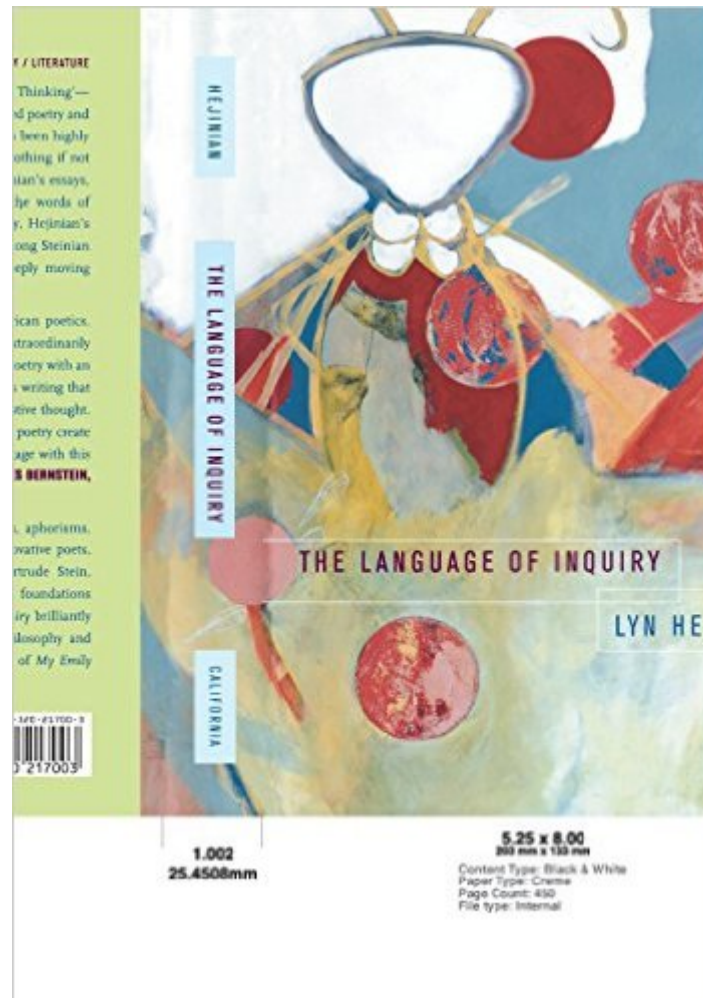


The book was found

The Language Of Inquiry



Synopsis

Lyn Hejinian is among the most prominent of contemporary American poets. Her autobiographical poem *My Life*, a best-selling book of innovative American poetry, has garnered accolades and fans inside and outside academia. *The Language of Inquiry* is a comprehensive and wonderfully readable collection of her essays, and its publication promises to be an important event for American literary culture. Here, Hejinian brings together twenty essays written over a span of almost twenty-five years. Like many of the Language Poets with whom she has been associated since the mid-1970s, Hejinian turns to language as a social space, a site of both philosophical inquiry and political address. Central to these essays are the themes of time and knowledge, consciousness and perception. Hejinian's interests cover a range of texts and figures. Prominent among them are Sir Francis Bacon and Enlightenment-era explorers; Faust and Sheherazade; Viktor Shklovsky and Russian formalism; William James, Hannah Arendt, and Martin Heidegger. But perhaps the most important literary presence in the essays is Gertrude Stein; the volume includes Hejinian's influential "Two Stein Talks," as well as two more recent essays on Stein's writings.

Book Information

Paperback: 391 pages

Publisher: University of California Press (November 6, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0520217004

ISBN-13: 978-0520217003

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.9 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #874,996 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1066 in Â Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Genres & Styles > Poetry #7280 in Â Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Criticism & Theory #11332 in Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry

Customer Reviews

Lyn Hejinian is a language poet with a philosophical bent who has written a highly thought-provoking book. Although, at times, parts of *The Language of Inquiry* seem to lapse into obscurity, she offers penetrating insights and contentions bound to provoke, many of her own making and some fashioned by the authors she quotes (who must fill her prodigious library). I'm providing a few brief excerpts from her book below, interspersed by my own stray thoughts. She

quotes Benjamin Lee Whorf: "Every language is a vast pattern-system, different from others, in which are culturally ordained the forms and categories by which the personality not only communicates, but also analyses nature, notices or neglects types of relationship and phenomena, channels his reasoning, and builds the house of his consciousness." My sense is that this is a somewhat extreme view. Translation is an imperfect art but there are many shared cross-cultural constructs. Some parts of foreign thought, nuances in particular, are, however, refractory to translation. So I think there is some truth in what Whorf says. The Whorf quote also glosses over different levels of consciousness, that is, the distinction between raw and primitive experience that is not, or has not yet been, parsed into language as contrasted with reflective language-laden thought. The "lyric dilemma" after all (which Hejinian mentions later in her book) posits that speech is inadequate to the description of experience. Hejinian also writes that "language is an order of reality itself, and not a mere mediating medium" and that "poetry takes as its premise that language . . . is a medium for experiencing experience."

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Body Language: Body Language Training - Attract Women & Command Respect, by Mastering Your High Status Body Language (Body Language Attraction, Body Language ... Language Secrets, Nonverbal Communication) BODY LANGUAGE : Decoding Alpha Male Body Language, Instantly Attract Any Woman Without Saying a Single word. (Body Language 101, Alpha male, Attract woman, ... Seduce Women, Eye Contact, Body Language) Ladybugs, Tornadoes, and Swirling Galaxies: English Language Learners Discover Their World Through Inquiry The Language of Inquiry On Language: Chomsky's Classic Works Language and Responsibility and Reflections on Language in One Volume German: Learn German with These 500 Phrases (German Language, Speak German, Learning German, Germany Language, Austria Language, Learning German, Speaking German) Body Language: Master the Art of Reading Anyone Through Nonverbal Communication (Body Language 101, Body Language Mastery, Read Everyone) The Transit Metropolis: A Global Inquiry Authentic Learning in the Digital Age: Engaging Students Through Inquiry Got Data? Now What?: Creating and Leading Cultures of Inquiry - A practical book for teacher teams on gathering and interpreting assessment and other school data Introducing Communication Research: Paths of Inquiry Research in Education: Evidence-Based Inquiry (7th Edition) Science Notebooks, Second Edition: Writing About Inquiry Teaching Science as Inquiry (11th Edition) Teaching Science Through Inquiry and Investigation (12th Edition) Teaching Science Through Inquiry and Investigation, Enhanced Pearson eText with Loose-Leaf Version -- Access Card Package (12th Edition) Inquiry-Based Lessons in U.S. History: Decoding the Past

Phenomenology of Practice: Meaning-Giving Methods in Phenomenological Research and Writing
(Developing Qualitative Inquiry) Planning as Persuasive Storytelling: The Rhetorical Construction of
Chicago's Electric Future (New Practices of Inquiry) Naval Researches: Or a Candid Inquiry into the
Conduct of Admirals Byron, Graves, Hood and Rodney, into the Actions Off Grenada, Chesapeake,
... of April, 1782 (American Revolutionary)

[Dmca](#)