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further insights -- A new approach -- Introductory remarks -- The dimensions of a typological model -- Concluding comments -- Irish -- Introductory note -- A brief historical introduction -- Irish revival efforts -- The Gaeltacht -- Irish and education -- Official and unofficial support for Irish -- Current trends and research findings -- Conclusion -- Gaelic in Scotland -- Introductory note -- A brief historical introduction -- Gaelic in education -- The clearances -- Modern times. Gaelic: Numbers and use -- Media -- Formal support -- Attitudes to Gaelic -- Gaelic in education today -- Gaelic in Nova Scotia -- Introductory note -- A brief historical introduction -- Modern census figures -- Education -- The Gaelic language - and Scottish culture - in Nova Scotia today -- Gaelic revivalism -- Research findings -- Esperanto -- Introductory note -- A brief historical introduction -- Before Esperanto -- The birth of Esperanto -- The scope of Esperanto -- Popular perceptions of Esperanto -- Scholarly objections and rebuttals -- Research findings -- A future prospect -- Epilogue -- References -- Index.

Sommario/riassunto

The central concern in this book is the relationship between language and group identity, a relationship that is thrown into greatest relief in 'minority' settings. Since much of the current interest in minority languages revolves around issues of identity politics, language rights and the plight of 'endangered' languages, one aim of the book is to summarise and analyse these and other pivotal themes. Furthermore, since the uniqueness of every language-contact situation does not rest upon unique elements or features - but, rather, upon the particular weightings and combinations of features that recur across settings - the second aim here is to provide a general descriptive framework within which a wide range of contact settings may be more easily understood. The book thus begins with a discussion of such matters as language decline, maintenance and revival, the dynamics of minority languages, and the ecology of language. It then offers a typological framework that draws and expands upon previous categorising efforts. Finally, the book presents four case studies that are both intrinsically interesting and - more importantly - provide specific illustrations of the generalities discussed earlier.
