

A Systemic Functional Linguistics Analysis of Mathematical Symbolism and Language in  
Beginning Algebra Textbooks  
Elaine Lande

*Abstract:* I propose the use of systemic functional linguistics (SFL) as a tool to better understand how mathematical ideas are conveyed through multiple semiotic resources. To demonstrate the tools that SFL offers, mathematical symbols and written language in college beginning algebra textbooks will be examined. I argue that using SFL to research how mathematical content is communicated to undergraduate students can expose important nuances that may otherwise go unnoticed.

*Key Words:* Beginning Algebra, Language and Mathematics, Mathematical Symbolism, Systemic Functional Linguistics, Textbooks