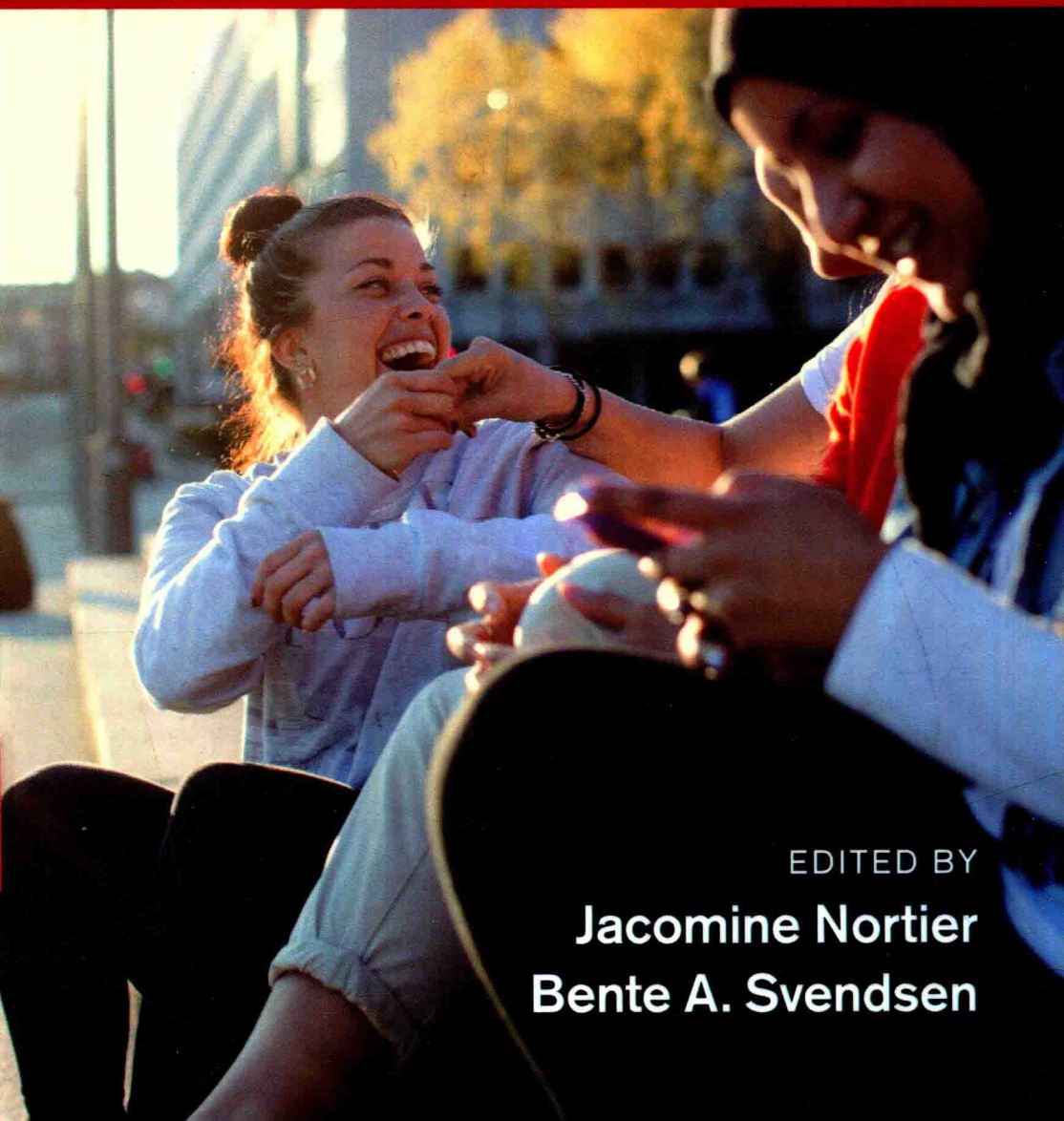


Language, Youth and Identity in the 21st Century

Linguistic Practices across Urban Spaces



EDITED BY

Jacomine Nortier
Bente A. Svendsen

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Language, Youth and Identity in the 21st Century

The language of young people is central in sociolinguistic research, as it is seen to be innovative and a primary source of knowledge about linguistic change and the role of language in social practice. This volume brings together a team of leading scholars to explore and compare linguistic practices of young people in multilingual urban spaces, with analyses ranging from grammar to ideology. It includes fascinating examples from cities in Europe, Africa, Canada and the US to demonstrate how young people express their identities through language, e.g. in hip-hop lyrics and new social media. This is the first book to cover the topic from a globally diverse perspective, and it investigates how linguistic practices across different communities intersect with age, ethnicity, gender and class. In doing so it shows commonalities and differences in how young people experience, act and relate to the contemporary social, cultural and linguistic complexity of the 21st century.

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This book is dedicated to the beloved memory of the late Professor Jens Normann Jørgensen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, who contributed significantly to the development of Danish as a second language and to the advancement of the international research on multilingualism. He introduced the concept of ‘linguaging’, which he further developed into ‘polylinguaging’. In addition to his substantial research endeavours, Jørgensen contributed extensively and enthusiastically in recruiting students and young scholars to a research field he devoted his entire career to.

To Jens for his *courage and encouragement*. ‘Ugh.’

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The book is a result of a joint research endeavour where a wide collection of researchers participate with their recent and most intriguing insights of their research on language, youth and identity in linguistically and culturally diverse urban spaces. We are grateful to each and every one of the 32 authors (22 women and 10 men) for sharing their knowledge, and for their thorough work in reading and commenting on each other's chapters.

Finally, the editors would like to thank the Norwegian *UPUS*-project ('Developmental Processes in Urban Linguistic Settings'), the University of Oslo and the University of Utrecht for financial support. This work was partly supported by the Research Council of Norway through its Centres of Excellence funding scheme, project number 223265.

Bente A. Svendsen and Jacomine Nortier

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