Sociolinguistic Variation

Why does human language vary from one person, or one group, to another? In what ways does it vary? How do linguists go about studying variation in, say, the sound system or the sentence structure of a particular language? Why is the study of language variation important outside the academic world, in say education, the law, employment, or housing? This book provides an overview of these questions, bringing together a team of experts to survey key areas within the study of language variation and language change. Covering both the range of methods used to research variation in language, and the applications of such research to a variety of social contexts, it is essential reading for advanced students and researchers in sociolinguistics, communication, linguistic anthropology, and applied linguistics.

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To Walt Wolfram

“And gladly wolde he lerne and gladly teche”
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Acknowledgments

The editors gratefully acknowledge the usual assistance of their institutions in providing appropriate homes for academic activity, even the editing of others’ work. We thank especially Michael Montgomery, who approached us with the idea for a volume dedicated to Walt Wolfram, and Andrew Winnard of Cambridge University Press for his contributions to shaping a volume that would not only serve as a tribute to our friend and colleague, but that would be useful to the field as a whole. Jodie Barnes and Sarah Parker of Cambridge University Press assisted greatly with production and we thank them for their contributions. We also thank Adrian and Helen Stenton for expert copy editing. Thanks also to Marge Wolfram and Tyler Kendall for answering numerous queries.

The contributors to this volume constitute a distinguished roster of sociolinguists from several generations. We thank them all for their timely contributions and for the willingness and good-humor with which they responded to our requests. Finally, we thank Ann Robinson and Stephen Brown, who continue to support all our endeavors.

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