EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION: LANGUAGE CONTACT AND CHANGE

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Overview of Volume 23

Language contact and change occur continuously, whether or not they are noted, recorded, or analyzed. The intensity and frequency vary, and can vary dramatically according to geographic and historic circumstances. Contributions to this volume revisit some of the topics last discussed in the 1997 *Annual Review of Applied Linguistics* on multilingualism (Grabe, 1997), update them with connections to the ever-increasing bibliography for these subjects, and extend them into some new directions. Many of these topics, and some of the new directions, testify to the vision of Charles A. Ferguson. His comprehensive grasp of the multiple points of intersection between language and society, prominent in the academic literature of the last forty years and epitomized by the selections in Huebner (1996), fully merits the special dedication of this volume.

The chapters in the first section, Major Issues in Language Contact, frame research into language contact according to political philosophy, concerns about language maintenance and revitalization, and considerations pertinent to the process of interpreting, a constant but often overlooked communicative process in settings of language contact. Kymlicka and Patten elucidate some of the many approaches to determination of linguistic rights possible within normative political theory. García describes recent research on language maintenance and demonstrates its worldwide relevance through extremely diverse linguistic and methodological exemplars. Hinton's chapter on language revitalization treats some similar themes but emphasizes questions related to indigenous languages that have, by and large, not had either a long literary tradition or, typically, a place in a school curriculum. In their examination of interpreters and the process of interpreting, Valdés and Angelelli identify a series of related psycholinguistic and sociolinguistic factors in need of further research. Several of these chapters, and those in the third section, too, reference methodological developments, notably those related to the study of social networks (see de Bot & Stoessel, 2002), likely to produce additional insights as they are adopted and refined in future applied linguistics research. Indeed, looking ahead, it is likely that developments in research methods related to network theory generally (e.g., Barabási, 2002) may well offer substantial advances to applied linguistics.

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Contributions in the second section, Sites of Language Contact, illustrate recent work characteristic of all contemporary sociolinguistics, in which emphasis on geographic boundary areas has shifted and expanded to include study of domains of social contact as productive foci for the study of language contact. As populations around the world show increased mobility, and, at times, concurrently increased concentration in the locations to which they move (Sassen, 1991, 1998), it is imperative for applied linguistics to document the varieties of language contact that occur even within supposedly monolingual societies. Spolsky reminds us that religious teaching and practice have, for many centuries, been associated with language contact and calls for renewed applied linguistic work on this somewhat neglected topic. Baker offers a detailed and current survey of types of bilingual education approaches, noting the great diversity of motivations, sponsorship, and outcomes by which they are characterized. In her discussion of research on second language and second dialect speakers in the legal system, Eades provides many examples of the way linguistic diversity interacts with power differentials to affect crucial legal interactions and decisions.The Candlins identify several streams of discourse-based research on health care communication, highlighting the problematic but essential goal of achieving both disciplinary reflexivity and practical relevance. Harris and Bargiela-Chiappini survey the expanding body of work on language contact that occurs as a part of business transactions, another contact arena nearly as ancient as religion. Piller takes up work on a more modern phenomenon, language contact in the realm of advertising, to show how language choice and, on occasion, language mixing function to suggest supranational power of brands and the international sophistication of targeted consumers.

The third section, Causes and Cases of Language Change, surveys some of the traditional demographic and sociolinguistic influences on language change and culminates in an examination of South Africa, a country marked by dramatic recent social transformation. Cameron discusses current work related to gender and language change, showing the growing subtlety and complexity necessary for related investigations. In his presentation of pidgins and creoles as models of language change, McWhorter shows how recent research has challenged the conventional wisdom of a mere ten years ago, raising further questions about the origins and directionality of language change. In an entertaining discussion of a controversy about the "correct" past form of the verb *sneak*, Finegan reminds us of the tensions between linguistic prescription and description that continue to animate professional and lay debates about usage in multiple contemporary contexts. Kamwangamalu's comprehensive report on the linguistic consequences of the social changes in South Africa brings many of the issues raised in other contributions into sharp and specific focus, showing how an expressed policy of tolerance and promotion of multilingualism can nonetheless be contravened by speakers who choose to emphasize a single language, English, because of the history of oppression connected with official treatment of it and other languages. Tucker's concluding remarks provide further insights into the principal themes of the volume and identify relevant but neglected areas for future applied linguistics research.

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As a whole, then, contributions to *ARAL 23* document the multivalent and reciprocal influences of place and social process on language use. They illustrate the many forms of language contact and some of the factors affecting language change and identify several areas that call for additional applied linguistic research. I hope that current researchers, heeding this call, will focus their efforts on these and related phenomena so that their work can be reflected in future volumes of *ARAL.* Nonetheless, advances in research, while vital to the intellectual vitality of applied linguistics, represent only one aspect of the field. Insofar as the investigations of applied linguists engage some of the dilemmas, cross-purposes, and efforts to achieve understanding experienced by actual speakers involved in consequential interactions in diverse domains of activity, such work may be expected to serve as a source of guidance for improved practice. In their several ways, many of the authors of these chapters respond to the call articulated by Ferguson some thirty years ago, when he noted that language-related problems were "intensifying" and added the prescient, and still-relevant aspiration "Let us hope that the problems will stimulate the research and that ways will be found of applying theoretical advances to the solution of some of the problems" (1973, p. 45). Many chapters in *ARAL 23* offer potential directions for improved praxis as well as refinements in research.

Procedural Notes

Each year, prospective themes and possible contributors for future volumes of *ARAL* are identified through consultation with the Editorial Directors and members of the Editorial Advisory Board. The content of each chapter is the sole responsibility of the author or authors involved. The editor, directors, and board members do not intervene in content decisions related to contributions once the invitation to address a particular topic has been extended. In order to better reflect international dimensions of scholarship, contributors from many geographic areas are regularly sought. While no single volume can fully capture all ongoing work in applied linguistics worldwide, one of *ARAL*'s continuing goals remains strong international author representation that attests to the global nature of the field.

Another of the purposes of *ARAL* is to serve as a reference tool; thus, this volume, like its predecessors, includes three indexes: an *Author* index for all authors cited in the past five volumes; a *Subject* index for all subjects discussed in the past ten volumes; and a *Contributor* index that lists all contributors to the past ten volumes. It is hoped that these indexes enable readers to use past and current volumes to better understand trends and shifts in applied linguistics as a discipline. Every effort has been made to ensure that references are both complete and accurate, so that readers can make ready use of this volume as a reference. All contributing authors and many conscientious assistants, noted in the next section, have collaborated in this important effort. I apologize in advance if any inaccuracies or discrepancies have crept in during production.

ARAL is (obviously) an English-medium journal; English, of course, is marked by a certain number of variations in spelling and usage depending on one's national variety of the language. For the sake of uniformity, the series adheres to

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conventions of spelling and mechanics of North American English, but book and journal titles and direct quotations (if used) retain the spellings used in the original publications.

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Those more closely involved in the editorial process have again demonstrated the efficiency, flexibility, and good sense that enables smooth coordination of all related tasks. *ARAL* Editorial Assistant Beth Yule's high quality work on initial copy editing of each manuscript ensures maximum clarity, and her careful attention to the indexes helps to make sure they are current and accurate as reference tools. Julie McCormick's expertise and efficiency in page layout and publication design have helped to present each contribution and the whole volume with optimal organization and visual appeal. Speedy exchange of much work has been facilitated by Patrick Deegan, who provided frequent courier service as manuscripts went through multiple iterations, and by Marc Lord, who established a special server to support electronic access to all necessary material. This volume has benefited from the copyediting of Theresa Barensfeld and the proofreading assistance of Paula Garcia, Camilla Vásquez, and Heidi Vellenga; each of them has helped to promote a higher level of accuracy in presentation. The Reference Desk staff members at Cline Library, Northern Arizona University, have provided prompt, ingenious, and indispensable assistance in locating accurate bibliographic information on numerous occasions. Many efforts required to produce *ARAL* depend on the in-kind support of the English Department and the College of Arts and Sciences at Northern Arizona University; both entities have provided conceptual endorsement and absorbed some of the incidental costs associated with preparation and production of the series, and I am thus indebted to Susan Fitzmaurice, English Department Chair, and David Best, Dean of Arts and Sciences, for their unwavering belief in applied linguistics scholarship as embodied in *ARAL*. My heartfelt thanks to all at Cambridge University Press and at Northern Arizona University for their essential and ongoing support.

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