

Acknowledgements

Many people have supported me in writing this book and I would like to acknowledge my debt of gratitude to them. In particular I thank Colin Baker who has been the most supportive and encouraging of editors. I am also grateful to Tommi Grover and Multilingual Matters who have been steadfast publishers.

I am grateful to my colleagues in the School of Education at the University of Birmingham who awarded me sabbatical leave to begin writing this text. I am also indebted to my colleagues in the Centre of Socio-Cultural and Activity Theory in the School of Education which offered a forum for enquiry, discussion and empirical research in socio-cultural and Vygotskian thinking. Together with my colleagues on the ESRC TLRP funded research project, Learning in and for Interagency Work, they enabled me to develop my understanding of language and learning, although they may not recognise their contribution here.

This book would not have been written without the inspiration, confidence and support of my friends and family. I am most grateful.

