



Talk is Cheap: Sarcasm, Alienation and the Evolution of Language

By John Haiman

Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2001. Paperback. Book Condition: New. New.. 226 x 152 mm. Language: English Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Putting aside questions of truth and falsehood, the old talk is cheap maxim carries as much weight as ever. Indeed, perhaps more. For one need not be an expert in irony or sarcasm to realize that people don't necessarily mean what they say. Phrases such as Yeah, right and I could care less are so much a part of the way we speak - and the way we live - that we are more likely to notice when they are absent (for example, Forrest Gump). From our everyday dialogues and conversations (Thanks a lot!) to the screenplays of our popular films (Pulp Fiction), what is said is frequently very different from what is meant. Talk is Cheap begins with this telling observation and proceeds to argue that such unexplained speaking is fundamentally embedded in the way we now talk. Author John Haiman traces this sea-change in our use of language to the emergence of a postmodern divided self who is hyper-conscious that what he or she is saying has been said before;...



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