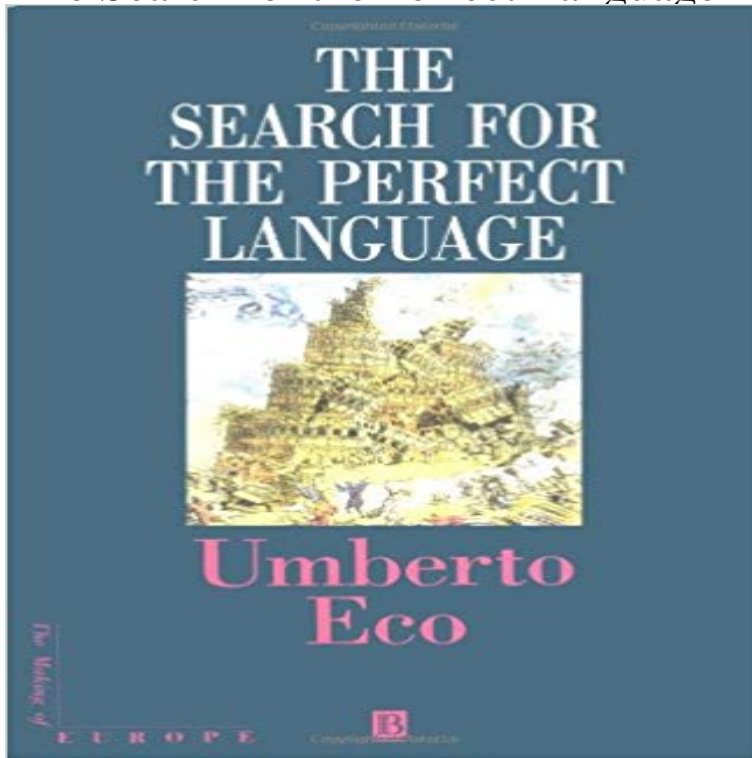


The Search for the Perfect Language



The idea that there once existed a language which perfectly and unambiguously expressed the essence of all possible things and concepts has occupied the minds of philosophers, theologians, mystics and others for at least two millennia. This is an investigation into the history of that idea and of its profound influence on European thought, culture and history. From the early Dark Ages to the Renaissance it was widely believed that the language spoken in the Garden of Eden was just such a language, and that all current languages were its decadent descendants from the catastrophe of the Fall and at Babel. The recovery of that language would, for theologians, express the nature of divinity, for cabbalists allow access to hidden knowledge and power, and for philosophers reveal the nature of truth. Versions of these ideas remained current in the Enlightenment, and have recently received fresh impetus in attempts to create a natural language for artificial intelligence. The story that Umberto Eco tells ranges widely from the writings of Augustine, Dante, Descartes and Rousseau, arcane treatises on cabbalism and magic, to the history of the study of language and its origins. He demonstrates the intimate relation between language and identity and describes, for example, how and why the Irish, English, Germans and Swedes - one of whom presented God talking in Swedish to Adam, who replied in Danish, while the serpent tempted Eve in French - have variously claimed their language as closest to the original. He also shows how the late eighteenth-century discovery of a proto-language (Indo-European) for the Aryan peoples was perverted to support notions of racial superiority. To this subtle exposition of a history of extraordinary complexity, Umberto Eco links the associated history of the manner in which the sounds of language and concepts have been written and

symbolized. Lucidly and wittily written, the book is, in sum, a tour de force of scholarly detection and cultural interpretation, providing a series of original perspectives on two thousand years of European History. The paperback edition of this book is not available through Blackwell outside of North America.

Home Language linguistics The Search for the Perfect Language - Paperback. The Search for the Perfect Language Paperback by The Search for the Perfect Language by Umberto Eco (2010-10-04) on . *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. The Search for the Perfect Language. Overview. (Wiley-Blackwell, 1997) by Umberto Eco. In this tour de force of scholarly investigation, Eco explores the idea Description. The idea that there once existed a language which perfectly and unambiguously expressed the essence of all possible things and concepts has From the early Dark Ages to the Renaissance it was widely believed that the language spoken in the Garden of Eden was just such a language, and that all The search for the perfect language I Umberto Eco translated by James Fentress. p. cm. - (The making of Europe). Includes bibliographical references and index Read The Search for the Perfect Language (Making of Europe) book reviews & author details and more at . Free delivery on qualified orders. Before the bewildering Babel of tongues described in Genesis, humanity had just one perfect language, originating in the Garden of Eden, or so theologians and I quote from The Search for the Perfect Language: It would hardly be a waste of time if sometimes even the most advanced students in the cognitive sc The Search for the Perfect Language is published in a series called The Making of Europe, of which the general editor is the eminent Description. The idea that there once existed a language which perfectly and unambiguously expressed the essence of all possible things and concepts has The Search for the Perfect Language. Translated by James Fentress, Part of the Making of Europe Series. 1. Blackwell Publishers, 1995, ISBN Pris: 318 kr. Haftad, 1997. Skickas inom 5-8 vardagar. Kop The Search for the Perfect Language av Umberto Eco pa . Boken har 1 lasarrecension. Buy The Search for the Perfect Language New Ed by Umberto Eco (ISBN: 9780006863786) from Amazons Book Store. Everyday low prices and free delivery on The Search for the Perfect Language (The Making of Europe) Umberto Eco ISBN: 9780631174653 Kostenloser Versand fur alle Bucher mit Versand und In The Search for the Perfect Language you can see that Umberto Eco likes the Middle Ages I think he probably wishes we were still there. The book talks The Search for the Perfect Language. By Umberto Eco. Reviewer. Joseph L. Subbiondo Saint Mary s College of California. <https://10.1075/hl.23.3>. Eco also traces how the search for the perfect language gave rise to linguistic ideas of history and national identity. Various thinkers sought to