

chicago style for author-date system

linguistics

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) offers two primary citation systems: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. For many academic disciplines, particularly in the sciences and social sciences, the author-date system is the preferred method for citing sources. Within the field of linguistics, this system proves exceptionally valuable for its clarity and efficiency in referencing a wide array of linguistic theories, empirical studies, and historical texts. This comprehensive guide delves into the nuances of applying the Chicago style for author-date system linguistics, covering everything from in-text citations to the bibliography, and offering practical advice for linguistic scholars. We will explore the fundamental principles of this citation style, its specific applications to linguistic scholarship, the construction of both parenthetical citations and the reference list, and best practices for ensuring accuracy and consistency.

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Understanding the Chicago Author-Date System

The Chicago Manual of Style's author-date system is designed for straightforward citation, allowing readers to quickly identify the source of information. Unlike the notes-bibliography system, which relies on footnotes or endnotes, the author-date system integrates citation information directly into the text, typically in parenthetical form. This approach is favored in fields where frequent citation is common and where a clear, immediate link between the claim and its source is paramount, which is often the case in linguistics.

The system operates on two core components: the in-text citation and the reference list. The in-text citation points the reader to the corresponding entry in the reference list, which provides the full publication details of every source consulted. This dual structure ensures that both brevity within the narrative and completeness in the bibliographic section are maintained.

Key Components of Chicago Style Author-Date for Linguistics

Adhering to the Chicago author-date system for linguistic research involves mastering two essential

elements: the in-text citation and the comprehensive reference list. Each plays a critical role in the proper attribution of scholarly work and the facilitation of further research for readers.

In-Text Citations in Linguistics

In-text citations in the Chicago author-date system are typically brief and enclosed in parentheses. They primarily consist of the author's last name and the year of publication. When referencing a specific passage or idea, a page number or range is also included. For example, a citation might appear as (Chomsky 1957) for a general reference to a work, or (Labov 1972, 189) when referring to a specific point on page 189 of Labov's influential work.

When an author has multiple works published in the same year, the citations are distinguished by adding lowercase letters (a, b, c, etc.) to the year. This ensures that each publication is uniquely identified. For instance, if a linguist published two articles in 2020, the citations would be (Smith 2020a) and (Smith 2020b).

For sources with multiple authors, the convention varies. For works with two authors, both names are typically listed, connected by "and" (e.g., (Givón and Givón 1999)). For works with three or more authors, only the first author's last name is listed, followed by "et al." (e.g., (Bates et al. 1991)). This conciseness is particularly beneficial in dense linguistic arguments where numerous references might otherwise interrupt the flow.

Crafting the Reference List for Linguistic Works

The reference list, also known as the bibliography, is a comprehensive compilation of all sources cited within the text. It is alphabetized by the author's last name and provides full bibliographic details for each entry, allowing readers to locate the original works. Each entry begins with the author's last name followed by their first name. The year of publication is placed immediately after the author's name and is enclosed in parentheses. The title of the work, whether a book or an article, follows, formatted according to Chicago style rules (italicized for books, in quotation marks for articles).

For journal articles, the citation includes the journal title, volume number, issue number (if applicable), and page numbers. For books, it includes the publisher and the place of publication. The order and formatting are crucial for clarity and consistency. For example, a journal article entry might look like this: Hymes, Dell. 1974. *Foundations in Sociolinguistics: An Ethnographic Approach*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

The reference list should be meticulously organized to avoid errors. This includes ensuring that every in-text citation has a corresponding entry in the reference list and vice versa. Consistency in formatting, such as the use of italics and quotation marks, is also vital for a professional and polished academic document.

Specific Considerations for Linguistic Sources

Linguistics, as a discipline, draws upon a diverse range of source materials, from theoretical treatises and empirical studies to historical grammars and language corpora. The Chicago author-date system accommodates this variety with specific formatting guidelines.

Citing Classic Works in Linguistics

When citing foundational texts in linguistics, such as Ferdinand de Saussure's *Course in General Linguistics* or Noam Chomsky's *Syntactic Structures*, it is important to use the original publication year in the in-text citation and reference list, even if you are consulting a later edition. However, if the edition you are using contains new material or important annotations, you may include the year of your edition along with the original year, often separated by a slash or in a note within the reference entry if the system allows for such annotations in a reference list (though CMOS author-date prioritizes brevity in the list itself). For example: Saussure, Ferdinand de. 1916. *Cours de linguistique générale*. Edited by Charles Bally and Albert Sechehaye. Lausanne: Payot. (Consulted edition: Saussure 1959).

Referencing Language Data and Corpora

Linguistic research often relies on specific datasets or corpora. When citing these, include as much detail as possible in the reference list to enable replication or verification by other researchers. This might include the name of the corpus, the compiler or organization responsible, the date of creation or access, and a URL if it is online. In-text citations would follow the standard author-date format, with the corpus name often acting as the "author." For example: British National Corpus. 1994. *The British National Corpus*. Oxford: Oxford University Computing Services. (Accessed March 15, 2023).

Citing Dissertations and Theses

Doctoral dissertations and master's theses are common sources in linguistics. In the Chicago author-date system, these are treated as unpublished works or works available through specific repositories. The entry should include the author's name, the year of completion, the title of the dissertation/thesis, the degree sought, the university, and information about its availability (e.g., ProQuest, institutional repository). For example: Johnson, Emily. 2018. *Phonological Variation in Appalachian English*. PhD diss., University of California, Berkeley.

Common Challenges and Solutions in Linguistic Citations

Navigating the intricacies of any citation style can present challenges, and the Chicago author-date

system for linguistics is no exception. Addressing these common issues proactively ensures the integrity and clarity of your scholarly work.

Handling Translated Works

When citing a work that has been translated, the standard practice is to list the original author and original publication year for the in-text citation and reference list, but to also include the translator's name and the publication year of the translated edition. The primary entry in the reference list should feature the original author and year, with details of the translation appearing within the entry. For example: Barthes, Roland. 1967. *Elements of Semiology*. Translated by Stephen Heath. New York: Hill and Wang. (Original publication: Barthes 1964).

Citing Works with No Author or Date

Sources lacking an author are typically attributed to the title of the work in both in-text citations and the reference list, alphabetized by the first significant word of the title. If a work has no publication date, "n.d." (no date) is used in place of the year. For example, an in-text citation might be (An Introduction to Phonetics, n.d.). In the reference list, it would appear as: An Introduction to Phonetics. n.d. Publisher City: Publisher.

Ensuring Consistency Across Diverse Sources

The diverse nature of linguistic scholarship can lead to a wide variety of source types. Maintaining consistency in applying the Chicago author-date system requires careful attention to detail and a thorough understanding of the guidelines for each source type. It is often helpful to consult the official Chicago Manual of Style or reliable online resources specifically dedicated to the author-date system. Creating a template or style sheet for your own work can also help standardize your citations.

Benefits of Using Chicago Style Author-Date in Linguistics

The adoption of the Chicago style for the author-date system in linguistics offers several distinct advantages. Its clarity and efficiency streamline the academic writing process and enhance the reader's experience. By providing immediate attribution within the text, it allows for a more fluid reading of complex arguments, which is crucial in a field as theoretically dense as linguistics.

Furthermore, the author-date system is widely recognized and used across many subfields of linguistics and related disciplines. This broad acceptance facilitates interdisciplinary communication and makes it easier for scholars to engage with research published in various journals and by

different academic presses. The direct link between in-text citations and the reference list also aids in the rapid verification of sources, supporting scholarly integrity and promoting further investigation by interested readers.

The system's straightforward structure minimizes ambiguity and reduces the potential for citation errors, which can otherwise detract from the credibility of research. For linguists who frequently cite numerous sources, the author-date format offers a practical and organized method for managing their bibliographical information, ultimately contributing to a more polished and professional final product.

Q: What is the fundamental difference between Chicago's author-date and notes-bibliography systems for linguistics?

A: The primary difference lies in how citations are presented. The author-date system uses parenthetical citations within the text (Author Year, Page) and a corresponding reference list. The notes-bibliography system uses footnotes or endnotes for citations and a separate bibliography that includes all cited works. For linguistics, author-date is often preferred for its conciseness and directness in tracking sources.

Q: How do I cite a language corpus using the Chicago author-date system for linguistics?

A: When citing a language corpus, treat the corpus name as the author if there is no specific individual compiler. Include the year of creation or access, the full title of the corpus, and details about its origin or provider. If the corpus is online, include the URL and access date. For example: British National Corpus. 1994. The British National Corpus. Oxford: Oxford University Computing Services.

Q: What is the correct way to cite a foundational linguistic text that I am referencing from a later edition?

A: In the Chicago author-date system, you should cite the original publication year of the foundational text in your in-text citation and in the reference list. If the edition you are using has significant editorial contributions or notes, you can mention the year of your edition in parentheses after the original publication year in the reference list, or if the publication year of the edition you are using is significantly different and you are emphasizing the specific edition. Always prioritize the original publication year for the core citation.

Q: How should I handle multiple works by the same author in the same year in Chicago author-date for linguistics?

A: To differentiate between multiple works by the same author published in the same year, you add lowercase letters (a, b, c, etc.) immediately after the year in both the in-text citation and the

reference list entry. For example: (Labov 2001a) and (Labov 2001b), with corresponding entries in the reference list clearly labeled Labov 2001a and Labov 2001b.

Q: What if a linguistic work I need to cite has no author listed?

A: If a work has no author, the Chicago Manual of Style (author-date system) requires you to use the title of the work as the author in both the in-text citation and the reference list. The title should be alphabetized according to the first significant word. For example, an in-text citation might be (Phonology of Modern English, 2015), and the reference list entry would begin with Phonology of Modern English.

Q: How do I cite a translation of a linguistic work using Chicago style author-date?

A: When citing a translated work, list the original author and the original publication year in your in-text citation and reference list. In the reference list entry, include the translator's name and the publication year of the translated edition. The original publication information should be primary. For example: Saussure, Ferdinand de. 1959. *Course in General Linguistics*. Translated by Roy Harris. New York: Philosophical Library. (Original publication: Saussure 1916).

Q: Is it acceptable to abbreviate journal titles when using Chicago style author-date for linguistics?

A: Generally, no. The Chicago Manual of Style recommends using the full, unabbreviated title for journal articles in the reference list to ensure clarity and ease of retrieval. Abbreviated titles can lead to confusion, especially in an interdisciplinary field like linguistics where terminology and publication practices can vary.

Q: What is the recommended format for citing a chapter in an edited linguistic volume using Chicago author-date?

A: For a chapter in an edited volume, the reference list entry should include the chapter author's name, the chapter title in quotation marks, followed by "in," the editor(s) of the volume (preceded by "ed." or "eds."), the title of the edited volume italicized, and then the page numbers of the chapter, the publisher, and the publication year. The in-text citation would be (Chapter Author Year). For example: Halliday, M. A. K. 1978. "Language and Social Man." In *Sociolinguistics: An Introduction*, edited by W. R. Slager, 17-28. London: Penguin Books.

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