

Contents

- Abbreviations, xi
- Introduction: A Language Still Becoming, 3
- Prologue: 1776, 19
- 1 Founding Fathers and the Legacies of Language, 29
The British Inheritance, 32
The Debate in America, 40
- 2 Noah Webster, 52
The Spoken and the Written, 56
Federalism and the Common Man, 63
Horne Tooke and the Saxon Yoke, 81
- 3 The Liberties of Literature, 1776–1810, 91
Poetry and Patriotism, 92
Prose Fiction and the Dialect Tradition, 101
The Exposition of Lewis and Clark, 118
- 4 1812 Overtures and Jacksonian Operas, 122
Patriotic Irony: James Kirke Paulding, 122
Democracy and Eloquence, 131
Versions of the “Common” Language, 139

- 5 The Languages of Cooper's Novels, 149
 Cooper on the State of the Language, 149
 The Language of the Leatherstocking, 156
 Cooper's Other Languages, 183
- 6 Silence and Poetry: The Language of the Native American, 202
- 7 The Soul of Language: The Transcendentalist Alternative, 230
- Notes, 261
- Bibliography, 273
- Index, 295