Asia is now home to some 800 million multilingual speakers of English (more than the total number of native English speakers), and how they use English is continually evolving and changing to reflect their cultural backgrounds and everyday experiences. Can English, therefore, be considered an Asian language? Drawing upon the Asian corpus of English, this book is the first comprehensive account of the roles, uses and features of English in Asia, encompassing several different varieties of Asian English. Chapters cover the distinctive linguistic features of English in different settings, such as in law, religion and popular culture, as well as the use of local rhetorical, pragmatic and cultural styles and its use as a lingua franca among Asian multilinguals. It also examines the role of English in education – from primary through to higher education – and consider the implications of this for other languages of Asia.

ANDY KIRKPATRICK is Professor in the Department of Languages, Humanities and Social Sciences at Griffith University. Publications include World Englishes (CUP 2007), English as a Lingua Franca in ASEAN (2010), Trilingual Education in Hong Kong’s Primary Schools (2019). He is co-editor of The Wiley-Blackwell Handbook of Asian Varieties of English (2020), and co-editor of the Routledge International Handbook of Language Education Policy in Asia (2019).

WANG LIXUN is Associate Professor in the Department of Linguistics and Modern Language Studies at the Education University of Hong Kong. Publications include Introduction to Language Studies (2011), Academic Writing in Language and Education Programmes (2011), Trilingual Education in Hong Kong Primary Schools (2019), and Identity, Motivation, and Multilingual Education in Asian Contexts (2020). He is co-editor of the Springer book series ‘Multilingual Education’.
Is English an Asian Language?

Andy Kirkpatrick
Griffith University
with Wang Lixun
The Education University of Hong Kong
To Iris,
For Lucy and Cody
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