Foreword

It is an honor and a great pleasure to be given the opportunity to preface this volume, which offers a representative range of research evidencing The Linguistic Heritage of Colonial Practice via the prism of Colonial and Postcolonial Linguistics. The original workshop which formed the inspiration for the majority of the current contributions was gladly hosted by the Department of English, Alpen-Adria University Klagenfurt and served as an acknowledgment of the relevant research interests institutionally present in these fields. As well as possessing expertise in the literatures of the former settler colonies of Australia and Canada, the Department has also promoted internationally valued research into the linguistics of historically restructured Englishes (e.g. of Cameroon, Jamaica), hybrid Englishes (e.g. of India) and indigenously lexified Englishes (e.g. New Zealand) – all sociocultural and sociopolitical legacies of British colonialism overseas. With regard to the not uncontroversially labeled ‘internal colonialism’ within the British Isles themselves, referring to the increasing English political hegemony over ‘the Celtic nations’ dating from the 13th century onwards, the Department has been responsible too for considerable research on the linguistic consequences of the historical domination of England over Wales. Indeed, topics addressed in the present volume – toponomastics, language classifications, language contact/diglossia, the effects of local infrastructure development, (historical) lexicography and obsolescence/revitalization scenarios – can all be pinpointed as significant factors in a mapping of the linguistic heritage of British/English colonial practice in much the same way. By its good example, it is to be expected that the present volume will serve to focus and galvanize further international and co-disciplinary research on these and related areas of interest in the field of Colonial and Postcolonial Linguistics.

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