

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910463861603321
Autore	Leitner Gerhard <1944->
Titolo	Australia's many voices : Australian English--the national language / / by Gerhard Leitner
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin ; ; New York : , : Mouton de Gruyter, , [2004] ©2004
ISBN	3-11-090487-X
Edizione	[Reprint 2013]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (410 pages) : illustrations, map
Collana	Contributions to the Sociology of Language [CSL] ; ; 90
Disciplina	420/.994
Soggetti	Australianisms English language - Dialects - Australia English language - Social aspects - Australia English language - Variation - Australia English language - Australia Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages [347]-381) and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Acknowledgements -- Table of Contents -- List of illustrations -- Notational conventions -- Introduction -- Chapter 1: Australia's language habitat -- Chapter 2: The demography of Australia's language habitat -- Chapter 3: Australian English: The national language -- Chapter 4: An epi-centre in the Asia-Pacific region -- References -- Name Index -- Subject Index
Sommario/riassunto	Australia's English raises many questions among experts and the general public. What is it like? How has English changed by being transplanted to other parts of the world? Does the rise of AusE and other varieties endanger the role of English as a world language? Past studies have often been selective, focusing on the esoteric and non- typical, and ignoring the contact situation in which Australian English has developed. This book and its companion, Australia's Many Voices. Ethnic Englishes, Indigenous and Migrant Languages. Policy and Education, develop and apply a comprehensive and integrative approach that anchors English in the entire 'habitat' of Australia's languages that it both upset and transformed. Based on a wide range of

data and on the assumption that all manifestations of Australian English must cohere as a system, this book retraces the social, psycholinguistic and linguistic history of the language. It locates the contact with indigenous and migrant languages and with American English in the appropriate sociohistorical context and shows how several layers of migration have shaped it. As it stratified, it was gradually accepted and developed into a fully-fledged national variety or epicentre of English that could be raised to the status of national language. Implications on educational policy and attempts to reach out into the Asia-Pacific region have followed logically from national status. The study is of interest for specialists of English and Australian Studies as well as a range of other disciplines. Its discursive, non-technical style and presentation makes it accessible to non-specialists with no background in linguistics.

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