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0521781361 - Dynamics of Language Contact: English and Immigrant Languages

Michael Clyne

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Dynamics of Language Contact

English and Immigrant Languages

The past decade has seen an unprecedented growth in the study of language contact, associated partly with the linguistic effects of globalization and increased migration all over the world. Written by a leading expert in the field, this new and much-needed account brings together disparate findings to examine the dynamics of contact between languages in an immigrant context.

Using data from a wide range of languages, including German, Dutch, Hungarian, Italian, Spanish, Croatian and Vietnamese, Michael Clyne discusses the dynamics of their contact with English. Clyne analyzes how and why these languages change in an immigration country like Australia, and asks why some languages survive longer than others. The book contains useful comparisons between immigrant vintages, generations, and between bilinguals and trilinguals.

An outstanding contribution to the study of language contact, this book will be welcomed by students and researchers in linguistics, bilingualism, the sociology of language and education.

MICHAEL CLYNE is Professorial Fellow in Linguistics and Director of the Research Unit for Multilingualism and Cross-Cultural Communication at the University of Melbourne. His books include *Language and Society in German-Speaking Countries* (Cambridge, 1984), *Community Languages: the Australian Experience* (Cambridge, 1991), *Pluricentric Languages* (1992), *The German Language in a Changing Europe* (Cambridge, 1995) and *Intercultural Communication at Work* (Cambridge, 1995).

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Cambridge Approaches to Language Contact is an interdisciplinary series bringing together work on language contact from a diverse range of research areas. The series focuses on key topics in the study of contact between languages or dialects, including the development of pidgins and creoles, language evolution and change, world Englishes, code-switching and code-mixing, bilingualism and second language acquisition, borrowing, interference, and convergence phenomena.

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Series editor's foreword

The series Approaches to Language Contact was set up to publish outstanding monographs on language contact, especially by authors who approach their specific subject matter from a diachronic or developmental perspective. Our goal is to integrate the ever-growing scholarship on language diversification (including the development of creoles, pidgins and indigenized varieties of colonial European languages), bilingual language development, code-switching and language endangerment. We hope to provide a select forum to scholars who contribute insightfully to understanding language evolution from an interdisciplinary perspective. We favour approaches that highlight the role of ecology and draw inspiration both from the authors' own fields of specialization and from related research areas in linguistics or other disciplines. Eclecticism is one of our mottos, as we endeavour to comprehend the complexity of evolutionary processes associated with contact.

We are very proud to add Michael Clyne's *Dynamics of Language Contact* to the ALC series. Focusing on Australia, and yet relating his findings to those of numerous other scholars on similar phenomena elsewhere, the author provides a most authoritative study on the impact of the dominant language (English in the present case) on other languages. This book is a meticulous documentation of language change under conditions of language shift, spanning several generations of immigrants from Europe, Asia and Latin America. It is a detailed analysis of historical, social and structural factors that bear differentially on how a language is affected by a dominant one, even when the systems are as closely related as are Dutch and German, and when, from the point of view of ethnicity and culture, their speakers can (for all practical purposes) be lumped in the same stock, as opposed to, for instance, the Vietnamese or the Chinese. The facilitating role of typological similarities and differences in both bilinguals and trilinguals are explored very insightfully, showing in a fascinating way that the role of language-internal factors during change under conditions of shift need not be subordinated to that of language-external ones. Yet, genetic linguistic differences do not account for structural erosion in ways that encourage easy, across-the-board predictions, thus corroborating the view that theories of evolution are more about explaining the past than predicting the future. In addition,

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xii Series editor's foreword

Michael Clyne makes a genuine effort to clarify concepts and terms that have become more and more confusing over the past few decades.

It would not be overly optimistic of me to predict that *Dynamics of Language Contact* will be seminal over the next few decades. The book is likely to spur comparisons of Australia and North America as Anglophone former settlement colonies, as well as studies intended to test several relevant hypotheses on other territories. This is another must-read for students of language contact in general, quite consistent with the ALC's ambition.

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I am also grateful to the Australian Research Council for financial assistance for this and earlier research projects.

Map 1.1 is reprinted from Willem Levelt, *Speaking: from Intention to Articulation*, © The MIT Press, by kind permission.

Abbreviations

ACC	accusative
ADESS	adessive
ADJ	adjective
AUX	auxiliary
CLA	classifier
COMP	complementizer
CP	complementizer of projection
DAT	dative
DIMIN	diminutive
DM	discourse marker
FEM	feminine
GEN	genitive
IMPER	imperative
INDIR	indirect
INF	infinitive
INFL	inflection
IP	inflection phrase
LOC	locative
MASC	masculine
MOD.PRT, MP	modal particle
N	noun
NEUT	neuter
NOM	nominative
O, OBJ	object
PASS	passive
PAST.PT	past participle
pl	plural
PP	prepositional phrase
PRES.PT	present participle
PRT	particle
REFL	reflexive

Abbreviations

xv

REL.P	relative pronoun
S, SUBJ	subject
sg	singular
SM	system morpheme
V	verb

Conventions used in the examples

..	a hesitation of two seconds or more
...	a hesitation of three seconds or more
(A)	a filled pause
(H)	a nervous laugh
<i>italics</i>	trigger-words
SMALL CAPITALS	transversions