

Preface

This volume originates from a special session entitled “Prosody and Language in Contact” and organized by Mathieu Avanzi, Guri Bordial and Elisabeth Delais-Roussarie. The session was held during the Speech Prosody 2012 Conference in Shanghai. It differed from most workshops dedicated to research on language in contact by the desire to bring together people working on second language acquisition, language attrition, multilingualism, and prosodic description of varieties of languages spoken in contact situation (e.g. English spoken in Africa, French spoken in Africa, etc.).

Like the special session, the volume tries to gather contributions from a large variety of themes related to language in contact. The leading idea behind this is twofold: (i) giving an overview of research done in the growing field of language in contact; and (ii) showing that methods and research paradigms used in a given thematic area (language acquisition, multilingualism, etc.) may be fruitful for other areas.

To achieve this goal, we decided to open this volume to researchers who were not present in Shanghai, but are recognized in the field. As a consequence, the contributions collected here do not correspond to a selection of papers presented at Shanghai, but should give an idea of the themes developed in this field.

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