MODERN LINGUISTICS

Hauptstudium: basic reading for final exam preparation, revision, etc

Students frequently ask me to recommend reading on standard ideas in mainstream linguistics. Here is a selection of reading on modern linguistics for Hausarbeiten, final exam preparation and revision, etc.

1. INTRODUCTORY / GENERAL


Both excellent introductions to many areas: a good place to start looking for information. Lots of good pictures!


These two books are from the British Open University courses on "The English Language: Past, Present and Future". Beautifully produced. Articles by leading researchers, and lots of pictures, maps and cartoons ... ;-) 


Very well written bestseller. But beware: it claims to be a general introduction, but is written from a Chomskyan perspective.


But very introductory. Really suitable only for Zwischenprüfung.
2. **HISTORIES**


Robins is rather dry, but contains all the main facts. Sampson gives a more interesting personal account (but is unfortunately out of print).


Good on early history. But **beware**: nothing on British Firthian linguistics; then very Chomskyan, and also oriented towards Seuren's own views of generative semantics, and then very(!) critical of Chomsky, eg see p.526!


Commentary on the original words of Saussure, Bloomfield, Chomsky, Firth, Halliday and others. Very useful! You can download the whole book from his website: http://www.beaugrande.com/.


Both clear titles ... Newmeyer is on the first 25 years of Chomskyan linguistics.


Odd title: it's a useful defense of "autonomous" linguistics.

3. **ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND MAJOR REFERENCE / HANDBOOKS**

Several publishers now produce authoritative accounts of standard areas.


Good survey articles on many topics. Some now a bit out-of-date.

Good articles on the foundations of linguistics, and on psychological and sociological topics. The "foundation" articles are rather dated in so far as they are and more narrowly Chomskyian than it admits.

4. **HANDBOOK SERIES [BLACKWELL]**

Blackwell produce a series of substantial "handbooks", eg:


On sociolinguistics: these two books are useful surveys


5. **TEXTBOOKS. THE RED CUP SERIES.**

The Cambridge University Press "red" series provides reliable textbooks on main branches of linguistics and concepts:

Bynon, T (1977) *Historical Linguistics.*

Comrie, B (1976) *Aspect.*
On more specific topics, "Spezialgebiete". I'll add to these sections from time to time.

6. SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS.


Three classics.


Three textbooks: Levinson is important but quite difficult.

7. CORPUS LINGUISTICS.