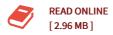# Pluralism in Software Engineering: Turing Award Winner Peter Naur Explains

By Edgar G. Daylight

Lonely Scholar. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 134 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 6.0in. x 0.4in.What mathematical rigor has and has not to offer to software engineers. Peter Naur wrote his first research paper at the age of 16. Soon an internationally acclaimed astronomer, Naurs expertise in numerical analysis gave him access to computers from 1950. He helped design and implement the influential ALGOL programming language. During the 1960s, Naur was in sync with the research agendas of McCarthy, Dijkstra, and others. By 1970, however, he had distanced himself from them. Instead of joining Dijkstras structured programming movement, he made abundantly clear why he disapproved of it. Underlying Naurs criticism is his plea for pluralism: a computer professional should not dogmatically advocate a method and require others to use it in their own work. Instead, he should respect the multitude of personal styles in solving problems. What philosophy has to do with software engineering. Though Peter Naur definitely does not want to be called a philosopher, he acknowledges having been influenced by Popper, Quine, Russell, and others. Naurs writings of the 1970s and 1980s show how he borrowed concepts from philosophy to further his understanding of software engineering. In later years,...

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