

Preface

This book and its companion volume *An Introduction to Linguistics for Australian Students of German, part II* were written to meet a need. There are introductions to linguistics for Australian students available, but they are based on English. There are introductions to linguistics for students of German, but they are usually written for native speakers of German. There are some introductions to German linguistics written especially for speakers of English, but they are written for speakers of other national varieties of English, to which Australian students find it difficult to relate. As far as the grammatical system of English is concerned, English is English (more or less) worldwide. The major perceived differences among national varieties of English are in pronunciation - in the sound systems of the different varieties. There is a need for Australian students to be told how *their* English compares with German.

Part I (this volume) deals with basic communication via language, with language and society in the German-speaking countries and with the phonetics of north German speech. Part II deals with more theoretical issues such as the sound system of German, the grammatical system and the history of the language.

I owe a great debt to William G. Moulton (1907- 2000), who was Professor of German and Linguistics at Princeton University and was my teacher and advisor for many years as well as my *Doktorvater*. For many of my examples and for some of my argumentation I have relied on his seminal 1962 work *The Sounds of English and German*. I have tried to acknowledge my indebtedness wherever possible, but there are doubtless concepts and notions in the book which came from him which remain unacknowledged. He had the knack of making us think we were discovering things for ourselves when he was actually guiding us every step of the way.

This book was printed on an HP LaserJet II printer using Adobe fonts. Esprit-Book is used for the regular text and Stone Serif Phonetic for the IPA transcription.

I would like to thank the various publishing companies for kindly allowing me to reproduce the maps and other illustrations used in this work.

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