The concern of the present book is to look at language change from a number of perspectives and thus illuminate the many motives which can be posited for it. A range of international scholars in some 15 chapters look at different types of internally and externally motivated change and consider explanations hitherto offered in the literature and discuss new proposals of their own. The discussions are not bound to any one model of language and seek to cover the subject as a whole, bearing in mind its relevance for the general analysis of language and for the construction of linguistic theories.

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