

# Contents

<b>Preface</b>	vii
SECTION I	I
<b>Survey</b>	
<b>1 Language change as a matter of fact</b>	3
Attitudes to language change	6
Language state and process	8
The aims and scope of historical linguistics	9
<b>2 Reconstructing the past: data and evidence</b>	11
The data of historical linguistics	11
The written evidence	12
Sources of evidence	13
Comparing and reconstructing languages	15
Correspondences between languages	17
Laws of change	20
Internal reconstruction	22
<b>3 Vocabulary change</b>	25
Coining new words	26
Changes of meaning	29
Why do word meanings change?	32
<b>4 Grammatical change</b>	35
Morphological change	35
Syntactic change	39
<b>5 Sound change</b>	45
How sounds are produced	45
Phonetic change	46
Phonemic change	50

<b>6</b>	<b>Language contact</b>	55
	Borrowing from other languages	55
	Convergence and linguistic areas	58
	Language birth: pidgins and creoles	59
	Language death	62
<b>7</b>	<b>How and why do languages change?</b>	67
	Functional explanations	68
	Psycholinguistic explanations: language acquisition	70
	Sociolinguistic explanations	71
	The origin and spread of changes	76
<b>8</b>	<b>Postscript: further developments</b>	81
	Socio-historical linguistics and historical pragmatics	81
	Evolutionary linguistics	82
	Standardization and language planning	83
	Conclusion	85
	SECTION 2	
	<b>Readings</b>	87
	SECTION 3	
	<b>References</b>	115
	SECTION 4	
	<b>Glossary</b>	123