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Multilingualism

How do children and adults become multilingual? How do they use their languages? What influence does being multilingual have on their identities? What is the social impact of multilingualism today and how do societies accommodate it? These are among the fascinating questions examined by this book. Exploring multilingualism in individuals and in society at large, Stavans and Hoffmann argue that it evolves not from one factor in particular, but from a vast range of environmental and personal influences and circumstances: from migration to globalisation, from the spread of English to a revived interest in minority languages, from social mobility to intermarriage. The book raises important issues about multilinguals' language competence and multilinguals' literacy development and it highlights educational trends that challenge traditional approaches to language education rooted in monolingual outlooks. A clear and incisive account of this growing phenomenon, it is essential reading for students, teachers and policymakers alike.

ANAT STAVANS is a Professor in Applied Linguistics at Beit Berl College and a researcher at the Institute for Innovation in Education at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

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Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107471481

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First published 2015

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Stavans, 'Anat, author.

Multilingualism / Anat Stavans and Charlotte Hoffmann.

p. cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-09299-0 (hardback) – ISBN 978-1-107-47148-1 (paperback)

1. Multilingualism–Social aspects. 2. Second language acquisition–Social aspects. 3. Multilingualism–País Vasco (Spain) 4. Multilingualism–Pays Basque (France) 5. Sociolinguistics. I. Hoffmann, Charlotte, author. II. Title.

P115.45.S83 2014

404'.2–dc23

2014032052

ISBN 978-1-107-09299-0 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-107-47148-1 Paperback

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For our families – three generations of multilinguals.

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Acknowledgements

This book grew out of our enduring passion and shared interest for the subject of multilingualism. Both of us have made the study of multilingualism part of our academic careers. We represent two generations of researchers: Charlotte has been part of the ‘first generation’ and Anat the following generation of trilingualism researchers. We have been able to observe the diverse trajectories multilingualism studies have taken, the increased body of studies that have resulted from an ever-growing interest in the subject. Through our parallel and shared trajectory, we are fortunate to have been supported and motivated by many colleagues and students (invariably many of them multilingual themselves) to undertake this book project. We are grateful to a number of colleagues who have given feedback on early versions of parts of chapters and provided corrections and comments for improvement. We are indebted to the two anonymous readers who reviewed the manuscript and made a number of probing comments and valuable suggestions. Needless to say, any oversights and mistakes are ours.

Writing this volume would not have been possible without the support of several research institutions that awarded us grants to carry out collaborative research (a Basque government grant), sabbaticals (the Arts and Humanities Research Board and the Salford University Research Investment Fund) given to Charlotte Hoffmann, and the support and grant awarded by Beit Berl College and the Institute for Research and Innovation in Education at the Hebrew University issued to Anat Stavans. This support allowed both of us time during the early stages of the project. Above all, it has been the unfailing support, encouragement and understanding from our families that has enabled us to bring our project to a conclusion. We are especially indebted to Francisco Ariza for his engagement in reading and providing editorial support, and to Joel Stavans for his technological and artistic contribution to some of the figures. Last but not least, our gratitude goes to our children – Cristina and Pascual, as well as Eyal and Maayan, who have been the living evidence of simultaneous trilingualism from birth to maturity.