

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-10747-1 - Language Adaptation
Edited by Florian Coulmas
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Language Adaptation

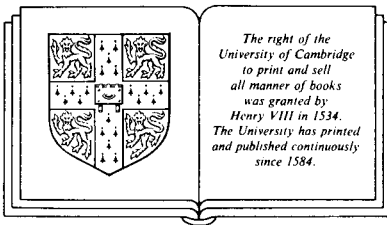
Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-10747-1 - Language Adaptation
Edited by Florian Coulmas
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Language Adaptation

Edited by

FLORIAN COULMAS

Professor of Linguistics, Chuo University, Tokyo



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge

New York Port Chester

Melbourne Sydney

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-10747-1 - Language Adaptation
Edited by Florian Coulmas
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521107471

© Cambridge University Press 1989

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1989
This digitally printed version 2009

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Language adaptation / edited by Florian Coulmas.

p. cm.

Includes index.

ISBN 0-521-36255-5

1. Linguistic change. 2. Language planning. 3. Terms and phrases. 4. Language and languages – Foreign words and phrases.

I. Coulmas, Florian.

P40.5.L54L36 1989

409 – dc19 89-508 CIP

ISBN 978-0-521-36255-9 hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-10747-1 paperback

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-10747-1 - Language Adaptation
Edited by Florian Coulmas
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

To the memory of
Muhammad H. Ibrahim, one of us

Contents

	<i>List of contributors</i>	<i>page</i> ix
	<i>Preface</i>	xi
1	Language adaptation FLORIAN COULMAS	1
2	Terminology development in the revival of a language: the case of contemporary Hebrew CHAIM RABIN	26
3	Communicating in Arabic: problems and prospects MUHAMMAD H. IBRAHIM	39
4	An assessment of the development and modernization of the Kiswahili language in Tanzania DAVID P. B. MASSAMBA	60
5	Aspects of modernization in Indian languages C. J. DASWANI	79
6	Adaptation processes in Chinese: word formation FRITZ PASIERBSKY	90
7	The development of Japanese society and the modernization of Japanese during the Meiji Restoration MAKOTO TAKADA	104
8	Lexical aspects of the modernization of Japanese SEIJU SUGITO	116
9	The transition from Latin to German in the natural sciences and its consequences UWE PÖRKSEN	127
		vii

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-10747-1 - Language Adaptation
Edited by Florian Coulmas
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
10	Greek and Latin as a permanent source of scientific terminology: the German case KONRAD EHLICH	135
11	Internationalisms: identical vocabularies in European languages PETER BRAUN	158
12	International terminology WOLFGANG NEDOBITY	168
13	Democracy and the crisis of normative linguistics FLORIAN COULMAS	177
	<i>Name index</i>	195
	<i>Subject index</i>	197

Contributors

Peter Braun
Gesamthochschule Essen

Florian Coulmas
Chuo University, Tokyo

C. J. Daswani
National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi

Konrad Ehlich
Universität Dortmund

Muhammad H. Ibrahim[†]
University of Jordan

David P. B. Massamba
University of Dar es Salaam

Wolfgang Nedobity
Infoterm, Vienna

Fritz Pasierbsky
Gesamthochschule Paderborn

Uwe Pörksen
Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Freiburg

Chaim Rabin
Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Seiju Sugito
National Language Research Institute, Tokyo

Makoto Takada
University of Tsukuba

Preface

This book explores the process of making languages suitable for the communicative purposes of their speech communities. The central notion which is used here to describe and analyze this process is that of ‘language adaptation.’ ‘Language development,’ ‘language cultivation,’ ‘language modernization,’ and ‘language planning’ are related notions which are more familiar, but they do not mean quite the same. Unlike the other notions, ‘language adaptation’ refers both to deliberate and to unguided processes of linguistic change. Language is seen, in other words, as a system which tends to evolve in such a way that it serves the needs of those using it, but whose development can also be influenced by conscious intervention if need be.

The authors of this volume agree that conscious intervention is to be reckoned with as a factor of language change. However, the processes they describe are not necessarily the same. This is so for two reasons: (1) structural differences between individual languages account for different adaptation strategies and patterns; and (2) conditions of socio-historical development and language use account for different kinds of adaptation needs. The purpose of this book is to compare how different speech communities adapt their languages to their communicative needs, and how different languages lend themselves to adaptation processes. Thus most of the chapters offer detailed analyses of individual languages – Arabic, Hebrew, Chinese, Japanese, German, Kiswahili, Kannada, Telugu, and several other Indian languages. The other chapters discuss problems of a more general significance – the role of a classical language for language adaptation, the emergence of a lexical stratum of internationalisms which become increasingly important in adaptation processes, general principles of terminology formation, and attitudinal problems of deliberate language cultivation.

The idea for this book grew out of a conference held in Bad Homburg in the summer of 1985 which was generously sponsored by the Werner Reimers Foundation. Additional support was provided by the German Academic Exchange Service (D.A.A.D) and by the German Foundation for International Development. Most of the authors took part in this conference, which was conceived and organized by Professor Konrad Ehlich of the

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-10747-1 - Language Adaptation
Edited by Florian Coulmas
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

xii *Preface*

University of Dortmund and the present writer. However, without the readiness of the contributing authors to take notice of and discuss each other's views this book would not exist. It is offered to the critical reader in the hope that the notion of language adaptation will prove useful and stimulate further discussion.

F. C.