The language we use forms an important part of our sense of who we are – of our identity. This book outlines the relationship between our identity as members of groups – ethnic, national, religious and gender – and the language varieties important to each group. What is a language? What is a dialect? Are there such things as language ‘rights’? Must every national group have its own unique language? How have languages, large and small, been used to spread religious ideas? Why have particular religious and linguistic ‘markers’ been so central, singly or in combination, to the ways in which we think about ourselves and others? Using a rich variety of examples, the book highlights the linkages among languages, dialects and identities, with special attention given to religious, ethnic and national allegiances.

JOHN EDWARDS is Professor of Psychology at St Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia. His previous publications include Language in Canada (Cambridge, 1998).
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To Suzanne
Contents

1 Introduction 1
  1.1 An introductory note 1
  1.2 Chapters and topics 2
  1.3 A concluding note 13

2 Identity, the individual and the group 15
  2.1 Introduction 15
  2.2 Identity: personal and social 19
  2.3 The construction and maintenance of groupness 25
  2.4 Language and circumstance 27

3 Identifying ourselves 34
  3.1 Personal names 34
  3.2 Names for groups 36
  3.3 The appropriation of names and narratives 39
  3.4 Cultural voices and scholarly research 42
  3.5 Ethnocentrism and relativism 48

4 Language, dialect and identity 53
  4.1 Language 53
  4.2 Dialect 63

5 Dialect and identity: beyond standard and nonstandard 73
  5.1 The ‘logic’ of dialect 73
  5.2 Ebonics 75
  5.3 Further work on dialect evaluation 82

6 Language, religion and identity 99
  6.1 Introduction 99
  6.2 Linking language and religion 100
  6.3 God’s language – and ours 103
  6.4 Modern times 110
  6.5 Missionaries 118

7 Language, gender and identity 126
  7.1 Introduction 126
  7.2 Stereotyping sex and gender 127
  7.3 Gender variations in speech 132
  7.4 Concluding remarks 146
Contents

8 Ethnicity and nationalism 151
  8.1 Introduction 151
  8.2 Ethnic identity 153
  8.3 Nationalism 162

9 Assessments of nationalism 175
  9.1 Civic nationalism 175
  9.2 Evaluating nationalism 185

10 Language and nationalism 205
  10.1 The basic link 205
  10.2 Language purism and prescriptivism 212

11 Language planning and language ecology 225
  11.1 Language planning 225
  11.2 The ecology of language 230
  11.3 The consequences of Babel 245
  11.4 Bilingualism and identity 247

Glossary 257
Notes 261
References 271
Index 310