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Explanation and Linguistic Change

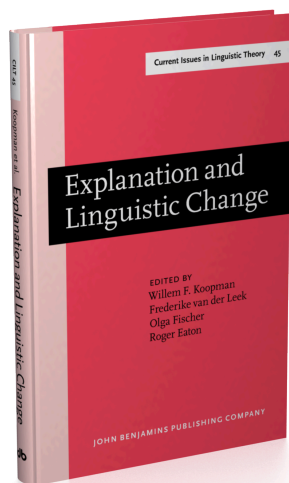
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PREFACE

On April 9 and 10, 1985 a workshop on 'Explanation and Linguistic Change' was held at the University of Amsterdam. Because it took place a few days before the Fourth International Conference on English Historical Linguistics (4ICEHL) we were able to invite Jean Aitchison, William Labov, Frans Plank, M.L. Samuels, Thomas Toon, and Roger Lass as guest speakers. A number of (mainly Dutch) scholars were also invited to participate: Alain Bossuyt, David Denison, Marinel Gerritsen, Richard Hogg, Ans van Kemenade, Geert Koefoed, Ans de Kok, Jaap van Marle, Jan Stroop, Fred Weerman and Wim van der Wurff. The resulting 'mix' produced an animated workshop and proved a happy one, not least when sampling an Indonesian meal one evening.

The papers presented at the workshop with the exception of William Labov's all appear in this volume. We would like to thank Konrad Koerner for accepting this volume for publication; the technical and administrative staff of the English Department for their help, especially Ella Kruzinga for typing the introduction; Doeschka Ferkenius for producing the index; and the publishers, Claire and John Benjamins, for answering our many queries. Finally we are grateful to the Netherlands Organization for the Advancement of Pure Research, Z.W.O., for their financial help towards the organization of the workshop.

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