

Drop a word in the ocean of meaning and concentric ripples form. To define a single word means to try to catch those ripples. No one's hands are fast enough. With this concise and broadly informative essay, renowned poet, typographer and linguist Robert Bringhurst presents a brief history of writing and a new way of classifying and understanding the relationship between script and meaning. Beginning with the original relationship between a language and its written script, Bringhurst takes us on a history of reading and writing that begins with the interpretation of animal tracks and fast-forwards up to the typographical abundance of more recent times. The first four sections of the essay describe the earliest creation of scripts, their movement across the globe and the typographic developments within and across languages. In the fifth and final section of the essay, Bringhurst introduces his system of classifying scripts. Placing four established categories of written language – "semographic, syllabic, alphabetic and prosodic" – on a wheel adjacent to one another, he uses the location, size and shape of points on the wheel to show the degree to which individual world languages incorporate these aspects of recorded meaning. Bringhurst's system is based on an appreciation that indeed no one's hands are fast enough and that no single script adheres to or can be understood within the confines of a single method of transcription. Readers will find this combination of anthropology, typography, literature, mathematics, music and linguistics surprisingly accessible and thought provoking. The text is accompanied by diagrams and typographic examples that make for an experiential study of the relationship between writing and meaning. This book is a Smyth-sewn paperback with a letterpress printed jacket. The book was designed by Robert Bringhurst and Andrew Steeves, and printed on Zephyr Laid paper. The cover was hand-printed letterpress on St. Armand handmade paper.

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The Solid Form of Language has 67 ratings and 6 reviews. Dennis said: This essay by Bringhurst originally appeared in John Berry's collection Language, C. 2 quotes from The Solid Form of Language: An Essay on Writing and Meaning: ' Literature in the written sense represents the triumph of language over writi.

A script can catch some but never all of a language in its net, but as most writers will attest, the journey from speech and gesture to the solid form of language.

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form of language: An essay on writing and meaning. Kentville, N.S: Gaspereau Press. Crystal, D. () Language death. Cambridge: Cambridge. little to say about forms of language that are based on gestures rather than speech, meaning. Form in spoken languages is a sequence of sounds, in written Simple objects were made of a solid substance such as clay and were formed.

Words give the world and life and everything in it meaning. Written communication is just one form of communication, albeit an important one. of expert in using one's language, but it comes after overtime practicing the skill of writing, too. Good writers with a solid education â€œ because they truly are pedantic souls and.

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