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Identifying and Interpreting Variables Introduction; The Linguistic Variable; The Social Variable; The First Stage: Identifying Potential Variables; The Extraction Process; Manipulating Linguistic Variables; Note; References; The quantitative analysis of linguistic variation; 1. Quantitative methods and dialect research; 2. Three steps in quantitative analysis; 3. Data collection: Sampling and reliability.; 4. Approaches to reduction and display.; 5. Approaches to interpretation.; 6. Variable rule analysis; References; III. Group Studies; Variation theory and language contact: 1.0. Introduction 2.0. Variation Theory; 3.0. Concepts in Language Contact; 4.0. Methods; 5.0. Data Manipulation; 6.0. Discussion; Notes; References; A Perspective on African-American English; 1.0. Introduction; 2.0. Why Divergence is Controversial; 3.0. An Approach to BE; 4.0. Results; 5.0. Conclusion; Notes; References; Professional Varieties: The Case of Language and Law; A Personal Preface; Language Varies -- But So What?; Studying the Consequences of Language Variation in Legal Contexts; The Nature of Legal Language; Getting Started; More Recent Concerns

Law and Language Studies More Generally Special Issues in the Study of Law and Language; Other Professional Contexts; Notes; References; IV. Special Topics; Folk Dialectology; 1. Draw a Map; 2. Area Ratings; 3. Area differences; 4. Area identification; 5. Interviews; 6. Conclusion; Notes; References; The Patterning of Variation in Performance; 1. Introduction; 2. Investigating Warao performance; 3. Genre and variation; 4. The metapragmatic encompassment of genre; 5 Conclusion: poetics and the dynamic character of language; Notes; References; Appendix: Resources for Research

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Sommario/riassunto

Containing all new material and published for the American Dialect Society's centennial celebration (1889-1989), this volume brings together in one place, as no previously published work has, current approaches to the general problems of language distribution and variation. The several chapters offer accounts of how questions are formulated and how data are collected, stored, and interpreted in the various research traditions of dialectology and sociolinguistics, particularly as they have been carried out by researchers associated with the American Dialect Society. More specifically, this book
