

## ENGLISH IN MULTILINGUAL SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa is a country characterised by great linguistic diversity. Large indigenous languages, such as isiZulu and isiXhosa, are spoken by many millions of people, as well as the languages with European roots, such as Afrikaans and English, which are spoken by several millions and used by many more in daily life. This situation provides a plethora of contact scenarios, all of which have resulted in language variation and change, and which form the main focus of this insightful volume. Written by a team of leading scholars, it investigates a range of sociolinguistic factors and the challenges that South Africans face as a result of multilingualism and globalisation in both education and social interaction. The historical background to English in South Africa provides a framework within which the interfaces with other languages spoken in the country are scrutinised, whilst highlighting processes of contact, bilingualism, code-switching and language shift.

RAYMOND HICKEY is Professor of English Linguistics at the University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany. His main research interests are varieties of English, language contact, variation and change. Some of his recent publications include *Listening to the Past* (2017), *The Cambridge Handbook of Areal Linguistics* (2017) and *English in the German-Speaking World* (2020), all published by Cambridge.

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# ENGLISH IN MULTILINGUAL SOUTH AFRICA

*The Linguistics of Contact and Change*

EDITED BY

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interest in varieties of English across the world, and the factors that play a role in constraining language change in complex settings, such as bilingual language contact, translation and online communication.

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## *Preface*

The present volume represents a collection of studies on the English language in South Africa, in contact with a wide diversity of other languages, which are part of the linguistic landscape of this multilingual country. Since the advent of modern democracy in the early 1990s, South African society has been transformed and with it the many languages spoken there.

The main scholar associated with the study of language in South Africa is Rajend Mesthrie and it is to him that this volume is dedicated. He is the author of many seminal linguistic works, such as his study of language contact and shift in his native community of South African Indians. The scope of his scholarly work is considerable. It encompasses studies of many forms of English, including the most recent varieties, of tsotsitaal youth language, of the pidgin Fanagalo, of language contact and areal linguistic scenarios in South Africa and of Bhojpuri, the variety of Hindi from north-west India spoken by large numbers of the original Indian immigrants to South Africa. Beyond his own country he is known for work on sociolinguistics and on World Englishes, reaching out in no small way to the wider community of language students and scholars alike.

In the preparation of this volume I was fortunate in having, once again, the editorial help of Helen Barton at Cambridge University Press. Professor Merja Kytö from Uppsala University offered her professional assistance, without which the volume would not have gone so smoothly to completion. My thanks go to Ian Bekker and Yolandi Ribbens-Klein for their advice on the Timeline for South African History and on the Glossary; any shortcomings are obviously my own responsibility. To all these, and to the contributors to the volume, who made this possible in the first place, I am very grateful.

**Raymond Hickey**

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