

HILDEGARD L.C. TRISTRAM, ed. *The Celtic Englishes II. (Anglistische Forschungen 286)*. Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag C. Winter, 2000. ix + 478 pp. € 50,00. ISBN 3-8253-0925-8.

The linguistic and other cultural contacts between English and Celtic languages have recently become again a focus of research, after relative neglect over many generations. The editor has been prominent in this revival as is amply testified not only by her teaching and publications but also by the two international conferences devoted to the topic. The proceedings of the first, published as Tristram (1997, AF 247), are now followed by those of the second conference of 1998, the volume under review. The range of the 22 contributions shows the diversity of ongoing research – which is remarkable considering the relatively small number of anglicists that have a working knowledge in any of the Celtic languages.

Tristram's introduction summarizes the main topics of the conference (1–8). Carroll's "Language contact from a developmental perspective" (9–17) is a succinct survey and helpful for general aspects – in so far as contact phenomena are all historically unique. Sabban, who wrote the still unsurpassed account of Island English, describing features of ESL on the Hebridean Islands, here looks at modern definitions of 'diglossia' (18–39), discussing both Celtic and Continental setups. Sand's question "Can the study of Celtic Englishes benefit from post-colonial theory?" (40–55) is rightly answered in the negative by herself. Fritz's paper on "The Irish in Australia. Aspects of linguistic accommodation" (57–74) builds a comprehensive linguistic theory on minimal data, *viz.* divergences found in 474 emigrant letters, but then fails to complement the meagre evidence by the sociohistorical background (the excellent account of Irish immigration by Jupp 1988 is not mentioned, though the book was pointed out at the conference). Corrigan, *the* specialist on the English of South Armagh, the province bordering on the Republic, summarizes the research on "subordinating *and*" and interprets her local data, making a convincing case for loan syntax based on Irish *agus* (75–96). Hickey again tackles a favorite field of scholarly discussion, with his "Models for describing aspect in Irish English" (97–116); he concentrates on the "immediate perfective", suggesting