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Towards a Critical Sociolinguistics

Edited by Rajendra Singh

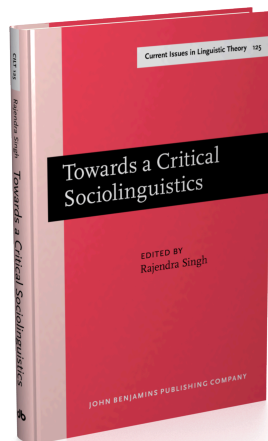
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The only path that is still open is the critical.
Immanuel Kant 1966 [1781]: 543

For Asim, Milan, and Sudesh,
with thanks for having forgiven so much

Preface

Although the influential ways of doing sociolinguistics today may create the impression that it rests on solid grounds, its conceptual and structural foundations have been the subject of debate and reflection for quite some time now. This volume brings together critiques, immanent critiques, and new directions for a new generation of sociolinguists, which, following Fishman (1992) may be characterized as “knowledgeable”. These sociolinguists must transcend correlationism, come to terms with the hidden culturalist, scientific presuppositions of their enterprise, and give birth to a more responsible, critical, and reflexive sociolinguistics. This collection, I am confident, will inspire them to look farther and deeper than they are generally trained to.

Montreal,
December 1994

Rajendra Singh

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