

Language Myths

Edited by
Laurie Bauer & Peter Trudgill

 'Essential reading for anyone concerned with the
nature of language' DAVID CRYSTAL

Contents

	<i>A Note on the Contributors</i>	vii
	<i>Introduction</i>	xv
MYTH 1	<i>The Meanings of Words Should Not be Allowed to Vary or Change</i> Peter Trudgill	1
MYTH 2	<i>Some Languages are Just Not Good Enough</i> Ray Harlow	9
MYTH 3	<i>The Media are Ruining English</i> Jean Aitchison	15
MYTH 4	<i>French is a Logical Language</i> Anthony Lodge	23
MYTH 5	<i>English Spelling is Kattastroffik</i> Edward Carney	32
MYTH 6	<i>Women Talk Too Much</i> Janet Holmes	41
MYTH 7	<i>Some Languages are Harder than Others</i> Lars-Gunnar Andersson	50
MYTH 8	<i>Children Can't Speak or Write Properly Any More</i> James Milroy	58
MYTH 9	<i>In the Appalachians They Speak like Shakespeare</i> Michael Montgomery	66
MYTH 10	<i>Some Languages Have No Grammar</i> Winifred Bauer	77

Contents

MYTH 11	<i>Italian is Beautiful, German is Ugly</i> Howard Giles and Nancy Niedzielski	85
MYTH 12	<i>Bad Grammar is Slovenly</i> Lesley Milroy	94
MYTH 13	<i>Black Children are Verbally Deprived</i> Walt Wolfram	103
MYTH 14	<i>Double Negatives are Illogical</i> Jenny Cheshire	113
MYTH 15	<i>TV Makes People Sound the Same</i> J. K. Chambers	123
MYTH 16	<i>You Shouldn't Say 'It is Me' because 'Me' is Accusative</i> Laurie Bauer	132
MYTH 17	<i>They Speak Really Bad English Down South and in New York City</i> Dennis R. Preston	139
MYTH 18	<i>Some Languages are Spoken More Quickly than Others</i> Peter Roach	150
MYTH 19	<i>Aborigines Speak a Primitive Language</i> Nicholas Evans	159
MYTH 20	<i>Everyone Has an Accent Except Me</i> John H. Esling	169
MYTH 21	<i>America is Ruining the English Language</i> John Algeo	176
	<i>Index</i>	183