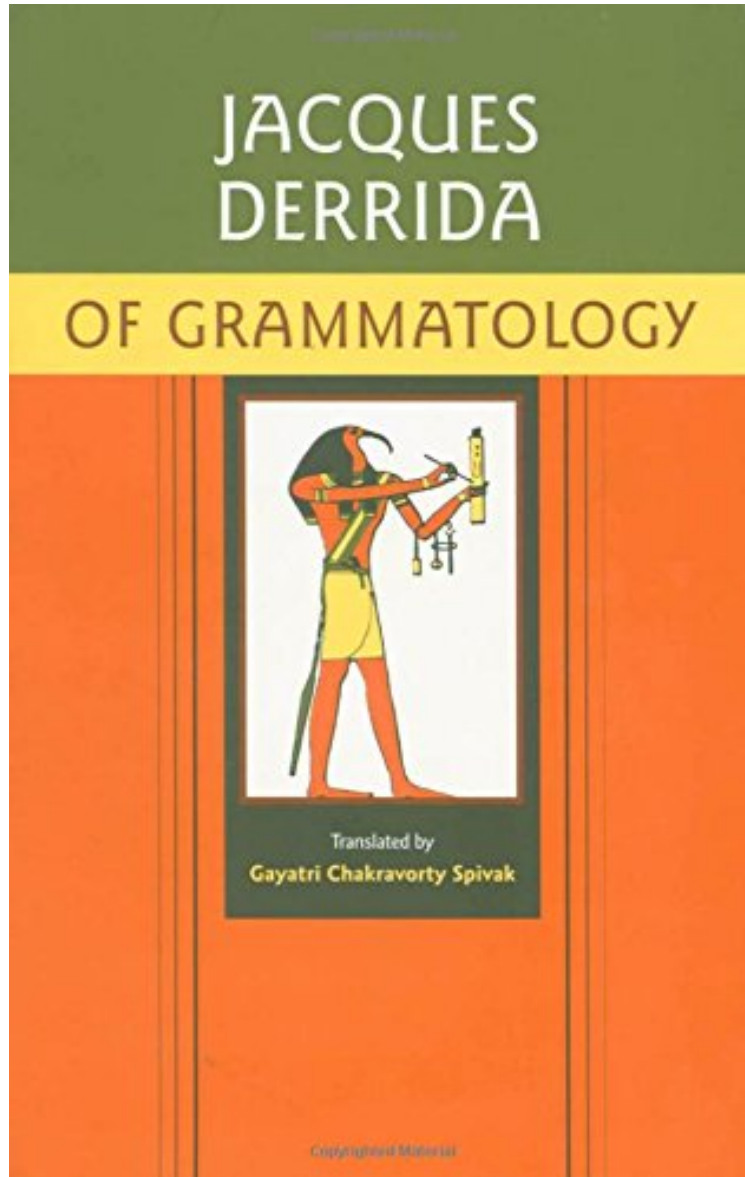


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Of Grammatology

Jacques Derrida

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Jacques Derrida : Of Grammatology before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Of Grammatology:

6 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Genius. Unique. Beautiful.By Susan K. NoelThis is one of the great books of western philosophy of the twentieth century. Deconstruction used to get a bad rap for being "elitist" and impossible to understand or read. Then, a bit later, it was bad because it was apolitical. Neither was ever true.Derrida's

writing, in this crucial translation, is always playful, imaginative, fearless, and also very basic. He is always more interested in asking questions than in answering them. If more people would think that way, and just stay with that for awhile before moving on to hold any theoretical, political, or religious position (if ever), we as a contentious pressure cooker of cultures might be doing a lot better. Read it for pleasure. 2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Derrida Disciple By Customer To say this book was enjoyable is an understatement. Indeed, it has been often said that Derrida's style is beyond comprehension, but I must say that, the faster one wishes to attain a concise meaning of what Derrida wishes to say, the faster you'll want to burn the book. The obscurity is intermittent; lucid moments become the coherence that everyone wished was alive in the first chapter. Derrida's avoidance of the "formula" of writing is what, for the most part, kept me interested. As for "unintelligibility," I must confess that, contrary to the normal Derridean defenses, just *read* it. Do NOT try to understand it immediately; that is to say, his goal is vague, indeed, but by simply reading it, you are planting a seed in your mind that'll grow by the time you finish it. 9 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Two Cheers for Johns Hopkins Press! By Jeff Bricker Four decades ago The John Hopkins University Press published a translation of Jacques Derrida's *DE LA GRAMMATOLOGIE* by a young scholar named Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak. Not content with merely translating Derrida's three hundred page tome (which took five years), Spivak also added her own Preface of almost ninety pages! As the decades passed, *OF GRAMMATOLOGY* came to be seen as THE definitive text of deconstruction (at least among literary types) and this translation became, undoubtedly, quite a cash cow for its publisher. To honor this, John Hopkins Press has issued this handsome revised edition that includes not only a new Afterword by Spivak, but also a new Introduction by Judith Butler. Forty years ago Spivak's translation and her impressive Preface were greeted with much praise. However, once serious scholars got around to reading the text side by side with the French original, it became clear that Spivak was not as fastidious a translator as one might hope. The Heidegger scholar Thomas Sheehan observed that there were "dozens of mistranslations (sometimes three to a page, some of them howlers) plus misspellings, omissions, and manglings of the Greek" in the first forty pages alone. To remedy this situation, Johns Hopkins Press eventually issued a second edition about a decade ago. That "Corrected Edition" had a cool new cover and even an index, but not so much a page of explanation to tell us who corrected what or where. This handsome "Fortieth Anniversary Edition" also has a new, less cool, cover and boasts that it is a Newly Revised Translation without, alas, telling the reader anything about the revisions. All that aside, *OF GRAMMATOLOGY* is a great book, written when Derrida was at the height of his powers. Is it his best book? Not in my opinion. I think *WRITING AND DIFFERENCE* is livelier, funnier, and more accessible. *MARGINS OF PHILOSOPHY* has more philosophical heft. Still, for those of you who can only stomach about three hundred pages of Derrida's prose per lifetime, this is the book for you.

Jacques Derrida's revolutionary theories about deconstruction, phenomenology, psychoanalysis, and structuralism, first voiced in the 1960s, forever changed the face of European and American criticism. The ideas in *De la grammatologie* sparked lively debates in intellectual circles that included students of literature, philosophy, and the humanities, inspiring these students to ask questions of their disciplines that had previously been considered improper. Thirty years later, the immense influence of Derrida's work is still igniting controversy, thanks in part to Gayatri Spivak's translation, which captures the richness and complexity of the original. This corrected edition adds a new index of the critics and philosophers cited in the text and makes one of contemporary criticism's most indispensable works even more accessible and usable.

The translation is a noble job, and we should be grateful to have this distinguished book in our hands... [Spivak's] situating of Derrida among his precursors Nietzsche, Freud, Heidegger, Husserl and contemporaries Lacan, Foucault, and the elusive animal known as structuralism is very lucid and extremely useful. (Michael Wood New York of Books) The tool-kit for anyone who wants to empty the 'presence' out of any text he has taken a dislike to. A handy arsenal of deconstructive tools are to be found in its pages, and the technique, once learnt, is as simple, and as destructive, as leaving a bomb in a brown paper bag outside (or inside) a pub. (Roger Poole Notes and Queries) There is cause for rejoicing in the translation of *De la grammatologie*... Just as Derrida discloses in Rousseau a writer who distrusts writing and longs for the proximity of the self to its voice, so Spivak approaches Derrida through the structure of his diction; no ideas but in the words themselves. (Denis Donoghue New Republic) Reading Derrida was the shock of a decentering, the critical shift into a world of the interminable movement of difference, the crisis of any closure. *Of Grammatology* was and remains the most tightly worked... and exemplary... demonstration of the science of this shift and crisis. (Canto) One of the major works in the development of contemporary criticism and philosophy. (J. Hillis Miller, Yale University) Language Notes Text: English (translation) Original Language: French About the Author Jacques Derrida (1930-2004) taught at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris. Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak is Avalon Foundation Professor in the Humanities at Columbia University.