

Ein besonderer Dank gilt dem Reihenausgeber Herbert Ernst Wiegand, auf dessen Anregung die konzeptionelle Idee des Handbuches zurückgeht.

*Die Herausgeber*

## Preface

This handbook aims to examine the – rather problematic – relationship between linguistics and cultural studies from both an analytic and a constructive perspective. It does not lay claim to establishing a subdiscipline, a thematic area, or a methodological paradigm in linguistics, but rather seeks to outline the possible contours of a culturally founded linguistics, taking into account the numerous existing approaches as well as the obvious deficits of earlier research. The introduction to this volume will discuss in detail the conceptual foundations of this endeavor.

The genesis of this handbook being unusually long and complex even for an HSK handbook project, we are truly happy to finally see it published, albeit with great delay, and wish to thank the contributing authors and the publisher for their patience. We would like to apologize again to those contributors who submitted their manuscripts early on and who may have lost hope, in the meantime, that this project would ever be completed. In some cases, it was contributors who let us down. In order to avoid further delays, we lastly had to accept a few painful thematic gaps. However, this is not the place and time to discuss the numerous reasons for why this publication got delayed. May the happy ending make up for the difficult and slow process and the hard work invested by all!

The editors are highly grateful for the patience and expertise of all contributors, who were ready not only to get involved in this interdisciplinary handbook endeavor, but also to meet the editors' wishes and suggestions concerning the structure and focus of their articles. For us all, the unexpected and untimely death of Wulf Oesterreicher came as a terrible shock, and although we are glad to be publishing his contribution, we regret that he was unable to complete the proof corrections himself.

We also wish to thank De Gruyter publishers, above all Barbara Karlson, for her professional, competent, insightful, flexible, patient, and highly cooperative steering of this project. From beginning to end and throughout all phases of this endeavor, she provided valuable feedback and support. We are also grateful to Birgit Sievert, and not least to Wolfgang Konwitschny, who competently accompanied this volume in the final stages of production, as well as to the typesetters who worked very reliably and did a great job. We are deeply indebted to Dirk Michel (Mannheim), responsible for the copy-editing and the formatting of the manuscript, who did an exceedingly careful job. Robert Koch (Aachen) provided translations and corrected most of the English articles, Norbert Hornung and Michael Mertens (both Aachen) assisted with other editorial tasks.

Finally, a special thanks is owed to Herbert Ernst Wiegand, the HSK series editor, who provided the impulse for the conception of this handbook.

*The editors*