

# The Handbook of Language Variation and Change

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*The Handbook of Language Variation and Change*, written by a distinguished international roster of contributors, reflects the vitality and growth of the discipline in its multifaceted pursuits. It is a convenient, hand-held repository of the essential knowledge about the study of language variation and change.

- Written by internationally recognized experts in the field.
- Reflects the vitality and growth of the discipline.
- Discusses the ideas that drive the field and is illustrated with empirical studies.
- Includes explanatory introductions which set out the boundaries of the field and place each of the chapters into perspective.

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#### **Editorial Review**

#### Review

"This is an addition to the invaluable '*Handbook*' series from Blackwell and will be an essential purchase for anyone wishing to inform themselves about language variation and change ... Each chapter is an interesting read in its own right, and it really can be read from cover to cover ... It's a real achievement to maintain this level of excellence in a collection." **British Association of Applied Linguistics** 

"*The Handbook of Language Variation and Change* is a convenient, hand-held repository of the essential knowledge about the study of language variation and change. This *Handbook* allows the next generation of academics to perpetuate all of these fields of study and explore them with the kind of depth unimaginable to their predecessors." *Folia Linguistica* 

"*The Handbook of Language Variation and Change* is a long-awaited volume which aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the 'socio-linguistic enterprise ... in its multifaceted pursuits'. This is indeed a challenge, but one that the volume thoroughly meets: it is an authoritative guide, which provides an excellent contribution to the diverse field of variationist studies." *Journal of Linguistics* 

"Languages do not exist but in space and time. Their variability is what allows them to function as means of communication and social interaction. The present Handbook presents an up-to-date and in-depth account of how to study this aspect of language which is at the interface of historical linguistics, dialectology, and sociolinguistics. The editors and contributing authors are among the most prolific scholars in the field. Their collective effort shows us how the versatility of 'real' situated speech can be made an object of rigorous scientific investigation and what can be learned from it about language and society." *Florian Coulmas, Gerhard Mercator University* 

"At last we have an authoritative place to go to discover the impressive accomplishments of the research on linguistic variation and change over the past forty years and to get a glimpse of the future. The editors of this Handbook have put together an excellent survey of what variationists do, produced by an admirable combination of scholars who helped found the field along with linguists from the next generation. This is an excellent volume. Buy it!" *Ralph Fasold, Georgetown University* 

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#### From the Back Cover

Written by a distinguished international roster of contributors, *The Handbook of Language Variation and Change* reflects the vitality, diversity, and growth of the discipline. It is a convenient, hand-held repository of the essential knowledge about the study of language variation and change.

The volume presents views of linguistic variation in the diverse contexts that give it meaning and significance, across generations, social strata, and domains of interaction. It includes an extensive examination of the methodologies employed by linguists working in linguistic variation and change, addressing the levels of linguistic structure that have been the main foci of work in the field. Invaluable section introductions by the editors set out the boundaries of the field, and place each of the chapters in perspective.

This authoritative resource allows the next generation of academics to perpetuate all of these fields of study and explore them with the kind of depth unimaginable to their predecessors.

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