Acknowledgments

In the last ten years, I have been hosting or participating in many collaborative academic projects, especially the *Green Paper on Language Life in China* published every year. I have worked on it for eight years, so much so that I have had no time to pay attention to my personal work – not even to think about it.

Three years ago, one of my old friends, Prof. Li Wei, who is the Vice-President of Birkbeck, University of London, Dean of the Birkbeck Graduate School, and Fellow of the British Academy, emailed me. He told me that he was helping the German publisher De Gruyter to compile a series of books, and he invited me to write a book in English on language policy and language use concerning ethnic minorities in China. This suggestion came as a surprise. I thought about it carefully. It was really worth doing. Then I started initial work on the manuscript.

Song Yuehua, a teacher from the Social Sciences Academic Press, had worked with me for a period. At the beginning of 2012, she came to our institute to give us information on applying to various social scientific publication funds. She advised me to apply to the Social Sciences Academic Press for funding from the China Classics International Publishing Project. I did so, and it was a big surprise to me that my application was approved. Funding was now guaranteed for the English translation of the manuscript. After that, the Social Sciences Academic Press suggested that I apply to the CASS Philosophical and Social Sciences Innovation Project. This application was also successful, so the publication of the Chinese text was guaranteed funding.

Chen Zhangtai, who is the former Executive Vice-Dean of the State Language Affairs Commission and a research fellow of the Institute of Applied Linguistics at the Ministry of Education, and Li Yuming, who is the former Vice-Dean of the State Language Affairs Commission and a professor at Beijing Language and Culture University, took time out of their busy schedules to write prefaces to this book. My book became much better due to their expert, comprehensive, and profound comments.

Prof. Li Wei provided valuable ideas and suggestions on how to compile and choose chapters and sections. Moreover, he wrote a preface for this book.

Mr. Liu Dan, from the Social Sciences Academic Press, read through the whole manuscript and provided many very constructive and valuable suggestions. He made great efforts in editing and publishing the book.

The book *Yuyan Shenghuo yu Yuyan Zhengce: Zhongguo Shaoshu Minzu Yanjiu* (Language Life and Language Policies: Studies on Ethnic groups Minorities in China) was published in 2015. This book is a translated English version of the
book, but cut some chapters from the Chinese version. The contents and the framework of the book are almost the same as the Chinese version.

The overwhelming bulk of the translation was done by Zheng Wuxi, from the School of Chinese Language and Literature at South China Normal University.

Without the good opportunities, suggestions, and assistance provided to me by the above-mentioned teachers and friends, it would have been impossible for me to publish the book now. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the above-mentioned people, the China Classics funding scheme, and the Innovation Project publishing fund of CASS.

Due to limited time and personal fallibility, mistakes in the book are unavoidable. Comments are welcome.