
Preface

The following materials represent condensed lecture notes for a course that I developed and taught at The Ohio State University from 1973 to 1984. The course covered most aspects of language contact, including ways in which languages enter into contact; the concept of linguistic affinity (*Sprachbund*); language contact as a cause for linguistic change; results of language contact: pidgins and creoles; methods of comparing linguistic structures; the concept of linguistic interference; the bilingual individual and the bilingual community. Obviously it is not possible to treat each topic in detail in a one-quarter course; but suggestions for additional reading are given after each chapter. The glossary provides definitions of basic concepts, and the bibliography contains additional references. The bibliography is not intended to be exhaustive; I have simply assembled a set of titles, most of which I have used in the preparation of my lectures on language contact. For this presentation in book form, I have updated the bibliography and integrated several new references into the text. I present these lecture notes with the hope that they may be useful for a colleague preparing to teach a course on language contact, perhaps for the first time.

My debt to two linguists who have dealt with language contact in a pioneering fashion is so great that it would constitute a sin of omission if I did not single them out at the beginning of these lecture notes. They are Uriel Weinreich and Einar Haugen. *Sapienti sat*.

