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THE HANDBOOK OF LANGUAGE VARIATION AND CHANGE,
EDITED BY J. K. CHAMBERS, PETER TRUDGILL, AND NATALIE SCHILLING-ESTEST

The Handbook of
**Language
Variation and
Change**



Edited by
**J. K. Chambers, Peter Trudgill,
and Natalie Schilling-Estes**



The handbook of language variation and change

edited by J. K. Chambers, Peter Trudgill, and Natalie Schilling-Estes

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“The study of language variation and change, the core of the sociolinguistic enterprise, has a relatively short history, but it is a burgeoning history, as might be expected of an idea whose time had truly come or, indeed, was overdue. This *Handbook* reflects the vitality and growth, representing the discipline in its multifaceted pursuits. The chapters that follow are not retrospective [...]. Instead, we have invited the authors of the chapters to discuss the ideas - hypotheses, axioms, lemmata, premises, probabilities - that drive their branch of the discipline, and to illustrate them with empirical studies, their own or others, that not only demónstrate their applications but also their shortcomings and strengths. The historical sequence will be implicit, we trust, if and when it has a bearing on the ideas. [... The] exponential growth in the discipline gives the Handbook a kind of utility that was previously not needed.” (From the editors’ introduction)

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