The revised edition of *Sociolinguistic Theory* presents a critical synthesis of sociolinguistics, centering on the study of language variation and change.

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- Shows how empirical explorations have made sociolinguistics the most stimulating field in the contemporary study of language

- Discusses the linguistic variable and its significance, crucial social variables such as social stratification, sex,
and age, and the cultural significance of linguistic variation

-about the author

J. K. Chambers is Professor of Linguistics at the University of Toronto. He is co-editor of *The Handbook of Language Variation and Change* (with Peter Trudgill and Natalie Schilling-Estes, Wiley-Blackwell, 2002), co-author (with Peter Trudgill) of *Dialectology* (2nd edition, 1998), and also author of other books and scores of articles. He works extensively as a forensic consultant, and maintains a parallel vocation in jazz criticism, including the prizewinning biography *Milestones: The Music and Times of Miles Davis* (1998).

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