



The Emergence of Distinctive Features (Oxford Studies in Typology and Linguistic Theory)

By Jeff Mielke

Download now

Read Online 

The Emergence of Distinctive Features (Oxford Studies in Typology and Linguistic Theory) By Jeff Mielke

This book makes a fundamental contribution to phonology, linguistic typology, and the nature of the human language faculty. Distinctive features in phonology distinguish one meaningful sound from another. Since the mid-twentieth century they have been seen as a set characterizing all possible phonological distinctions and as an integral part of Universal Grammar, the innate language faculty underlying successive versions of Chomskyan generative theory. The usefulness of distinctive features in phonological analysis is uncontroversial, but the supposition that features are innate and universal rather than learned and language-specific has never, until now, been systematically tested. In his pioneering account Jeff Mielke presents the results of a crosslinguistic survey of natural classes of distinctive features covering almost six hundred of the world's languages drawn from a variety of different families. He shows that no theory is able to characterize more than 71 percent of classes, and further that current theories, deployed either singly or collectively, do not predict the range of classes that occur and recur. He reveals the existence of apparently unnatural classes in many languages. Even without these findings, he argues, there are reasons to doubt whether distinctive features are innate: for example, distinctive features used in signed languages are different from those in spoken languages, even though deafness is generally not hereditary.

The author explains the grouping of sounds into classes and concludes by offering a unified account of what previously have been considered to be natural and unnatural classes. The data on which the analysis is based are freely available in a program downloadable from the publisher's web site.

 [Download The Emergence of Distinctive Features \(Oxford Stud ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Emergence of Distinctive Features \(Oxford St ...pdf](#)

The Emergence of Distinctive Features (Oxford Studies in Typology and Linguistic Theory)

By Jeff Mielke

The Emergence of Distinctive Features (Oxford Studies in Typology and Linguistic Theory) By Jeff Mielke

This book makes a fundamental contribution to phonology, linguistic typology, and the nature of the human language faculty. Distinctive features in phonology distinguish one meaningful sound from another. Since the mid-twentieth century they have been seen as a set characterizing all possible phonological distinctions and as an integral part of Universal Grammar, the innate language faculty underlying successive versions of Chomskyan generative theory. The usefulness of distinctive features in phonological analysis is uncontroversial, but the supposition that features are innate and universal rather than learned and language-specific has never, until now, been systematically tested. In his pioneering account Jeff Mielke presents the results of a crosslinguistic survey of natural classes of distinctive features covering almost six hundred of the world's languages drawn from a variety of different families. He shows that no theory is able to characterize more than 71 percent of classes, and further that current theories, deployed either singly or collectively, do not predict the range of classes that occur and recur. He reveals the existence of apparently unnatural classes in many languages. Even without these findings, he argues, there are reasons to doubt whether distinctive features are innate: for example, distinctive features used in signed languages are different from those in spoken languages, even though deafness is generally not hereditary.

The author explains the grouping of sounds into classes and concludes by offering a unified account of what previously have been considered to be natural and unnatural classes. The data on which the analysis is based are freely available in a program downloadable from the publisher's web site.

The Emergence of Distinctive Features (Oxford Studies in Typology and Linguistic Theory) By Jeff Mielke Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #4657729 in Books
- Published on: 2008-05-15
- Released on: 2008-01-06
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.10" h x .50" w x 9.10" l, 1.02 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 256 pages

 [Download The Emergence of Distinctive Features \(Oxford Stud ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Emergence of Distinctive Features \(Oxford St ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Emergence of Distinctive Features (Oxford Studies in Typology and Linguistic Theory) By Jeff Mielke

Editorial Review

About the Author

Jeff Mielke is Assistant Professor of Linguistics at the University of Ottawa. In 2003 he was awarded the Presidential Fellowship at Ohio State University and achieved his PhD the following year. He then undertook postdoctoral research at the Phonological Imaging Laboratory at the University of Arizona before moving to Ottawa in 2006.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Betty Walsh:

The particular book The Emergence of Distinctive Features (Oxford Studies in Typology and Linguistic Theory) will bring you to definitely the new experience of reading a book. The author style to describe the idea is very unique. When you try to find new book you just read, this book very acceptable to you. The book The Emergence of Distinctive Features (Oxford Studies in Typology and Linguistic Theory) is much recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can easier to read the book.

Dixie Love:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book might be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the e-book untitled The Emergence of Distinctive Features (Oxford Studies in Typology and Linguistic Theory) can be great book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

Michael Rahn:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray anyone, why because this The Emergence of Distinctive Features (Oxford Studies in Typology and Linguistic Theory) book written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who else read the book. Written within good manner for you, leaking every ideas and producing skill only for eliminate your personal hunger then you still doubt The Emergence of Distinctive Features (Oxford Studies in Typology and Linguistic Theory) as good book but not only by the cover but also by the content. This is one publication that can break don't determine book by its include, so do you still needing one more sixth sense to pick this!? Oh come on your reading through sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to a different sixth sense.

Grace Smith:

The book untitled The Emergence of Distinctive Features (Oxford Studies in Typology and Linguistic Theory) contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains the girl idea with easy way. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read this. The book was published by famous author. The author will take you in the new age of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can read more your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book in anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice go through.

**Download and Read Online The Emergence of Distinctive Features
(Oxford Studies in Typology and Linguistic Theory) By Jeff Mielke
#HFEI1J0ZV5X**

Read The Emergence of Distinctive Features (Oxford Studies in Typology and Linguistic Theory) By Jeff Mielke for online ebook

The Emergence of Distinctive Features (Oxford Studies in Typology and Linguistic Theory) By Jeff Mielke 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 Emergence of Distinctive Features (Oxford Studies in Typology and Linguistic Theory) By Jeff Mielke books to read online.

Online The Emergence of Distinctive Features (Oxford Studies in Typology and Linguistic Theory) By Jeff Mielke ebook PDF download

The Emergence of Distinctive Features (Oxford Studies in Typology and Linguistic Theory) By Jeff Mielke Doc

The Emergence of Distinctive Features (Oxford Studies in Typology and Linguistic Theory) By Jeff Mielke Mobipocket

The Emergence of Distinctive Features (Oxford Studies in Typology and Linguistic Theory) By Jeff Mielke EPub