This volume is at cross-roads between two research traditions dealing with language change: contact linguistics and language variation and change. It departs from the consideration that linguistic variation is still an opaque area for most contact-induced language change studies. Intending to fill this gap, it offers a rich panorama of case studies and approaches dealing with linguistic variation in contact settings. It concentrates both at monolingual data, tracing variation and contact beneath surface homogeneity and at apparent heterogeneity, such as code-switching, or multilingual data showing variation, and traces their underlying regularities. It shows the relationship between variation and change in language contact settings.

The book will be relevant for students and researchers in contact linguistics, sociolinguistics, language variation and change, sociology of language, descriptive linguistics and linguistic typology.

“The papers collected in this volume fulfill the promise of the outstanding workshop from which they emerged, justifying the excitement generated by the workshop. Integrating the study of linguistic variation with the study of contact-induced language change is an ambitious goal, but it is one that these authors address vigorously, with excellent results. The volume therefore advances the field of contact linguistics significantly.”

Sarah Thomason, University of Michigan

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