

Preface

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Multi-Dimensional Analysis, 25 years on: A tribute to Douglas Biber

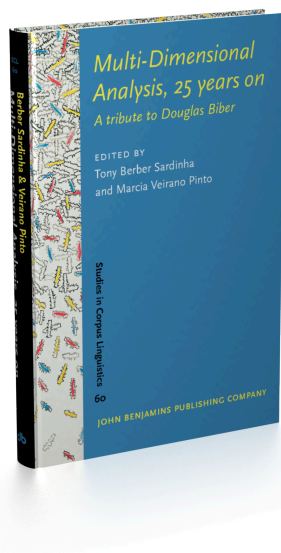
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Preface

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About 25 years ago, Cambridge University Press published Doug Biber's *Variation across Speech and Writing*. In 1988 this was a cutting edge approach to looking at language that coupled computational techniques with linguistic analysis to provide rich descriptions of contextualized language use (registers). Now, a quarter of a century later, many have used this approach to explore and compare, not only contexts of language use, but also to compare across languages (e.g. Somali, Korean).

Multi-Dimensional Analysis, 25 years on: A Tribute to Douglas Biber, reflects some of the many ways that Multi-Dimensional Analysis (MDA) has been used and also how the approach has evolved over the past quarter century. Several chapters use MDA to explore synchronic and diachronic variation across different registers. Two chapters use MDA to explore other languages, Brazilian Portuguese and Spanish. Three chapters address methodological expansions such as adding qualitative techniques to MDA and using different software, such as SPSS for analysis and GIS for plotting regional variation. Learner language is also explored looking at learners writing in both English and Spanish.

The chapters assembled by Berber Sardinha and Veirano Pinto have captured the range of how MDA has been applied and also introduced new applications. This book provides readers with a nice snapshot of the many applications of MDA to explore language.

