Contents

Acknowledgements

Introduction 1

Section I: Sociolinguistic variation: Usage-based perspectives

Dialect contact in a Southern U.S. city: Testing Trudgill’s model
Robin Dodsworth & Mary Kohn 15

Variation, use and language change: The case of middles
Casilda Garcia de la Maza 35

Pathways to multilingual acquisition in Veneto: A usage-based perspective of code choices in the input and output in a language contact situation
Anna Ghimienton 59

Performing communicative style: Variation of usted/ustedes subjects and cognition in socio-situational interaction
Maria José Serrano & Miguel Ángel Aijón Oliva 73

Certainty and uncertainty in spoken language: In search of epistemic sociolect and idiolect
Vaclav Brezina 97

Section II: Socio-cognitive variation: Perceptions and attitudes

On the dynamics of non-linguists’ dialect perceptions – the perceived spatiality of /s/ variation in Finnish
Johanna Vaattovaara 131

A socio-cognitive approach to evaluative folk metalanguage: The aesthetic value of German and French varieties in Switzerland
Christina Cuonz 161

Madam or aunty ji: Address forms in British and Indian English as a reflection of culture and cognition
Tatiana Larina & Neelakshi Suryanarayan 187

An empirical taxonomy of linguistic identities
Holger Schmitt 215
Comparing objective and subjective linguistic distances between European and Brazilian Portuguese
Augusto Soares da Silva

Section III: Variation in cognitive structures: Categorisation, construal, schema and FIGURE-GROUND alignment

Diglossia or dialect–standard continuum in speakers’ awareness and usage: On the categorisation of lectal variation in Austria
Irmtraud Kaiser & Andrea Ender

“Estuary English”, or “Where does the notion of ‘variety’ start and end?” — A proposal for a prototype approach to language variation
Ulrike Altendorf

Backgrounded but not peripheral. On the use of Danish directional adverbs as contextualization cues
Henrik Hovmark

A sociolinguistic analysis of the German alternation between bis an and bis zu constructions
Sabine De Knop

Degrees of specificity in spatial semantics
Martin Thiering