

Preface

This book is published almost half a century after Hocking's (1974) highly prescriptive discussion of the grammatical "errors" in the English of East Africans in general and of Kenyans in particular. The present book is much wider in scope: it covers all the main areas of linguistic study, in addition to offering a historical and cultural background to this coverage. Moreover, and more importantly, it views Hocking's "really common errors", which, as stated in his own preface, are "made every day, by many people", as deep-rooted features of Kenyan English that need to be recognised as such.

The book is aimed first of all at the doubters (mostly from Kenya) of the existence of a language variety that can rightly be called Kenyan English. But it is also obviously aimed at the wide network of researchers on second language varieties, especially post-colonial ones, of English around the world. Since they are already "converted" and need not be "preached to", they will find a lot of detail in this book that is likely to inspire their own research.

