisher to make you considerably more enjoy free time.

**Tasha Banda:**

The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rules of Grammar can be one of your basic books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to put every word into pleasure arrangement in writing The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rules of Grammar yet doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be one among it. This great information can easily drawn you into fresh stage of crucial considering.

**Aaron Eldred:**

As a college student exactly feel bored to reading. If their teacher expected them to go to the library or make summary for some book, they are complained. Just minor students that has reading's spirit or real their interest. They just do what the teacher want, like asked to the library. They go to at this time there but nothing reading significantly. Any students feel that reading is not important, boring along with can't see colorful images on there. Yeah, it is being complicated. Book is very important to suit your needs. As we know that on this period, many ways to get whatever we wish. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore this The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rules of Grammar can make you experience more interested to read.

**Download and Read Online The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rules of Grammar By Mark C. Baker #PUWE8LZ1BK6**

## **Read The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rules of Grammar By Mark C. Baker for online ebook**

The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rules of Grammar By Mark C. Baker Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rules of Grammar By Mark C. Baker books to read online.

### **Online The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rules of Grammar By Mark C. Baker ebook PDF download**

**The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rules of Grammar By Mark C. Baker Doc**

**The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rules of Grammar By Mark C. Baker Mobipocket**

**The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rules of Grammar By Mark C. Baker EPub**

**PUWE8LZ1BK6: The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rules of Grammar By Mark C. Baker**