The Cambridge Handbook of Sociolinguistics

The most comprehensive overview available, this handbook is an essential guide to sociolinguistics today. Reflecting the breadth of research in the field, it surveys a wide range of topics and approaches in the study of language variation and use in society. As well as linguistic perspectives, the handbook includes insights from anthropology, social psychology, the study of discourse and power, conversation analysis, theories of style and styling, language contact, and applied sociolinguistics. Language practices seem to have reached new levels since the communications revolution of the late twentieth century. At the same time, spoken communication is still the main force of language identity, even if social and peer networks of the traditional face-to-face nature are facing stiff competition of the facebook-to-facebook sort. The most authoritative guide to the state of the field, this handbook shows that sociolinguistics provides us – in tandem with other brands of linguistics and the social and natural sciences – with the best tools for understanding our unfolding evolution as social beings.

RAJEND MESTHRIE is Professor of Linguistics in the Department of English at the University of Cape Town, holding an NRF research chair in the area of Language, Migration, and Social Change. He served two terms as President of the Linguistics Society of Southern Africa. He has published widely in the fields of sociolinguistics, with special reference to language contact in South Africa. Among his publications are Introducing Sociolinguistics (2nd edn. 2009, with Joan Swann, Ana Deumert, and William Leap), Language in South Africa (Cambridge, 2002, ed.), and World Englishes (Cambridge, 2008, with Rakesh M. Bhatt).
CAMBRIDGE HANDBOOKS IN LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

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The Cambridge Handbook of Sociolinguistics

Edited by

Rajend Mesthrie
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Contributors

John Baugh, Margaret Bush Wilson Professor in Arts and Sciences, Washington University in St. Louis
Robert Bayley, Professor, Department of Linguistics, University of California, Davis
Jan Blommaert, Professor of Language, Culture and Globalization, Tilburg University
Nikolas Coupland, Professor and Director, Centre for Language and Communication Research, Cardiff University
Ana Deumert, Associate Professor, Linguistics Section, University of Cape Town
Alessandro Duranti, Professor of Anthropology, UCLA College of Letters and Science
Diana Eades, Adjunct Associate Professor, School of Behavioral, Cognitive and Social Sciences, University of New England
Carmen Fought, Professor of Linguistics, Pitzer College, Claremont, California
Cynthia Gordon, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication and Rhetorical Studies, Syracuse University
Gregory R. Guy, Professor of Linguistics, New York University
Lowry Hemphill, Associate Professor, Department of Language and Literacy, Wheelock College
Kathleen Heugh, Senior Lecturer, English Language, University of South Australia, and Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences, School of Communication, International Studies and Languages, Magill Campus, Australia
Barbara Johnstone, Professor, Department of English, Carnegie Mellon University
Silvia Kouwenberg, Professor of Linguistics, University of the West Indies (Mona)
CONTRIBUTORS

William A. Kretzschmar, Jr., Harry and Jane Willson Professor in Humanities, Department of English, University of Georgia, Athens
Abigail Locke, Reader in Psychology, Human and Health Sciences, University of Huddersfield
Ceil Lucas, Professor, Department of Linguistics, Gallaudet University
Susan McKay, Senior Lecturer, School of English, Media Studies and Art History, University of Queensland
Rajend Mesthrie, Professor, Linguistics Section, and Research Chair in Migration, Language and Social Change, University of Cape Town
Pieter Muysken, Academy Professor of Linguistics, Centre for Language Studies, Radboud University Nijmegen, Netherlands
Nicholas Ostler, Director, Foundation for Endangered Languages, Bath, UK, and Research Associate, Department of Linguistics, University of London
W. Peter Robinson, Professor of Social Psychology Emeritus, University of Bristol
Natalie Schilling, Associate Professor, Linguistics Department, Georgetown University
Edgar W. Schneider, Chair of English Linguistics, Department of English and American Studies, University of Regensburg
John Victor Singler, Professor, Linguistics Department, New York University
Christopher Stroud, Professor, Linguistics Department, University of the Western Cape
James W. Tollefson, Professor, Graduate School of Public Policy and Social Research, Department of Media, Communication and Culture, International Christian University, Tokyo, and Professor Emeritus, University of Washington
Preface and acknowledgments

This handbook is aimed at students who have studied some linguistics and sociolinguistics and who need an advanced and up-to-date account of the field. The contributors, who were all chosen for their special contributions to the field of sociolinguistics, were charged with the task of providing authoritative and detailed, yet accessible, overviews of significant branches of the subject. It is not expected that readers will wade through the entire work, for this is obviously not an introductory textbook, but rather read specific chapters depending on their needs and areas of interest. The chapters will be of use to academics and researchers outside sociolinguistics who wish to keep up with newer developments in a field that is becoming increasingly central in the humanities.

I would like to thank the following persons whose role in seeing the handbook through different stages has been salutary: Rowan Mentis, my main assistant on this project, for working on the bibliography and index and managing the chapter files; Alida Chevalier for secondary assistance; and Walt Wolfram, who worked with me in the early stages of this project and recruited many of the contributors on language variation and change. I would also like to thank all contributors for their cooperation and sparkling contributions, and my editors, Andrew Winnard and Sarah Green, at Cambridge University Press for their patience over delays in delivering the final product. Finally, I am grateful to the University of Cape Town, and the Humanities Faculty in particular, for creating a supportive research and editing environment.
Abbreviations

1P    first person plural
AAE    African American English
AAVE   African American Vernacular English
ASL    American Sign Language
BAE    Bureau of American Ethnology
BSL    British Sign Language
CA     conversation analysis
CAT    communication accommodation theory
CDA    critical discourse analysis
CEF    Common European Framework of Reference for Languages
CL     noun class
Coda   child of a Deaf adult
COE    Council of Europe
COMP   complementizer
CON    conjunction
CONSEC consecutive
COP    copula
CVCV   consonant-vowel sequence
DA     discourse analysis
DEF    definite
DEM    demonstrative
DET    determiner
EC     Estate Class
EFL    English as a foreign language
EL     embedded language
ELF    Endangered Language Fund
ENL    English as a native language
EROS   Environmental Recycling Officers
ESL    English as a second language
EU     European Union
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>feminine</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEL</td>
<td>Foundation for Endangered Languages</td>
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<td>FLA</td>
<td>first language acquisition</td>
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<td>FTA</td>
<td>face-threatening acts</td>
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<td>FV</td>
<td>finite verb</td>
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<td>HABIT</td>
<td>habitual</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICE</td>
<td>International Corpus of English</td>
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<td>ICHEL</td>
<td>International Clearing House for Endangered Languages</td>
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<td>International Monetary Fund</td>
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<td>INDIC</td>
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<td>JLU</td>
<td>Jamaica Language Unit</td>
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<td>LCM</td>
<td>Linguistic Category Model</td>
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<td>Italian Sign Language (Lingua Italiana dei Segni)</td>
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<td>multi-modal discourse analysis</td>
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<td>Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, Sports and Technology</td>
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<td>MFY</td>
<td>Mobilization for Youth</td>
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<td>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</td>
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<td>SSENYC</td>
<td>Social Stratification of English in New York City</td>
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<td>TMA</td>
<td>Tense, Modality, Aspect</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Program</td>
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<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</td>
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<td>UWC</td>
<td>upper working class</td>
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