

chicago style for quoting linguistics

Understanding Chicago Style for Quoting Linguistics

chicago style for quoting linguistics is essential for researchers, students, and academics to present their work with clarity, precision, and adherence to established scholarly conventions. This comprehensive guide delves into the intricacies of applying the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) to linguistic citations, covering both the author-date and notes-bibliography systems. We will explore the fundamental principles governing how to cite primary linguistic data, theoretical texts, and secondary sources, ensuring that your research is properly attributed and easily verifiable. Mastering these citation practices not only enhances the credibility of your linguistic analyses but also contributes to the broader scholarly discourse within the field. This article will equip you with the knowledge to navigate the nuances of Chicago style for all your linguistic research needs.

- Introduction to Chicago Style in Linguistics
- Choosing Between Author-Date and Notes-Bibliography
- Citing Core Linguistic Sources
- Handling Different Types of Linguistic Data
- Formatting In-Text Citations
- Crafting Bibliographic Entries
- Common Pitfalls and Best Practices

The Author-Date System for Linguistic Citations

The author-date system, a cornerstone of Chicago style, offers a concise method for citing sources directly within the text, making it easy for readers to identify the origin of ideas and data. This system is particularly prevalent in fields that require frequent citation, as it minimizes disruption to the flow of reading. In linguistics, where discussions often build upon a vast body of prior research and empirical evidence, the author-date approach proves highly efficient.

In-Text Citations in the Author-Date System

In the author-date system, in-text citations typically consist of the author's last name and the year of publication. For example, a citation might appear as (Chomsky 1957). If the author's name is already part of the sentence's narrative, only the year needs to be enclosed in parentheses. When quoting

directly, a page number or range is crucial. This would look like (Chomsky 1957, 15) or (Labov 1994, 200-205).

Creating the Reference List for Author-Date

The author-date system requires a comprehensive list of all sources cited, arranged alphabetically by the author's last name. This list, often titled "References," provides full bibliographic details for each entry. 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, enclosed in parentheses. Subsequent elements, such as the title of the work, publication information, and publisher, follow a standardized format.

The Notes-Bibliography System for Linguistic Research

The notes-bibliography system, the other primary mode of Chicago style, uses footnotes or endnotes for in-text citations and a separate bibliography at the end of the work. This system is favored in disciplines where extensive explanatory notes or digressions are common, or where preserving the original presentation of source material is paramount. For linguistic research that might involve detailed phonetic transcriptions, lengthy discourse excerpts, or complex theoretical arguments, the notes-bibliography system can be exceptionally useful for providing context without interrupting the main text.

Footnotes and Endnotes in Linguistic Papers

When using footnotes or endnotes, a superscript numeral is placed in the text immediately after the relevant information or quote. The corresponding note, containing the citation and potentially further commentary, appears at the bottom of the page (footnote) or at the end of the chapter or book (endnote). The first time a source is cited, the note provides complete bibliographic information. Subsequent citations of the same source use a shortened form, typically including the author's last name, a shortened title (if necessary), and the page number.

Constructing the Bibliography for Notes-Bibliography

Similar to the author-date system, the bibliography in the notes-bibliography approach lists all sources cited in the work, alphabetized by the author's last name. However, the formatting of the entries differs. The author's last name is listed first, followed by their first name. The title of the work is italicized. Publication details, including the city of publication, publisher, and year, follow. Unlike the author-date system, the year of publication is not placed in parentheses.

Citing Foundational and Contemporary Linguistic Texts

Linguistics draws heavily on seminal works that have shaped the discipline, as well as a continuous

stream of new research. Chicago style provides specific guidelines for citing these diverse materials, ensuring that both historical contributions and current scholarship are accurately represented.

Referencing Seminal Linguistic Works

When citing foundational texts in linguistics, such as those by Saussure, Bloomfield, or Chomsky, adherence to the standard Chicago formatting for books is essential. For instance, a book citation would include the author's full name, the title in italics, the place of publication, the publisher, and the year. If referencing a specific edition that has been influential, such as the third edition of Chomsky's *Syntactic Structures*, that information must be clearly indicated.

Citing Journal Articles and Edited Volumes

Contemporary linguistic research is frequently published in academic journals or presented in edited volumes. Chicago style dictates a specific format for journal articles, including the author(s), article title (in quotation marks), journal title (in italics), volume and issue numbers, and the date of publication, along with the page range. For chapters in edited volumes, the author of the chapter, the chapter title (in quotation marks), the editor(s) of the volume, the volume title (in italics), and the publication details of the volume are all required.

Handling Specific Linguistic Data and Methodologies

Linguistic research often involves the analysis of primary data, which can range from spoken language samples to grammatical judgments and experimental results. Chicago style offers guidance on how to integrate and cite these unique forms of evidence.

Quoting and Referencing Spoken and Written Language Samples

When quoting directly from spoken or written language, accurate transcription and clear attribution are paramount. For spoken data, this might involve using phonetic symbols, indicating pauses, and noting intonation. The citation should clearly specify the source of the sample, whether it's from a published corpus, an interview, or fieldwork. For written samples, including novels, newspapers, or online forums, standard book or article citation rules apply, with specific page numbers or URLs provided.

Citing Grammatical Judgments and Experimental Data

Linguistic arguments are often supported by native speaker judgments about grammaticality or acceptability. When presenting such data, it is important to attribute the judgment to the speaker or group of speakers, if known, or to describe the methodology used to elicit the judgments. If the judgments are part of published research, they should be cited according to the format for the source where they appear. Similarly, experimental data from psycholinguistic or sociolinguistic

studies must be clearly referenced to the original study.

Referencing Linguistic Software and Corpora

Modern linguistic research frequently utilizes specialized software for analysis or draws upon large text or speech corpora. Chicago style requires that these resources be cited appropriately. For software, this typically involves listing the software name, developer, version number, and year of release. For corpora, the name of the corpus, its compilers or editors, and information on how it can be accessed or cited (e.g., a website or archival reference) are necessary. Full details should be provided in the bibliography or reference list.

Formatting Details for Linguistic Citations in Chicago Style

Beyond the general structure of citations, the Chicago Manual of Style provides specific rules for punctuation, capitalization, and the presentation of details that are crucial for linguistic research. Attention to these finer points ensures consistency and professionalism.

Punctuation and Capitalization Rules

Chicago style adheres to specific rules for capitalization, particularly for titles of works, which are typically sentence-case for articles and headlines, and title case for books and journals. Punctuation is also standardized; for example, commas are used to separate elements in a bibliographic entry, and periods mark the end of the entry. In-text citations in the author-date system have specific punctuation for page numbers and additional information, ensuring clarity.

Using Superscripts and Abbreviations

In the notes-bibliography system, superscript numerals are used to link the text to the corresponding footnote or endnote. Within the notes themselves, abbreviations are often used for common Latin terms like "ibid." (meaning "in the same place") and "op. cit." (meaning "in the work cited"), though their usage is subject to specific guidelines to avoid ambiguity. For linguistics, specific abbreviations for phonetic symbols or linguistic phenomena might be used, but these should always be defined clearly for the reader.

Referencing Multilingual and Dialectal Data

Linguistics often deals with data from multiple languages and dialects. When citing such material, it's important to indicate the language and, if relevant, the dialect. This might involve including the language name in the citation itself or in a parenthetical note. For instance, a citation might specify "(Spanish, Andalusian dialect)" or simply "(French)." The transliteration of non-Latin scripts also requires consistent application of a recognized standard, such as IPA or a specific romanization scheme.

Common Challenges and Best Practices in Chicago Style Linguistics

While Chicago style provides a robust framework, linguistic researchers can encounter specific challenges. Understanding these potential pitfalls and adopting best practices can significantly streamline the citation process and enhance the overall quality of academic work.

Ensuring Consistency Across Citations

One of the most critical aspects of any citation style is consistency. This means applying the chosen system (author-date or notes-bibliography) uniformly throughout the entire document. It also involves maintaining consistent formatting for recurring elements, such as author names, titles, and publication details. Reviewing the Chicago Manual of Style for specific examples related to your source types is always advisable.

Accuracy in Transcribing and Quoting Linguistic Data

The accuracy of quoted linguistic data is non-negotiable. Any transcription errors, misspellings, or incorrect formatting of phonetic symbols can undermine the credibility of your research. Double-checking all direct quotes against the original source is a crucial step. When dealing with complex linguistic notation, consider using specialized fonts or ensuring your markup is correctly rendered.

When to Consult the Official Chicago Manual of Style

Even experienced writers benefit from referring to the official Chicago Manual of Style. The manual is updated periodically to address new publishing technologies and evolving academic practices. For any complex or unusual citation scenario, consulting the latest edition of the CMOS is the most reliable way to ensure adherence to the established guidelines and to maintain scholarly rigor in your linguistic research.

FAQ

Q: What is the primary difference between the author-date and notes-bibliography systems in Chicago style for linguistics?

A: The author-date system uses brief in-text citations (e.g., Smith 2020, 15) followed by a full reference list, while the notes-bibliography system uses footnotes or endnotes for citations and a separate bibliography at the end of the work.

Q: How do I cite a linguistic journal article in Chicago style using the author-date system?

A: In the author-date system, you would cite it as (AuthorLastName Year, page number) in the text. In the reference list, the entry would include AuthorLastName, FirstName. Year. "Article Title." Journal Title Volume(Issue): page range.

Q: What is the correct way to format a direct quote of spoken language in a Chicago style paper?

A: Direct quotes of spoken language should be transcribed accurately, including relevant phonetic symbols and prosodic information. The quote should be enclosed in quotation marks and followed by an in-text citation specifying the source and page number (if applicable) or other identifier for the audio sample.

Q: Can I use abbreviations like "ibid." when citing sources in Chicago style notes for linguistics?

A: Yes, abbreviations like "ibid." (for the immediately preceding source), "op. cit." (for a previously cited work by the same author), and "loc. cit." (for the same place in a previously cited work) are permitted in Chicago style notes, but their use should be clear and consistent to avoid confusion.

Q: How should I cite a linguistic corpus in Chicago style?

A: When citing a linguistic corpus, include the name of the corpus, its creators or compilers, and information on how it can be accessed or referenced, such as a website URL or archival reference. The full details would appear in your bibliography.

Q: What if I need to cite data from a specific dialect or language not using the Latin alphabet?

A: When citing data from different languages or dialects, clearly indicate the language and dialect. For non-Latin scripts, use a recognized standard for transliteration and ensure consistency. The citation should reflect these specifics.

Q: Is there a specific way to cite linguistic software or tools in Chicago style?

A: Yes, for linguistic software, you should provide the software name, developer, version number, and year of release in your bibliography. If the software is accessed online, include the URL.

Q: How do I cite native speaker judgments in a Chicago style paper?

A: Native speaker judgments should be attributed to the speaker or group of speakers if known. If the judgments are part of published research, cite them according to the format of that publication. If presenting original elicitation data, describe the methodology and source of the judgments.

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