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English as a Contact Language

Recent developments in contact linguistics suggest considerable overlap of branches such as historical linguistics, variationist sociolinguistics, pidgin/creole linguistics, language acquisition, etc. This book highlights the complexity of contact-induced language change throughout the history of English by bringing together cutting-edge research from these fields. It focuses on recent debates surrounding substratal influence in earlier forms of English (particularly Celtic influence in Old English), on language shift processes (the formation of Irish and overseas varieties), but also on dialects in contact, the contact origins of Standard English, the notion of new epicentres in World English, the role of children and adults in language change as well as transfer and language learning. With contributions from leading experts, the book offers fresh and exciting perspectives for research while also providing an up-to-date overview of the state of the art in the respective fields.

DANIEL SCHREIER is Full Professor of English Linguistics in the English Department at the University of Zurich, Switzerland.

MARIANNE HUNDT is Full Professor of English Linguistics in the English Department at the University of Zurich, Switzerland.

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University of Zurich



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Contributors

David Britain,
Department of English Languages and Literatures, University of Bern

Jenny Cheshire,
Department of Linguistics, Queen Mary University of London

Olga Fischer,
Amsterdam Center for Language and Communication, University of
Amsterdam

Sue Fox,
Department of Linguistics, Queen Mary, University of London

Raymond Hickey,
Institute for Anglophone Studies, University of Duisburg and Essen

Marianne Hundt,
English Department, University of Zurich

Paul Kerswill,
Department of Language and Linguistic Science, University of York

Juhani Klemola,
School of Language, Translation and Literary Studies, University of Tampere

Christian Mair,
English Department, University of Freiburg

Rajend Mesthrie,
Department of English Language and Literature, University of Cape Town

Salikoko S. Mufwene,
Department of Linguistics, University of Chicago

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Terence Odlin,
English Department, Ohio State University

Herbert Schendl,
Department of English, University of Vienna

Edgar W. Schneider,
English Department, University of Regensburg

Daniel Schreier,
English Department, University of Zurich

Sarah G. Thomason,
Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan

Eivind Torgersen,
Department for Teacher and Interpreter Education, Sor-Trøndelag University
College

Donald Winford,
Linguistics Department, Ohio State University

Walt Wolfram,
Department of English, North Carolina State University

Laura Wright,
Faculty of English, University of Cambridge

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