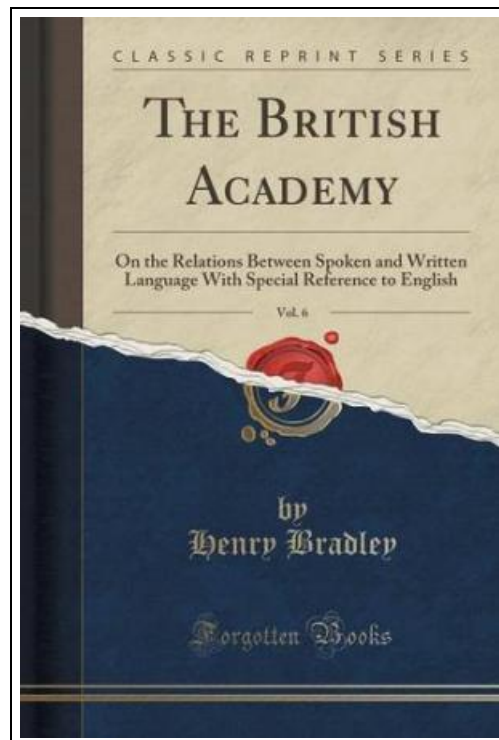


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from The British Academy, Vol. 6: On the Relations Between Spoken and Written Language With Special Reference to English We shall have to say that a piece of writing is useful in the precise degree in which it is phonetically spelt, and no further. Perhaps no one will venture to say that this statement is in accord with the facts; but unless the current pseudo-axiom means this, I am at a loss to imagine what it can mean. The truth is that between written music and written language there is one all-important difference. In written music the representation of sounds is the absolutely ultimate end. In written language it is only a means. We use visible symbols for the sounds of speech because spoken sounds are symbols of meaning. The ultimate end, and for most purposes, though not for all, the only important end of written language is to convey meaning. Now the degree in which a piece of writing or print is capable of conveying its meaning does not at all necessarily depend on the accuracy with which it suggests the sounds that would have been heard if the composition had been spoken instead of being written. Let us consider an extreme case. It is well known that, in the days before the modern improvements in the teaching of the deaf and dumb, many deaf-mutes were successfully taught to read printed books with understanding, and to express their thoughts intelligibly in writing. For these persons a word was simply a group of visible marks, the direct symbol of an idea. For them, of course, the letters of the alphabet could not possibly be associated with...

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