Language Maintenance and Shift

What motivates some linguistic minorities to maintain their language? Why do others shift away from it rather quickly? Are there specific conditions – environmental or personal – influencing these dynamics? What can families and communities do to pass on their ‘threatened’ language to the next generation? These and related questions are investigated in detail in Language Maintenance and Shift. In this fascinating book, Anne Pauwels analyses the patterns of language use exhibited by individuals and groups living in multilingual societies and explores their efforts to maintain their heritage or minority language. She explores the various methods used to analyse language maintenance, from linguistic demography to linguistic biography, and offers guidance on how to research the language patterns and practices of linguistic minorities around the world.

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Language Maintenance and Shift

ANNE PAUWELS

School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
For my mother, whose bilingualism was long seen as a hindrance and weakness rather than an asset. Bedankt – vielen Dank! Thank you for your persistence!
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Acknowledgements

This book is the result of many years of professional interactions and personal encounters with questions of bi- and multilingualism and of languages in transition. In professional terms I am most indebted to three ‘giants’ of the field: Michael Clyne, who was my PhD supervisor and, later, colleague in Australia, and Joshua Fishman and Einar Haugen, with whom I had the privilege and pleasure to meet and converse during their visits to Australia. I would also like to thank many current and past colleagues working in the fields of multilingualism, language contact and language maintenance and shift whose work has been inspirational as well as important in the structure and content of this book. My particular thanks go to Camilla Bettoni, Jan Blommaert, Tove Bull, Francesco Cavallaro, Ng Bee Chin, Guus Extra, Friederike Luepke, Marilyn Martin-Jones, Nina Rubino, Itesh Sachdev, Mandana Seyfeddinipur and Li Wei.

I am also indebted to the generous assistance and understanding of the Cambridge University Press staff, especially Dr Andrew Winnard and Helen Barton.