

Handout I.3

Key terms from Unit I: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Types of writing systems (Handout I.5)

alphabet/alphabetic
consonantary=abjad
syllabary/syllabic
abugida
logography/logographic
logo-syllabary
mixed-script

Origin and spread of writing systems

monogenesis
polygenesis
direct derivation/adaptation
stimulus diffusion

Types of representation

glottography/glottographic
semasiography/semasiographic
pictography/pictographic
phonetization
abstraction

Early independently-invented writing systems

Mesopotamian cuneiform
Egyptian hieroglyphic
Meso-american scripts (esp. Mayan script)
Chinese characters (oracle bone inscriptions)

Units of (spoken) language

phoneme
syllable
morpheme
word

Units of writing (Handout I.5)

graph/grapheme
allograph
script
writing system
letter
syllabogram=syllabograph
morphogram=morphograph
logogram=logograph
phonogram=phonograph