Contents

Preface	VII
SECTION I Survey	1
Language change as a matter of fact	3
	6
	8
The aims and scope of historical linguistics	9
Reconstructing the past: data and evidence	11
The data of historical linguistics	11
The written evidence	12
Sources of evidence	14
Comparing and reconstructing languages	15
Correspondences between languages	17
Laws of change	20
Internal reconstruction	22
Vocabulary change	25
	26
Changes of meaning	. 29
Why do word meanings change?	32
Grammatical change	35
-	35
Syntactic change	39
Sound change	45
	45
~	46
Phonemic change	50
	Language change as a matter of fact Attitudes to language change Language state and process The aims and scope of historical linguistics Reconstructing the past: data and evidence The data of historical linguistics The written evidence Sources of evidence Comparing and reconstructing languages Correspondences between languages Laws of change Internal reconstruction Vocabulary change Coining new words Changes of meaning Why do word meanings change? Grammatical change Morphological change Syntactic change How sounds are produced Phonetic change

6	Language contact	55
_	Borrowing from other languages	55
	Convergence and linguistic areas	58
	Language birth: pidgins and creoles	59
	Language death	62
7	How and why do languages change?	67
	Functional explanations	68
	Psycholinguistic explanations: language acquisition	70
	Sociolinguistic explanations	71
	The origin and spread of changes	76
8	Postscript: further developments	81
	Socio-historical linguistics and historical pragmatics	81
	Evolutionary linguistics	82
	Standardization and language planning	83
	Conclusion	85
	SECTION 2	0.77
	Readings	87
	SECTION 3	446
	References	115
	SECTION 4	400
	Glossary	123