

Preface

When volume 1 of HSK45 on language contact was published in September 2019, we were very much looking forward to a launch event that had been promised to us by the publisher. However, instead of having the pleasure of discussing and praising the high-quality scholarly work reflected in the 63 chapters of volume 1 with a live audience in a nice venue in the first quarter of 2020, we could only observe how a virus took lives, caused social and economic disruption, and changed human interaction patterns all over the world. While we originally planned to start working on volume 2 of the handbook shortly after the launch of volume 1, the turmoil that accompanied the COVID-19 pandemic put the preparation of the second volume of our handbook on hold. We only started working on its basic structure towards the end of 2020, finalized it in August 2021 and sent out the first invitations in September 2021.

Since the volume covers the four corners of the world and we wanted to refrain from copying the tables of contents of other volumes out there (see Chapter 1 for details), it proved to be a challenge to recruit authors for certain chapters. Finding reviewers sometimes proved to be an even greater challenge than it already was in a pre-pandemic world. We would therefore like to express our sincerest gratitude to the following reviewers who helped us out on top of all their (non-)academic duties for no further compensation than a sincere word of thanks:

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<i>William Fierman</i>	<i>Indiana University</i>
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<i>Edward Morgan Cook</i>	<i>Catholic University of America</i>
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<i>Marianne Zappen-Thomson</i>	<i>University of Namibia</i>

Nothing was changed to the review process already in use for volume 1. Each chapter went through a process of double anonymous peer review by individually selected specialists. Our authors received two reviews and a synthesis of those reviews completed with the editors' comments and instructions for revision and/or rewriting. The revised versions were checked against the review summaries by the three editors and a proof-reader with an eye to submitting a third, fully revised version compliant with the Handbook stylesheet. As true sociolinguists at heart, we did decide to embrace the enhanced dimension of variation that personal spelling and punctuation preferences brought to the volume. After a phase of further adjustments and streamlining, these third versions resulted in a coherent and polished submission for the production of galley proofs. The very final phase allowed for some minor final corrections.

Since some of our authors had to revise their writing schedules or decided to withdraw so that we were forced to look for a replacement, the turnover time between the first versions (sent to us in April 2022) and the very final versions (the last revised chapter arrived in March 2024) turned out to be two years, which still is quite reasonable. We would like to thank our contributors for all the time that they generously invested in their chapters, for their constructive attitude and flexibility throughout the process, and

for the heartfelt collegiality that emanated from every single e-mail that we received. A special word of thanks goes to Emily Utz, our proofreader, whose speedy and accurate help has been crucial during the final phase. Helen Bilton did a truly fantastic job as our most favorite indexer, and Birgit Sievert, Barbara Karlson and the other members of the editorial team in Berlin again expert-guided us through the waves of the publication process with plenty of kindness.

Interfering with lots of heavy administrative and other duties the work on this volume has been everything but a walk in the park. Spending hours on decapitalizing parts of bibliographic entries, adding missing first names or changing colons into dots is not exactly our favorite way of spending a Sunday or an evening either. However, the mere fact that the two volumes combined (and the second one even more than the first one) forced us, editors, to step out of our scholarly comfort zones and widened our view on the world (of contact linguistics) even gives luster to the more exasperating aspects of one's life as an editor. Does that mean that we would be in the process of considering preparing a third volume? Not exactly. For now, we're just looking forward to launching volume 2 and to put the spotlight on the authors of volumes 2 and 1 with the help of our publisher. Once that's done, it would be nice to enjoy the rattling of some palm trees surrounded by our families and friends who accompanied and supported us on this editorial journey.

Jeroen, Joe & Wim
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