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English in the Southern United States

The English of the southern United States is possibly the most studied regional variety of any language because of its rich internal diversity, its distinctiveness among regional varieties in the United States, its significance as a marker of regional identity, and the general folkloric appeal of southern culture. However, most if not all books about Southern American English have been directed almost exclusively toward scholars already working in the field. This volume, written by a team of experts many of whom are internationally known, provides a broad overview of the foundations of, and current research on, language variation in the southern United States designed to invite new inquiry and inquirers. It explores historical and cultural elements, iconic contemporary features, and current changes in progress. Central themes, issues, and topics of scholarly investigation and debate figure prominently throughout the volume. The extensive bibliography at the end of the book will facilitate continued research.

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and

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This book is dedicated to
Michael Montgomery,
a linguist's linguist and a true southern gentleman,
whose work continues to shape the course of the
study of Southern English

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effect: the impact of interviewers of survey results in linguistics" (1999, with Guy Bailey, *American Speech*).

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