The aim of the book *Lithuanian: A Comprehensive Grammar* is to describe the grammatical structure and use of modern Lithuanian in English for those who study Lithuanian as a foreign language. Four linguists contributed to this book: Meilutė Ramoniene, Joana Pribušauskaitė, Jogilė Teresa Ramonaitė, and Loreta Vilkiene. All of them are well-known in Lithuania as researchers in the fields of sociolinguistics, language teaching, Lithuanian as a foreign language, language policy and ideology. Meilutė Ramoniene and Joana Pribušauskaitė have already published the guide *Practical Grammar of Lithuanian* (first published in 2008). Given that this book uses a functional approach and is exceptionally friendly to the reader, especially to those learning Lithuanian as a foreign language, there are high expectations for *Lithuanian: A Comprehensive Grammar* (2020).

In the preface of *Lithuanian: A Comprehensive Grammar*, the authors describe the book as a guide to modern standard written Lithuanian; however, some comments about the usage of some grammatical forms in spoken language, dialects or colloquial speech use are inserted. In this book, the authors have essentially followed the Lithuanian grammar tradition, classification and theoretical approaches. Thus, the book’s structure is broadly consistent with the main

The book is organized in 23 main chapters, dealing with different grammatical aspects of the Lithuanian language. Chapter 1 discusses phonetics. Chapters 2 to 12 are dedicated to morphological features of the Lithuanian language. The authors analyze parts of speech, onomatopoeic words, grammatical categories, as well as semantic features where relevant.

Chapters 13 to 20 concentrate on syntax – different types of sentences, direct and indirect speech, word order and interpolation. Chapter 21 is dedicated to the system of accent, Chapter 22 covers orthography and Chapter 23 discusses punctuation. At the end of the book, there is a glossary of linguistic terms, various tables, a bibliography and an index. The structure of the chapters is the same throughout the volume: at the beginning the authors present the topic, define the main term of the topic, named in the title of the chapter, and then describe the features of linguistic constructs.

Chapter 1 explains the Lithuanian alphabet and gives word examples for each letter. Particular attention is paid to long and short vowels and their relationship to accent, as well as to diphthongs. When describing consonants, particular attention is paid to the processes of palatalization and assimilation.

Chapter 2 concentrates on the semantics and grammar of the nouns. The grammatical categories of the nouns – gender, number, and case – are described in detail. Everywhere, Lithuanian examples and their translation in English are given. The separate section is dedicated to declension types. This chapter also discusses the functions of cases and formation of nouns. The formation of nouns is related to semantics: the relationship between semantic groups and corresponding affixes is explained here. Grammatical links with semantics are not avoided in other places, for example, when describing a grammatical category of number, the semantic groups of countable and uncountable nouns are indicated.

Chapter 3 is dedicated to adjectives. The definitions and examples of the qualitative and relational adjectives are given, and it is explained that these two types of adjectives differ in their grammatical features. Special attention is paid to the grammatical category of gender, as well as comparison, and declension of indefinite and definite adjectives. The chapter ends with a description of the place of the adjective in the phrase and in the sentence.
Chapter 4 describes pronouns. After the explanation of terms, the types of pronouns are distinguished according to the meaning and their use in the sentence. These types present different features, so they are described in separate sections. The meanings and the use in the sentence are illustrated by a solid number of examples.

Chapter 5 is dedicated to numerals, their meaning and grammatical features. Cardinal and ordinal numerals are presented in detail and collective numerals and fractions are discussed as well.

Chapter 6 highlights the grammatical features of verbs. At the beginning of the chapter the authors explain the finite and non-finite verb forms, and break down the principal forms of the verbs, as well as the forms that are derived from the principal forms. The grammar categories of person, mood, tense and aspect are detailed and illustrated by a variety of Lithuanian examples and their translations. Special attention is given to the participles that have an especially complex system in Lithuanian. Impersonal verbs, transitive and intransitive verbs, and reflexive verbs are presented in the chapter. The chapter finishes with the formation of verbs.

Chapter 7 covers the structure and the composition of adverbs. Degrees of comparison and semantic groups of adverbs are deconstructed as well. Chapter 8 concentrates on prepositions. After presenting the structure of primary, derived, compound and complex prepositions, their use with genitive, accusative or instrumental cases is described.

Chapter 9 covers conjunctions and their functions. This chapter concentrates on the semantics and details the meaning of conjunctions through a multitude of examples. Punctuation is explained where relevant. Chapter 10 describes the variety of particles and explains their usage in spoken and written language. The usage of particles is illustrated by a solid number of examples from unofficial and colloquial speech. Chapters 11 and 12 are dedicated to interjections and onomatopoeic words, describing their meaning, structure and the role in the sentence.

Chapter 13 introduces a new topic: syntax. The main terms of syntax are explained here, e.g. simple sentences, composite sentences, the center of the sentence, predicate, subject, complements, modifiers. Specific attention is given to the models of simple sentences. Composite sentences are discussed in Chapter 14. After describing the main terminology, the types of composite sentences are presented. Chapter 15 concentrates on questions. General questions, special questions and rhetorical questions are described in separate sections. Chapters 16 and 17 are dedicated to negation and comparison and describe these types of constructions in detail.
Chapter 18 outlines the main tendencies of word order. Although the word order in Lithuanian is free, some constructions or collocations are grammatically defined, so these cases receive special attention in this chapter. Chapter 19 explains the terms of direct and indirect speech. It concentrates on transcribing direct speech, as well as citation and changing direct speech into indirect speech. Chapter 20 covers interpolation and its types, describing the meanings of interpolation and finally, punctuation.

Chapter 21 breaks down the accentuation system in Lithuanian. In spite of the fact that Lithuanian has a very complex system of accent, the main tendencies are presented briefly and clearly in the text and in the tables. Chapter 22 presents phonetic, morphological and historical principles of Lithuanian orthography and some requirements for writing, (i.e. writing words together or separately, capitalization, writing numbers and date). Chapter 23 concentrates on punctuation and criteria for punctuation. After presenting punctuation marks, grammatical criteria and the grammatical rules of punctuation are explained.

Summarizing the composition of the book, it should be stated that the structure of Lithuanian: A Comprehensive Grammar is very clear, with each chapter having a well-defined purpose. The book covers almost all fields of language study, from phonetics, accentology, orthography to morphology and syntax. Although the book does not specifically discuss pragmatics and semantics, the relationship between meanings and grammar is described where relevant. The book contains all grammatical forms and categories of Lithuanian. There is a glossary of linguistic terms that helps to understand some definitions for those who are not linguists. The index at the end of the book is very helpful to find a specific construct. When relevant, the book mentions whether a pattern is common/uncommon and explains the usage of some grammatical forms in spoken language, dialects or colloquial speech. Its strength lies in the variety and abundance of Lithuanian examples (translated to English) that illustrates the grammatical rules and gives an overview of natural usage. Overall, this book is very useful for students of linguistics, advanced students of Lithuanian as a foreign language, professional linguists who are interested in the Lithuanian language, and teachers of Lithuanian as a foreign language. However, this book is too complicated for intermediate learners or for beginners who would like to begin studying Lithuanian. The abundance of grammatical terms, the precise description of grammatical rules and the plethora of grammatical exceptions could risk deterring the beginner student from studying Lithuanian in-depth, giving them the impression that it is an exceptionally difficult language to learn. Great emphasis, given to very rare grammatical forms of standard Lithuanian (e.g. adverbs with -tinai, some forms of participles, some derivative forms) may
overwhelm the reader who doesn’t have much experience in Lithuanian, although such constructions are interesting for linguists or proficient users of the Lithuanian language.

In summary, the book *Lithuanian: A Comprehensive Grammar* gives a very detailed and nuanced view of the Lithuanian language. It is very useful as a first book describing the grammatical structure and use of modern Lithuanian in English in such detail. Despite the fact that it follows traditional theoretical approaches, the rich corpus of authentic spoken and written examples makes this book unique and distinguishes it as relevant not only for linguists, but also for teachers and advanced learners of Lithuanian as foreign language.

**References**


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