## **CONTENTS**

| List of Figures   | vi  |
|---|-----|
| List of Tables  | vii |
| Preface   | xi  |
| Chapter 1: A Sociolinguistic Study of the Outer Banks     |     |
| 1.0. Introduction   | 1   |
| 1.1. The Outer Banks Dialect                              | 2   |
| 1.2. Field Methods  | 5   |
| 1.2.1. Speaker Samples                                    | 7   |
| 1.2.2. Critical Social Factors                            |     |
| 1.3. The Ocracoke Study                                   | 10  |
| 1.4. The Harkers Island Study                             |     |
| 1.5. Data Analysis  |     |
| 1.6. Instrumental Analysis of Vowels                      |     |
| 1.7. The North Carolina Language and Life Project         |     |
| Chapter 2: The Sociohistorical Context of the Outer Banks |     |
| 2.0. Introduction   | 18  |
| 2.1. The Origins of Outer Banks English                   | 18  |
| 2.2. The Historical Context of Ocracoke                   |     |
| 2.3. The Historical Context of Harkers Island             |     |
| 2.4. Conclusion   |     |
| Chapter 3: A Profile of Outer Banks English               |     |
| 3.0. Introduction   | 32  |
| 3.1. The Lexical Affinity of Outer Banks English          |     |
| 3.2. The Phonological Status of Outer Banks English       |     |
| 3.2.1. Comparing Outer Banks English to Other             |     |
| American English Dialects                                 | 38  |
| 3.2.2. The Outer Banks English-British English            |     |
| Connection  | 40  |
| 3.2.3. The Alignment of Outer Banks /aj/ and /aw/         |     |
| 3.2.4. Other Pronunciation Comparisons                    | 42  |
| 3.3. The Grammatical Status of Outer Banks English        |     |

| 3.4. Generational Changes in Outer Banks English          | 49    |
|---|-------|
| 3.5. Sex as a Factor in Outer Banks English               | 51    |
| 3.6. Conclusion   | 54    |
| Chapter 4: Subject-Verb Concord in Outer Banks English    |       |
| 4.0. Introduction   | 56    |
|   | . 50  |
| 4.1. The Historical Development of the Outer Banks        | 56    |
| English Subject-Verb Concord System                       |       |
| 4.1.1. Subject Type in Scots English                      |       |
| 4.1.2. Verb Type  | . 99  |
| 4.2. Subject-Verb Concord Patterns in Ocracoke English    |       |
| 4.2.1. Internal Constraints on Variability                |       |
| 4.2.2. External Constraints on Variability                | . 65  |
| 4.3. Dialect Affinity and Subject-Verb Concord: Outer     | a=    |
| Banks and Appalachian English                             |       |
| 4.3.1. Structural Similarities and Differences            |       |
| 4.3.2. Comparison of Change and Maintenance               |       |
| 4.4. Conclusion   | 74    |
| Chapter 5: Weren't Regularization: An Alternative Concord |       |
| Pattern   |       |
| 5.0. Variation in Finite be                               | 75    |
| 5.1. The Patterning of weren't Regularization             |       |
| 5.1.1. Variation in Leveling                              |       |
| 5.1.2. Leveling in Apparent Time                          |       |
| 5.2. Levels of Explanation                                |       |
| 5.2.1. Functional Considerations                          |       |
| 5.2.2. The Interaction of Leveling, Resistance to         | 03    |
| Leveling, and Remorphologization                          | 09    |
| 5.2.3. Phonological Explanations                          |       |
| 5.2.4. The Sociolinguistic Significance of Leveling       | 90    |
| to weren't  | 07    |
| 5.3. Conclusion   | 97    |
|   |       |
| Chapter 6: The Shifting Status of Outer Banks /aj/        | . 104 |
| 6.0. Introduction   | 104   |
| 6.1. The Variable Patterning of /ai/ in Ocracoke          | 106   |
| 6.2. The Encroachment of Southern [ar]                    | 113   |
|   |       |

| 6.3. Explaining Phonetically Implausible Constraint         |
|---|
| Hierarchies116  |
| Chapter 7: Mixing Outer Banks and Southern /ɔ/              |
| 7.0. Introduction   |
| 7.1. The Phonetic Status of Traditional /ɔ/                 |
| 7.2. Assessing Outer Banks /ɔ/                              |
| 7.3. Variation and Change in /ɔ/ Production                 |
| 7.4. Conclusion   |
| Chapter 8: Isolation within Isolation: An Ethnolinguistic   |
| Boundary on the Outer Banks                                 |
| 8.0. Introduction   |
| 8.1. A Dialect Profile of Muzel Bryant147                   |
| 8.1.1. Phonological Comparison                              |
| 8.1.1.1. Word-Final Cluster Reduction149                    |
| 8.1.1.2. Postvocalic /r/ Vocalization 151                   |
| 8.1.1.3. The /aj/ Vowel152                                  |
| 8.1.1.4. Further Phonological Evidence 155                  |
| 8.1.2. Morphosyntactic Diversity                            |
| 8.1.2.1. Copula Absence                                     |
| 8.1.2.2. Subject-Verb Concord159                            |
| 8.1.2.3. Plural Absence                                     |
| 8.1.2.4. Further Grammatical Observations 164               |
| 8.2. On the Significance of Muzel Bryant's Dialect          |
| Alliance166   |
| Chapter 9: Dialect Awareness and the Community: A Proactive |
| Program   |
| 9.0. Social Responsibility and Endangered Dialects          |
| 9.1. A Dialect Preservation Program174                      |
| 9.2. Dialect Awareness in the Schools                       |
| 9.2.1. Illustrative Educational Activity                    |
| 9.3. Venues for Dissemination                               |
| Appendix: Ocracoke Interview Questionnaire                  |
| References  |
| Index   |