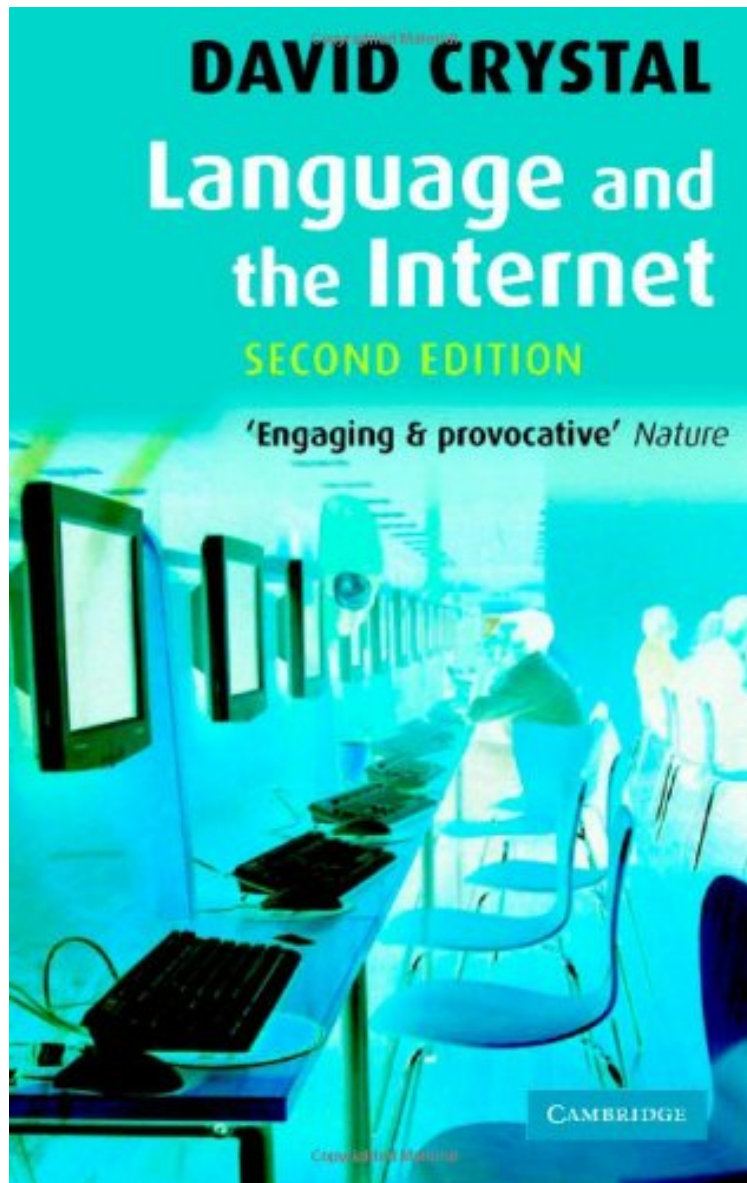


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Language and the Internet

Von David Crystal

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Von David Crystal : Language and the Internet before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Language and the Internet:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen25 von 32 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Kritische RezensionVon pschlobi@mail.rz.uni-osnabrueck.deReviewed by Peter Schlobinski (University of Hannover)I'll say it honestly and openly, right at the outset: as much as I love and treasure Crystal's The

Encyclopaedia of the English Language, I am just as much disappointed in the book *Language and the Internet*. And this for various reasons. Announced and advertised as "the first book by a language expert on the linguistic aspects of the Internet", it is sad from a German academic perspective, for none of the German-language literature on this topic is ever mentioned (1). To mention just a few: the 1995 volume *50 Neue Medien und Gegenwartssprache. Lagebericht und Problemsskizze* [New media and contemporary language. Situation report and problems] of the journal *Osnabrücker Beiträge zur Sprachtheorie*; Weingarten's 1997 *Sprachwandel durch Computer* [Language change by computers]; the monograph *Sprache und Kommunikation im Internet* [Language and communication on the Internet] by Runkehl/Schlobinski/Siever 1998; and the extensive monograph by Dring 1999, which goes over and above the work by Sherry Turkle; and even less on the works on methodology of on-line research from Batinic et al 1999, and the on-line publications *Networx*-series. It is not inappropriate to claim that more extensive and more detailed studies of language and communication in the Internet have been carried out in the German-language domain than in the Anglophone domain - how advanced the state of the research is, is reflected in the volume edited by Kallmeyer (2000) *Sprache und neue Medien* [Language and new media] and in the extensive collection by Beiwenger (Ed., 2001) and the research study by Aschwanden (2001) on chat-communication. In addition, various works for application in schools have appeared, cf. the themed volume *Internet - Sprache, Literatur und Kommunikation* [The Internet - Language, Literature and Communication] of the journal *Der Deutschunterricht* (1/2000) and *Hypertext - Hyperfiction* (*Der Deutschunterricht* 2/2001). German researchers should question whether they can really continue to publish in German, if German-language works are completely marginalised in international and reigning academic paradigms. But to get to the point. Crystal's book offers a good first entry into the topic, no less, but also no more. It is 'crystal clear' and plainly written, just what German-speaking readers treasure (especially from CUP). In terms of a didactic view, however, the Screenshots usual in comparable publications are missing, with which for example threads in news-group communication (p. 137 f.) or the construction of websites and hypertext structures (cf. chapter 7) could have been concretely illustrated. The author set himself the goal "to explore the ways in which the nature of the electronic medium as such, along with the Internet's global scale and intensity of use, is having an affect on language in general, and on individual languages in particular." (p. 5). The book is divided into eight chapters; the central point is the treatment of "the language of e-mail", "the language of chat groups", "the language of virtual worlds", and "the language of the Web". Subsuming newsgroups and mailing lists under the heading of 'chat groups', however, is not sensible in my view, since these forms of communications are better grouped with e-mail communication because of technically functional, textual, conceptual and linguistic aspects. Also, treating the language in MUDs and MOOs as languages of virtual worlds as compared to other forms of communication and language reduces the concept 'virtual world' to game worlds in the end. Virtuality, with regard to Internet-based communication, is, however, a phenomenon that conceptually is normally interpreted much more widely, apart from commercial Linguabots and the phenomenon of spoofing. Crystal sees the linguistic articulation of the "Internet-using situations" (p. 9 f.) such as e-mail, chat etc, in the model of Netspeak, formulated by him as a concept - "A type of language displaying features that are unique to the Internet, and encountered in all of the above situations, arising out of its character as a medium which is electronic, global and interactive." (p. 18). The handy term Netspeak seems to me to be non-felicitous from linguistic and communication theory perspectives, especially when it is brought into context with a concept of variety which is not defined further: "A strong personal, creative spirit imbues Netspeak, as an emerging variety." (p. 76), compare also "e-mail as a variety" (p. 94) and the chat group variety (p. 163). It is sensible to view Netspeak as first and foremost text-based, and then to differentiate: "In contrast to the Web, the situations of e-mail, chat groups and virtual worlds, though expressed through the medium of writing, display several of the core properties of speech." (p. 29). Although Crystal offers some differences between speech and writing, his theoretic founding lacks the clarity seen in Koch/streicher's (1994) modelling, which differentiated between medial and conceptual verblity/writing, a concept which has proven itself extremely fruitful, especially for the analysis of e-mail and chat communication (cf. also Gnthner/Wyss 1996 and Storrer 2001). In view of the fact that we also find just as stark variation in Internet-based communication as in the 'real' world, the concepts of text types [Textsorten] and style registers [Stilregister] and the new approaches to media genres [Mediengenres] and communicative genres [kommunikative Gattungen] (Luckmann 1986) are particularly suitable for conceptually interpreting linguistic variation in Internet-based communication. In terms of communication theory, Crystal follows the sender-receiver model (common in linguistics), which proves itself sensible as a work paradigm in a linguistic perspective. The fact that a second paradigm exists, in which intersubjectivity is conceived as intertextuality, remains, however, untreated. From a communication science view, in this paradigm the question is raised as to whether interaction in the Internet can be analysed as a communicative act between persons and a transformation of a verbal conversation. For Krmer (1997) and Wehner (1997) "prliterale, mndliche Interaktionsbeziehungen (...) [knnen] keinen Mastab mehr abgeben fr das, was in Textnetzen geschieht." [pre-literal, verbal interaction relationships [can] no longer be a standard for what occurs in text nets] (Krmer 1997:92). Interactions cannot be analysed as a continuation of a verbal dialog with other means, but rather "als Vernderung von Schreib- und Lesevorgngen (...). Dabei zeigt sich, wie die aus dem Umfeld der Erforschung natrlicher Interaktion stammenden Begriffe und Vorstellungen einem Verstdnis dieser Vernderung eher im Wege stehen denn

ntzlich sind." [as change from writing and reading events (...)] In this is shown how the concepts and ideas stemming from the sphere of natural interaction research are not useful, but rather stand in the way of an understanding of this change] (Wehner 1997: 134). Since only one text reaches the interaction partners, no communication between partners takes place, but rather an interaction with texts: "Die Nutzer computermediatisierter Netzwerke interagieren nicht mit Personen, sondern mit Texten bzw. digitalisierten Symbolkonfigurationen." [The users of computer-mediated networks interact not with people, but with texts or digitalised symbol configurations] (Krmer 1997: 97). The telematic interactivity is principally anonymous, for not people "sondern mit selbstgeschaffenen Namen gekennzeichnete, knstliche Identitten' verkehren miteinander: Chiffrenexistenzen." [but artificial identities labelled with self-created names interact with each other: anonymous beings.] (ibid.: 96). Telecommunication is, however, only one way to use the Internet, data search and exchange with data banks the other. Here it is clear how the computer and corresponding software steps between the interaction partners and the classical sender-receiver model is no longer valid, since the 'dialog' between user and machine is an interaction between information searcher and information offer. Before Crystal goes into the individual communication practices, he gives single features of Netspeak like smileys, abbreviations (g for grin), lexical means (hyperzine) and other graphic-stylistic means (@, iterations such as hey!!!!!!!!!!!!). Here is indicated what emerges in the later chapters: linguistic characteristics are demonstrated with examples, but his own corpus-based analysis is missing or is little valid under systematic aspects (compare p. 94 footnote 2). I can only exemplify this point here. Although a list of abbreviations, as found in many advice givers for chat and newsgroup communication and in so-called Internet lexicons, is given on pages 85-6, an analysis of which abbreviations appear frequently in which communicative practices is missing. Many of the abbreviations given are used seldom or not at all, in addition, the abbreviations from chat communication appear seldom in e-mail communication. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Fr Facharbeit bestellt Von Chinsui Hab das Buch fr meine Facharbeit zum Thema 'Jargon der Computerspieler' bestellt und muss sagen.. es hat mir sehr geholfen! Unter anderem auch weil es zu meinem Thema leider wenig Literatur gibt. Es ist auch an sich lesenswert, wenn man sich fr den gesamten Netzjargon interessiert. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Gut Von N.B. Joa kann man mal lesen und ist recht informativ aber bei Bchern ist das ja immer eine sehr subjektive Meinung. Aber hat mich jetzt nicht um die Socken gehauen. Versandt zügig. Super

Kurzbeschreibung In recent years, the Internet has come to dominate our lives. E-mail, instant messaging and chat are rapidly replacing conventional forms of correspondence, and the Web has become the first port of call for both information enquiry and leisure activity. How is this affecting language? There is a widespread view that as 'technospeak' comes to rule, standards will be lost. In this book, David Crystal argues the reverse: that the Internet has encouraged a dramatic expansion in the variety and creativity of language. Covering a range of Internet genres, including e-mail, chat, and the Web, this is a revealing account of how the Internet is radically changing the way we use language. This second edition has been thoroughly updated to account for more recent phenomena, with a brand new chapter on blogging and instant messaging. Engaging and accessible, it will continue to fascinate anyone who has ever used the Internet. Pressestimmen "This book provides an important look at how the Internet has affected our use of language. To my knowledge, there are no other comparable books available on this subject. Issues of language are certainly treated in many other books about the Internet, but this one features linguistics as its main topic. The book will be an important contribution." Patricia Wallace, Ph.D., Director, Information Services and Instructional Technologies Center for Talented Youth, The John Hopkins University Author, *The Psychology and the Internet* ber das Produkt In recent years, the Internet has come to dominate our lives. Covering a range of genres, including e-mail, chat, and the Web, David Crystal reveals how the Internet is radically changing how we use language. Engaging and accessible, this book will continue to fascinate anyone who has used the Internet.