

Evolutionary phonology : the emergence of sound patterns

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Deskripsi Lengkap: <https://lib.ui.ac.id/detail?id=20372408&lokasi=lokal>

Abstrak

Evolutionary Phonology is a new theory of sound patterns which synthesizes results in historical linguistics, phonetics, and phonological theory. In this groundbreaking book, Juliette Blevins explores the nature of sound patterns and sound change in human language over the past 7,000–8,000 years, the time depth for which the comparative method is reasonably reliable. This book presents a new approach to the problem of how genetically unrelated languages, as far apart as Native American, Australian Aboriginal, Austronesian, and Indo-European, can often show similar sound patterns, and also tackles the converse problem of why there are notable exceptions to most of the patterns that are often regarded as universal. It argues that in both cases, a formal model of sound change incorporating misperception and variable articulation can account for attested sound systems without reference to markedness or naturalness within the synchronic grammar.

Wide-ranging, clearly structured, and original.