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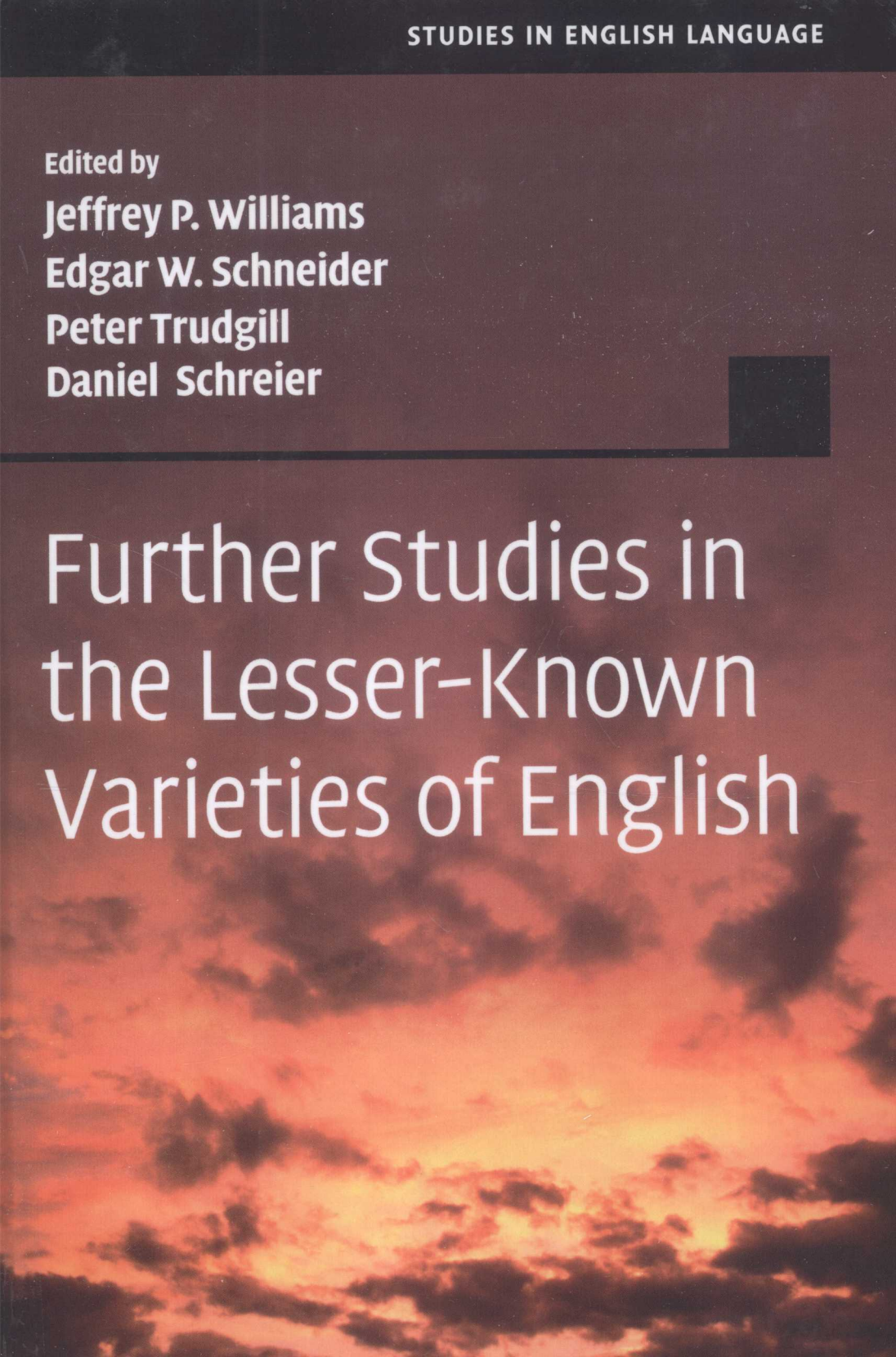
Jeffrey P. Williams

Edgar W. Schneider

Peter Trudgill

Daniel Schreier

Further Studies in the Lesser-Known Varieties of English



FURTHER STUDIES IN THE LESSER-KNOWN VARIETIES OF ENGLISH

EDITED BY

JEFFREY P. WILLIAMS

Texas Tech University

EDGAR W. SCHNEIDER

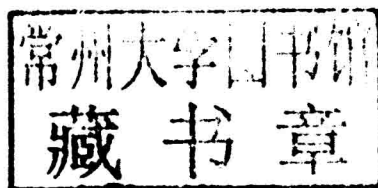
University of Regensburg

PETER TRUDGILL

University of Agder

DANIEL SCHREIER

University of Zurich



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FURTHER STUDIES IN THE LESSER-KNOWN VARIETIES OF ENGLISH

This volume follows on from *The Lesser-Known Varieties of English* (Cambridge University Press, 2010) by documenting a further range of varieties that have been overlooked and understudied. It explores varieties spoken by small groups of people in remote regions as diverse as Malta, the Netherlands Antilles, Brazil, the Cook Islands and Palau. The varieties explored are as much a part of the big picture as major varieties and it is the intention of this collection to spark further interest in the sociolinguistic documentation of minority Englishes in a postcolonial world. Language endangerment is a very real factor for the vast majority of lesser-known varieties of English, and this book aims to highlight that documentation and archiving are key initial steps in revitalization and reclamation efforts.

This book will be of interest to historians of English, and scholars in dialectology, language birth and death, language contact, typology, and variation and change.

JEFFREY P. WILLIAMS is Professor of Ethnology and Linguistics at Texas Tech University. He previously taught at the University of Sydney and Cleveland State University. Most recently he edited *The Aesthetics of Grammar: Sound and Meaning in the Languages of Mainland Southeast Asia* (Cambridge University Press, 2013).

EDGAR W. SCHNEIDER is Professor and Chair of English Linguistics at the University of Regensburg. He has published and lectured on all continents on topics in the dialectology, sociolinguistics, history, and semantics of English and its varieties. He edited the scholarly journal *English World-Wide* for many years and has written and edited about twenty books, including *Handbook of Varieties of English* (2004/2008), *Postcolonial English* (Cambridge University Press, 2007) and *English around the World* (Cambridge University Press, 2011).

PETER TRUDGILL is Adjunct Professor of Sociolinguistics at the University of Agder. He has carried out research on dialects in English, Norwegian, Greek, Albanian and Spanish and has written and edited more than thirty books on sociolinguistics and dialectology including *Sociolinguistic Variation and Change* (2002), *A Glossary of Sociolinguistics* (2003) and *New-Dialect Formation* (2004).

DANIEL SCHREIER is Associate Professor of English Linguistics at the University of Zurich. He has taught and lectured in New Zealand, Germany and the USA. His previous publications include *Isolation and Language Change* (2003), *Consonant Change in English Worldwide* (2005) and *St Helenian English* (2008).

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The aim of this series is to provide a framework for original studies of English, both present-day and past. All books are based securely on empirical research, and represent theoretical and descriptive contributions to our knowledge of national and international varieties of English, both written and spoken. The series covers a broad range of topics and approaches, including syntax, phonology, grammar, vocabulary, discourse, pragmatics, and sociolinguistics, and is aimed at an international readership.

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Contributors

MICHAEL ACETO is Professor of Linguistics in the Department of English at East Carolina University. His published work on Caribbean Englishes has mostly made use of primary data gathered in the field in Panama, Barbuda, St Eustatius and Dominica. His future work aspires to bring the discipline of linguistics in contact with the millennia of works and thought by Buddhist scholars.

DAVID BRITAIN is Professor of Modern English Linguistics at the University of Bern. His research interests embrace language variation and change, varieties of English, dialect contact and attrition, and the dialectology–human geography interface, with particular interest in applying insights from social geography’s Mobilities paradigm to social dialectology. He is editor of *Language in the British Isles* (Cambridge University Press, 2007), co-editor of *Social Dialectology* (with Jenny Cheshire, 2003) and co-author of *Linguistics: An Introduction*, 2nd edition (with Andrew Radford, Martin Atkinson, Harald Clahsen and Andrew Spencer, 2009). He is also currently an associate editor of the *Journal of Sociolinguistics* and is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Linguistic Geography* and *English World-Wide*.

ELIZABETH L. COGGSHALL is a doctoral candidate in the linguistics department at New York University; she has a Master’s from North Carolina State University. Her research has focused on two large questions: how does language use help create ethnic identity and place identity, and how do these two identities intersect linguistically? To this end, she has worked extensively on the Lumbee and Eastern Cherokee of North Carolina, as well as with White, Black, Latino and Filipino communities of New York City and Jersey City, New Jersey. Her past research used prosodic rhythm in American Indian English to better understand the relationship between ethnic change and language change, and her current research concentrates on vowel quality to understand place identity

in a relatively small urban community (Jersey City) in the shadow of a much larger city (New York City).

KEN DECKER is currently the International Coordinator for Language Assessment with SIL International. He has worked for over twenty-five years in the field of Applied Linguistics. He has a Master's degree in Sociolinguistics from the University of Texas at Arlington and is working on a PhD from the University of Groningen. He has published on the languages of Pakistan, Creole languages, Belize Kriol, language vitality, orthography development and language assessment.

ANDY GIBSON of the Institute of Culture, Discourse and Communication at Auckland University of Technology has research interests including the sociophonetics of singing in popular music, and the portrayal of Pasifika varieties of New Zealand English in performative contexts. He is Editorial Associate of the *Journal of Sociolinguistics* and co-edited a theme issue of the journal entitled *The Sociolinguistics of Performance*.

IAN HANCOCK is the Representative to the UN (ECO-SOC/NGO Category II) and to UNICEF for the Romani people, and was appointed by President Bill Clinton to represent Roma on the US Holocaust Memorial Council in 1997. In the same year he was awarded the prestigious Rafto Foundation Prize for Human Rights (Norway) and was recipient of the Gamaliel Chair in Peace and Justice for 1998. He publishes and lectures widely on Romani civil and human rights, and on the fate of the Romani victims of the Holocaust. His publications include *We Are the Romani People*, *A Handbook of Vlax Romani*, *The Pariah Syndrome: An Account of Gypsy Slavery and Persecution* and *International English Usage*. He is currently writing three new books: one on the construction of identity, one on the linguistic and historical origins of the Romani people, and one a grammar of the Maskogo Creole language spoken in south Texas.

RACHEL HENDERY is the Senior Lecturer in Digital Humanities at the University of Western Sydney. Her main research interest is the intersection of typology and historical linguistics, with a recent focus on contact languages. Since 2009 she has been working on Palmerston Island English in the Cook Islands, and has also carried out fieldwork in Indonesia and East Timor. Previously she was involved in the 'AustKin' project: a large interdisciplinary research project on change in Australian Aboriginal kinship terminology and systems.

DANAE M. PEREZ-INO FUENTES graduated from the University of Zurich with a Master's degree in Spanish and English Linguistics and Anthropology, and is now working on her PhD on language contact and shift in Paraguay. She is currently employed as a research and teaching assistant in the English Department. Her research interests include colonization and language contact with a regional focus on the Americas.

MANFRED KRUG is Chair of English and Historical Linguistics at the University of Bamberg, after previous appointments in Mannheim and Freiburg, where he completed his PhD and postdoctoral research project. His research centres around synchronic variation and diachronic change, typically including a corpus-based perspective. He holds an MA in Applied Linguistics from Exeter University and was a visiting professor at Portland State University. He has written and co-edited two books on English modal verbs and edited, with Julia Schlüter, the handbook *Research Methods in Language Variation and Change* (Cambridge University Press, 2013). Apart from Maltese English, his recent publications focus on the Great Vowel Shift, auxiliary verbs, grammaticalization as well as methodological aspects of designing and conducting interviews and questionnaires.

DAVD LEVEY is Associate Professor at the University of Cádiz and lectures in Phonetics, Phonology and Sociolinguistics. His research interests include accent variation, language contact and change, speech perception and language testing and evaluation. As well as publishing books and articles on various aspects of language acquisition, he has written extensively on the language situation in Gibraltar and is the author of *Language Change and Variation in Gibraltar* (2008).

KAZUKO MATSUMOTO is Associate Professor of Sociolinguistics at the University of Tokyo. Working primarily within sociolinguistics, her research interests include language variation and change, dialect contact and new dialect formation, language death, language contact, bilingualism, borrowing, heritage language maintenance, language ideologies, and pragmatic-discourse markers. She is currently engaged in collaborative research projects investigating Japanese dialect contact and obsolescence both in the Republic of Palau in Micronesia and in Mexico, as well as Palauan English as a newly emerging postcolonial variety. She is currently on the editorial board of the *Japanese Journal of Language in Society*.

MIRIAM MEYERHOFF is Professor of Linguistics at Victoria University of Wellington. Her research has often focused on the role that language

variation plays in informing our understanding of the linguistic dynamics of language change in Creole speech communities and the social indexicalities that language variation serves in them. She has done fieldwork in the Caribbean and the Pacific, and is currently working on language variation in northern Vanuatu.

CAROLINE MYRICK is currently a PhD student and teaching assistant at North Carolina State University. She received a BA in Linguistics and Communication Studies from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and an MA in English (Linguistics) from North Carolina State University. Her research interests include language variation and change, island studies, and dialect awareness and education. She has carried out sociolinguistic field research on the island of Saba, which served as the basis for her MA thesis and various publications.

MARIA RIEDER is currently a PhD student at Trinity College Dublin, where she is carrying out a sociolinguistic and ethnographic study of the Irish Traveller language and culture. She has completed a BA in Linguistics and Spanish and the First State Examination for Teachers in English and History at the University of Regensburg. Her research interests include the fields of contact linguistics and language change combined with and explored through the approaches of linguistic anthropology, ethnography of communication and folk linguistics.

EDGAR W. SCHNEIDER is Full Professor of English Linguistics at the University of Regensburg, after previous appointments in Bamberg, Georgia and Berlin. He has written and edited several books (including *American Earlier Black English*, 1989; *Introduction to Quantitative Analysis of Linguistic Survey Data*, 1996; *Focus on the USA*, 1996; *Englishes around the World*, 1997; *Degrees of Restructuring in Creole Languages*, 2000; *Handbook of Varieties of English*, 2004; *Postcolonial English*, Cambridge University Press, 2007; *English around the World*, Cambridge University Press, 2011) and published widely on the dialectology, sociolinguistics, history, semantics and varieties of English. For many years he was editor of *English World-Wide* and its associated book series *Varieties of English around the World*. He is President-Elect of the International Society for the Linguistics of English (ISLE).

DANIEL SCHREIER has taught in Switzerland, New Zealand, Germany and the USA, and is Professor of English Linguistics at the University of Zurich. He is the author of *Isolation and Language Change* (2003), *Consonant Change in English Worldwide* (2005), *St Helenian English: Origins,*

Evolution and Variation (2008) and *English as a Contact Language* (with Marianne Hundt, Cambridge University Press, 2013). He has published in the *Journal of Sociolinguistics*, *Language Variation and Change*, *American Speech*, *English Language and Linguistics* and is co-editor of *English World-Wide*.

DONNA STARKS is a Senior Lecturer in Applied Linguistics in the Faculty of Education at La Trobe University, Australia. Her research into the Pasifika languages has centred on the Niue language and its speakers. Her recent interests have focused on creating a framework for a better understanding of the relationship between language and identity within language education and applied linguistics in *Language Education and Applied Linguistics: Bridging the Two Fields* (2014).

PETER TRUDGILL is a theoretical dialectologist who is Professor of Sociolinguistics at Agder University; Emeritus Professor of English Linguistics at Fribourg University; and Honorary Professor of Sociolinguistics at the University of East Anglia. His most recent monograph is *Sociolinguistic Typology* (2011). A collection of his essays *Investigations in Sociohistorical Linguistics* appeared in 2010 and was published by Cambridge University Press.

JAMES A. WALKER is Associate Professor of Linguistics in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics at York University (Toronto). He has conducted research on variation and change in Sango (Central African Republic), Swedish and Brazilian Portuguese, although most of his research has involved varieties of English (African American, Canadian and Caribbean). He is the author of *Variation in Linguistic Systems* (2010), co-author of *Bequia Talk* (with Miriam Meyerhoff, 2013) and editor of *Aspect in Grammatical Variation* (2010).

JEFFREY P. WILLIAMS is Professor of Ethnology and Linguistics at Texas Tech University. He has conducted fieldwork throughout the West Indies since 1982, and also in Papua New Guinea and Australia, and with Montagnard refugees in the southern United States. He is the co-editor of *Contact Englishes of the Eastern Caribbean* (with Michael Aceto, 2003), *The Lesser-Known Varieties of English* (with Daniel Schreier, Peter Trudgill and Edgar Schneider, Cambridge University Press, 2010) and editor of *The Aesthetics of Grammar* (Cambridge University Press, 2013).

ALLAN BELL is Professor of Language & Communication, and Director of the Institute of Culture, Discourse & Communication, at Auckland

University of Technology, New Zealand. He has made pioneering contributions on media language and discourse, the theory of style (Audience Design) and New Zealand English. His research interests include multilingualism in New Zealand, performance language, language and identity, and social and linguistic aspects of the internet. He has led major research projects on New Zealand English, language style, Pasifika languages, television violence, and the World Internet Project New Zealand. He has published many papers in leading journals and edited collections, as well as six books. His 2013 *Guidebook to Sociolinguistics* is a comprehensive, research-based textbook road map to the field. He is co-founder and Editor of the *Journal of Sociolinguistics*.

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CHAPTER I

Introduction

*Jeffrey P. Williams, Edgar W. Schneider, Peter Trudgill
and Daniel Schreier*

With the appearance of the seminal piece on ‘lesser-known’ varieties of English by Trudgill in 2002, a research trajectory was charted that gathered together scholars involved in the documentation of overlooked and understudied varieties of English, many of which were spoken by very small groups of people in remote and isolated locales. This assorted group of ‘lessers’ gained prominence in the literature for their value in providing insights into larger questions in linguistics and sociolinguistics, culminating in the first instance in an edited collection of documentary descriptions and analyses (Schreier, Trudgill, Schneider and Williams 2010). We continue to expand our treatment of lesser-known varieties of English (LKVEs) in this second volume of further documentary descriptions.

As we stated at the outset of the first introductory volume to the documentation and study of LKVEs, one fundamental problem has to do with how to evaluate and demarcate the status of the term ‘lesser-known’. To aid the reader, we once again reproduce the set of characteristics we outlined in the previous volume here in order to set the template for the individual contributions that follow.

Lesser-known Englishes:

1. are spoken as first languages and not as ESL or EFL varieties, often in environments where bi- or multilingualism is restricted;
2. are identified as distinct varieties by their respective speech communities and other groups in their social environment;
3. are associated with stable communities or regions;
4. are typically spoken by minorities; they are usually delimited (not necessarily ‘isolated’ but socially or regionally distinct) to small communities which are embedded into a larger (regional) population ecology;
5. were, many of them, originally transmitted by settler communities or adopted by newly formed social communities that emerged early in the colonial era, so that they substantially derive from British inputs;