Contents

Acknowledgments – Vergeltsgott —— VII

List of Tables —— XIII

List of Figures —— XV

List of abbreviations —— XVII

Stylistic Conventions —— XIX

1 Preface —— 1
1.1 Hypotheses and research questions —— **3**
1.2 Structure of the book —— **9**

2 Methodology —— 10
2.1 Research on linguistic variation —— **12**
2.1.1 Dialectology —— **14**
2.1.2 Studies on sociolinguistic variation —— **16**
2.1.3 *Varietätenlinguistik* —— **30**
2.1.4 *Perzeptive Varietätenlinguistik* (PVL) —— **33**
2.2 The benefits of Grounded Theory Methodology for this study —— **46**
2.2.1 Principles of qualitative sociology —— **48**
2.2.2 Principles of GTM —— **49**
2.3 Summary: Towards a Cognitive Variationist theory —— **53**

3 The make-up of Israeli society —— 56
3.1 Israel's population, languages and cultures —— **57**
3.1.1 Zionism, the Jewish State and the Law of Return —— **60**
3.1.2 Immigration to Israel —— **63**
3.1.3 Of *Ashkenazim*, *Mizrahim*, Arabs and others —— **65**
3.1.4 Religious categorization in the Israeli context —— **72**
3.1.5 Human geography —— **77**
3.2 Modern Hebrew —— **79**
3.2.1 The institutionalization of MH as Israel's national language —— **80**
3.2.2 Studies on Linguistic Variation in Israel —— **84**

4 Data collection — 91
4.1 Approaching the field and research topic — **91**
4.1.1 Principles for sample generation — **94**
4.1.2 Ethical considerations — **97**
4.2 Methods for the collection of data — **104**
4.2.1 Consent form and socio-demographic questionnaire — **105**
4.2.2 Access to the field and sample composition — **108**
4.2.3 Open interviews — **127**
4.2.4 Expert interviews — **131**
4.2.5 Guided interviews — **132**
4.2.6 Social Group Elicitation and Rating Task — **134**
4.3 Organization of the data collection into corpora — **146**
4.4 Summary and evaluation of the methods — **147**

5 Analysing GERT data — 148
5.1 Hermeneutic considerations for analysis — **149**
5.2 Determining the relevance of categories — **152**
5.3 The nature of categories and levels of categorization — **153**
5.4 Summary and explication of the data — **157**
5.4.1 Defining units and types of data — **157**
5.4.2 Translation and simplification of entries — **160**
5.4.3 Recurrent categories — **164**
5.4.4 Foreign-induced entries and single mentions — **167**
5.5 Ratings of ‘status’ and ‘correct Hebrew’ — **168**
5.5.1 Classification of the entries and summary of the ratings — **169**
5.5.2 Comparing categories and rating variables — **172**
5.6 Typical GERT participants — **173**

6 Discussing core categories — 175
6.1 Thoughts on formation and use of the categories — **177**
6.2 Notions of correct Hebrew, standard Hebrew and slang — **182**
6.2.1 Indexical variants — **189**
6.2.2 Explicit norms for MH and the Hebrew Academy — **194**
6.2.3 Common attitudes — **201**
6.3 *Ashkenazim* and the Jewish elite — **213**
6.4 *Mizrahim* and the periphery — **219**
6.4.1 Accounts from Yeruham — **220**
6.4.2 Attitudes and *Mizrahi* variants — **224**
6.5 Russians, Ethiopians, new immigrants and the army — **231**
6.6 Israeli Arabs — **239**

6.6.1 Variation in MH according to the Arab participants — **241**
6.6.2 Attitudes towards MH and Arabic — **245**
6.7 *Haredim*, religious Jews and *datlashim* — **249**
6.7.1 Are there indexical *Haredi* variants? — **251**
6.7.2 Attitudes among and towards *Haredim* — **258**

7 Conclusion — 267
7.1 Methodological aspects — **267**
7.2 Representations of linguistic variation in MH and lines for further research — **270**

A Biographical account of the researcher — 273

B Consent form and questionnaire — 274

C Guideline for open interviews — 275

D Questionnaire for guided interviews — 283

Bibliography — 285

Index — 297