DESCRIPTION

This book develops the general principles of linguistic change that form the foundations of historical linguistics, dialectology and sociolinguistics.

• Demonstrates the social as well as cognitive relevance of linguistic research

• Shows that rapid linguistic change is in progress in the cities of America and England so that urban dialects are becoming more and more differentiated

• Discusses factors that govern the internal development of linguistic structures: the mechanisms of change, the constraints on change, and the ways in which change is embedded in the larger linguistic system

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