Preface

Functional linguistics is an approach to the study of language characterized by taking systematically into account the speaker's and the hearer's side, and the communicative needs of the speaker and of the given language community. Linguistic functionalism spawned in the 1920s to 1930s from Ferdinand de Saussure's systematic structuralist approach to language (1916).

Functionalism sees functionality of language and its elements to be the key to understanding linguistic processes and structures. Functional theories of language propose that since language is fundamentally a tool, it is reasonable to assume that its structures are best analyzed and understood with reference to the functions they carry out. These include the tasks of conveying meaning and contextual information.[i]

In the present book, fifteen typical literatures about functional linguistics published on international authoritative journals were selected to introduce the worldwide newest progress, which contains reviews or original researches on functional linguistics. We hope this book can demonstrate advances in functional linguistics as well as give references to the researchers, students and other related people.

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[i] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Functional_linguistics