

Language Conflict and Language Rights

As the colonial hegemony of empire fades around the world, the role of language in ethnic conflict has become increasingly topical, as have issues concerning the right of speakers to choose and use their preferred language(s). Such rights are often asserted and defended in response to their being violated. The importance of understanding these events and issues, and their relationship to individual, ethnic, and national identity, is central to research and debate in a range of fields outside, as well as within, linguistics. This book provides a clearly written introduction for linguists and non-specialists alike, presenting basic facts about the role of language in the formation of identity and the preservation of culture. It articulates and explores categories of conflict and language rights abuses through detailed presentation of illustrative case studies, and distills from these key cross-linguistic and cross-cultural generalizations.

WILLIAM D. DAVIES was Professor and Chair of Linguistics at the University of Iowa. He has published four books, three edited volumes, and sixty-seven articles and book chapters, largely on the morphology and syntax of various languages, including Balinese, Basque, Choctaw, English, Fula, Javanese, Madurese, Sundanese, and Telugu. He was also an Associate Editor of *Oceanic Linguistics*.

STANLEY DUBINSKY is a Professor of Linguistics and former director of the Linguistics Program at the University of South Carolina. He has published three books, four edited volumes, and sixty-one articles and book chapters on the syntax and semantics of various languages, including English, Japanese, Korean, Hebrew, and two Bantu languages (Chichewa and Lingala).

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William D. Davies , Stanley Dubinsky
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Language Conflict and Language Rights

Ethnolinguistic Perspectives on Human Conflict

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In Memoriam

William D. Davies
(May 24, 1954 – August 18, 2017)

William D. Davies passed away on August 18, 2017, one day after the last page of this book was completed and the book was put into production. One can truthfully say that he worked as a linguist until the last day of his life.

Completing his PhD at UCSD in 1981 with a dissertation on Choctaw syntax under the direction of David M. Perlmutter, Bill went on to a thirty-year career at the University of Iowa, publishing widely on topics such as Choctaw, grammatical relations, raising and control, and the syntax of Indonesian languages, especially Madurese.

Starting his career as an empirically focused theoretician, Bill made it his business to venture into untouched areas of discovery – focusing in the main on languages (such as the Amerindian Choctaw and the Indonesian Madurese languages) that few others had bothered with. In this way, his research brought light to the languages of less recognized and (previously) less valued peoples. Even to the end, his work with the Baduy people of Indonesia sought (as always) to light up the places and peoples that were in the margins and in the shade. His theoretical work was, invariably, coupled with efforts to give back to the people who so graciously allowed him into their space to do his research – studying the grammar of the Madurese while, at the same time, preserving and rendering accessible the rapidly disappearing folk story traditions for their next generation. His inspired dedication of this book speaks volumes about his desire to make his scholarship relevant and to leave the world better than he found it, “This book is dedicated to all people past and present who have lost their language/their (original) voice or had it forcibly ripped from them and have suffered the countless attendant indignities.”

Bill Davies was so much more than a linguist, although he was certainly that, too. He was a mentor, a guide, a model, and an inspiration to all those who he touched professionally. The several books and dozens of published articles and chapters he produced are but the visible surface of a rich record of deeply engaged scholarship, impressively insightful empirical discovery, innovative

collaborations, and the mature and generous mentoring of junior colleagues. As one who benefitted from the sometimes undeserved joy of collaborating with him, for some thirty years, this writer can regret that we didn't have longer. But that regret cannot erase the gifts of those three decades – decades of discovery, comradeship, and friendship.

At home, in his own university, he led his Linguistics Department (both officially and unofficially) for most of his thirty-plus years there, and held it together for the sake of his colleagues when many others might have walked away. It is because of him, and nearly only because of him, that the University of Iowa still has a Linguistics Department today. His sacrifice for his department, his colleagues, and the department's students stands as a monument to the goodness of his soul.

I will miss him for as long as I am lucky to live, and know that others who walked with him will miss him at least as much as I. Grateful I am for having been lucky enough to know him, and proud I am for having had the privilege to call him, truly, my best friend and colleague.

STANLEY DUBINSKY

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Preface and Acknowledgements

The initial idea for this volume began with discussions in 2010 between the two authors about there being no dedicated text for a Language Rights course developed by its first author, Bill Davies. Having invited Stan Dubinsky to join him in the development and writing of such a book, the project was retitled *Language Conflict and Language Rights*, and the two authors set about teaching and refining the course, as a path to developing a coherent book proposal. On gaining the support of Helen Barton at Cambridge University Press and having our proposal approved, we committed ourselves in earnest to the book project, alternately using the draft chapters of the book to teach the course and using the outcomes from our classes to further revise and refine the book. This went on, for perhaps too many semesters, but it ultimately resulted in the book which you now hold in your hands (or see on your screen). Any large endeavor requires the goodwill and support of many people, and this book is no exception. It could truthfully be said that a virtual army of people helped to make this book what it is, including students who took the course, local colleagues who taught and helped develop it, university administrators and department chairs who saw fit to underwrite the project with funding, local and external readers of draft chapters, and all those at Cambridge University Press who inspired, encouraged, and helped us to complete it.

At Cambridge University Press, Helen Barton has been, and remains, the authors' chief navigator and inspiration, and it is to her credit that the present volume made it all the way through to publication. Adam Hooper, also at the Press, played a key role in shepherding the production process along, and making sure that we stayed on task. Kay McKechnie, as copy-editor, not only did an excellent job of poring through the typescript and making more corrections than she ought to have had to, but also was kind enough to tell us that she enjoyed the book. Thanks as well to my own graduate assistant, Drew Crosby, without whose help the book would have had no index at all.

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