

# Preface

The notion of indigenisation and its instantiations under different societal conditions have been investigated and labelled variously in the literature on transplanted languages, especially English and French in postcolonial communities. The most recurrent labels include: non-native varieties, L2 varieties, localised varieties, indigenised varieties, and for the English language; new Englishes, postcolonial Englishes, and recently the more encompassing term world Englishes. Although several studies have critiqued the naming tradition behind these labels (e.g. Mufwene 1994: “New Englishes and criteria for naming them” *World Englishes* 13(1): 21–31, Anchimbe 2008: “Giving English-speaking tongues a name” *Issues in Intercultural Communication* 2(1): 29–44), today these varieties and the processes of their emergence and evolution no longer constitute a point of controversy. Rather the approaches and perspectives used to investigate them have expanded and become more sophisticated.

This volume further expands the investigation of processes and instantiations of indigenisation to include sociolinguistic and pragmatic phenomena through perspectives that view indigenisation within the domain of daily social interaction. The book begins with a structural description before introducing aspects of indigenisation in patterns of politeness, respect, compliment response, naming and address forms, linguistic identity construction, and ethnic accents. Focus is on Cameroon and the indigenised varieties of three extensively used languages, namely English, French, and Cameroon Pidgin English (CPE).

The chapters collected here rely on both natural and elicited data in describing the syntactic forms, pronominal usage, pronunciation patterns, and collocational possibilities of Cameroon English (CamE), Cameroon French (CamF), and CPE, along with the socio-pragmatic choices speakers make in interactions in and across these languages. From the findings made in this volume, we can say that a consistent system of social multilingual interaction seems to have emerged being a hybrid of indigenous cultures and patterns and those introduced during colonialism. Within this system, speakers’ multilingual repertoires, ethnic allegiances and stereotypes, language choices, and sociolinguistic identities play substantial roles. The exact extent of each of these factors can only be determined through extensive studies that engage with naturalistic data and corpora. It is, therefore, my wish that more

studies follow this one, with a broader scope that includes phenomena in the indigenous languages and CPE, since most previous research endeavours have focused extensively on English and French.

With this book, we honour the short life of our friend, colleague, and classmate, Yves Talla Sando Ouafeu, who left this world abruptly on 3 January 2011 after a cardiac arrest in his home in Montreal Canada at the age of 36. His chapter in this volume was submitted only a few weeks before his passing on and is published here posthumously. Shortly before this volume was published, our colleague, Charles Belinga B'Eno also passed away. May your souls rest in peace, Yves and Charles!

In preparing this volume, I received assistance from many people. I consulted extensively and benefitted from the input of Augustin Simo Bobda and Loreto Todd; and I am very thankful. I thank Springer's two anonymous reviewers for their valuable comments. The following colleagues and friends also read and commented on various chapters: Sibonile E. Ellece, Bernard Mulo Farenkia, Gilbert Ndi Shang, Uchenna Oyali, and Hector Kamdem. My gratitude also goes to the contributors to this volume for their patience and especially for sharing their invaluable research with us. I wish to thank Jolanda Voogd, Megha Koirala and Helen van der Stelt at Springer for the great support all through the editing and publishing process. Of course, my wife Joyce and our kids, Thalia and Ryan, were always there for me.

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