

Preface

This book grew out of a paper entitled 'Toward an Adequate Definition of Creolization', which we presented at the 1975 International Conference on Pidgins and Creoles in Honolulu. The main text of that paper—forty-one pages in all—functioned, in effect, as an outline for the book. The remainder of the paper consisted of several case studies; two of these, extensively revised, appear here in chapter 9 (9.2 and 9.8).

Each of us wrote about half of the original paper: the introductory section, laying out the basic theoretical framework, was a joint effort; Kaufman wrote the sections on borrowing and retrospection; and Thomason wrote the sections on language shift and pidgins. Since 1975 Kaufman's research on other topics has kept him fully occupied, so Thomason is responsible for the present form of chapters 1–8 of this book (though we have, of course, discussed the theoretical issues together). The only part of the main body of the book that was not prefigured in the 1975 paper is chapter 2. The discussions in chapters 1.2, 4, and 8 still reflect Kaufman's original formulation; sizable portions of chapters 1.2 and 8 still stand as written by him. We each wrote parts of chapter 9. Kaufman wrote the most substantial section, on French and Norse interference in English (9.8), and Thomason wrote the other case studies. Finally, we have revised each other's sections as needed.

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Sarah G. Thomason
Terrence Kaufman

