



## Metrolingualism: Language in the City

By Alastair Pennycook, Emi Otsuji

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**Metrolingualism: Language in the City** By Alastair Pennycook, Emi Otsuji

This book is about language and the city. Pennycook and Otsuji introduce the notion of 'metrolingualism', showing how language and the city are deeply involved in a perpetual exchange between people, history, migration, architecture, urban landscapes and linguistic resources. Cities and languages are in constant change, as new speakers with new repertoires come into contact as a result of globalization and the increased mobility of people and languages.

*Metrolingualism* sheds light on the ordinariness of linguistic diversity as people go about their daily lives, getting things done, eating and drinking, buying and selling, talking and joking, drawing on whatever linguistic resources are available. Engaging with current debates about multilingualism, and developing a new way of thinking about language, the authors explore language within a number of contemporary urban situations, including cafés, restaurants, shops, streets, construction sites and other places of work, in two diverse cities, Sydney and Tokyo. This is an invaluable look at how people of different backgrounds get by linguistically.

Metrolingualism: Language in the city will be of special interest to advanced undergraduate/postgraduate students and researchers of sociolinguistics and applied linguistics.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"The authors end their exploratory journey into the variegated world of urban space with a discussion of some policy and pedagogical implications of their findings and a reflection on how the themes addressed in their book emerged from the research process and the writing and re-writing, the shaping and re-shaping of a text that, in my view, makes for fascinating reading." - *Translation and Translanguaging in Multilingual Contexts* 1:2 (2015)

"Alastair Pennycook and Emi Otsuji have produced a compelling and sophisticated account of everyday metrolingualism in action. This immensely readable book is crammed with examples which demonstrate how people communicate in increasingly diverse urban settings. *Metrolingualism* must be read by anyone who is interested in how we communicate in our changing towns and cities." Adrian Blackledge, *University of Birmingham, UK*

"The notion of Metrolingualism vividly captures the dynamic communicative practices in late modernity. In this new book, Pennycook and Otsuji further theorize the concept and enhance it with rich, everyday examples from diverse settings, making it ever more relevant to our understanding of the sociolinguistics of contemporary urban life. It is a landmark publication and will be read by a wide spectrum of researchers for many years to come." Li Wei, *UCL Institute of Education, UK*

"*Metrolingualism* is among the most provocative and intelligent books on multilingualism we will encounter for many years and will appeal to a wide range of readers interested in the study of language in all its aspects." Jerry Won Lee, *Asian Englishes*

"A fascinating and important book about the interrelationship between people, mobility, language and urban space." Janus Møller, *Journal of Sociolinguistics*

#### About the Author

**Alastair Pennycook** is Professor of Language in Education at the University of Technology Sydney. He is the author of many titles, including *Language as a Local Practice* (2010) and *Global Englishes and Transcultural Flows* (2007).

**Emi Otsuji** is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Technology Sydney. She is the co-editor of the book *Languages and Identities in a Transitional Japan: From Internationalization to Globalization* (2015) and the Japanese editor for *The Japan Journal of Multilingualism and Multiculturalism*.

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