Preface xi
Acknowledgments xiv

Part I General issues in ethnicity and language

1 What is ethnicity? 3
   1.1 Areas of agreement about ethnicity 4
   1.2 Possible definitions of ethnicity 8
   1.3 Possible definitions of race 9
      Discussion questions 17
      Suggestions for further reading 18

2 Language and the construction of ethnic identity 19
   2.1 What linguistic resources do individuals have in constructing
       identity? 21
   2.2 Indexing multiple identities 23
   2.3 Ethnic pride or assimilation? 27
   2.4 How is an individual’s ethnicity co-constructed by the
       community? 30
   2.5 Language and the construction of ethnic identity: three
       individual cases 33
      Discussion questions 40
      Suggestions for further reading 41

Part II Linguistic features and ethnicity in specific groups

3 African-American groups 45
   3.1 What is AAVE? 46
   3.2 AAVE grammar 47
   3.3 AAVE phonology 49
   3.4 Variation in the use of non-standard features in AAVE 51
   3.5 Attitudes towards AAVE 53
   3.6 Regional variation in AAVE: is AAVE converging toward a
       supraregional norm? 56
3.7 Another possibility: a blend of supraregional and regional norms 60
3.8 Standard AAE and the language of middle-class African-Americans 62
3.9 AAVE in the media 66
   Discussion questions 68
   Suggestions for further reading 68

4 Latino groups 70
   4.1 The complexities of identity in Latino communities 71
   4.2 Repertoires: multiple codes for multiple identities 73
   4.3 Attitudes, choices, and the construction of identity 75
   4.4 The structure of dialects in latino communities 79
   4.5 Chicano English phonology 80
   4.6 Chicano English grammar 82
   4.7 The structure of other Latino English dialects 84
   4.8 Latino dialects of Spanish 86
   4.9 The language gap: differences among generations 87
      Discussion questions 87
      Suggestions for further reading 88

5 Linguistic variation in other multiethnic settings 89
   5.1 Cajuns and creoles in Louisiana 90
   5.2 South African ethnic groups 96
   5.3 Maoris in New Zealand 105
      Discussion questions 109
      Suggestions for further reading 110

6 Are white people ethnic? Whiteness, dominance, and ethnicity 112
   6.1 The social correlates of being white 115
   6.2 The linguistic correlates of being white 117
   6.3 The consequences of “sounding white” 119
   6.4 Humor and the portrayal of “whiteness” 121
      Discussion questions 131
      Suggestions for further reading 131

7 Dialect contact, ethnicity, and language change 133
   7.1 Dialect contact and ethnic boundaries 133
   7.2 Influences of minority ethnic dialects on the dominant dialect 139
   7.3 Contact among ethnic minority dialects 141
   7.4 Ethnic minority group speakers and sound change 143
      Discussion questions 150
      Suggestions for further reading 150
Part III  The role of language use in ethnicity

8 Discourse features, pragmatics, and ethnicity  155
  8.1 Indirectness  156
  8.2 Turn-taking, silence, and backchanneling  160
  8.3 Joking  164
  8.4 Complimenting  166
  8.5 Acquisition of language norms  168
      Discussion questions  170
      Suggestions for further reading  170

9 Interethnic communication and language prejudice  172
  9.1 Tennis, anyone?  172
  9.2 Interethnic communication  174
  9.3 Differences in language use norms in public settings  175
  9.4 Language varieties and interactional styles in the classroom  181
  9.5 Teaching a standard variety to speakers of vernacular varieties  184
  9.6 Accent hallucination  187
  9.7 Matched guise studies and linguistic profiling  189
      Discussion questions  195
      Suggestions for further reading  195

10 Crossing: may I borrow your ethnicity?  197
  10.1 Classic studies of crossing in the UK  199
  10.2 Who crosses?  200
  10.3 Why does a speaker cross?  202
  10.4 How does an individual get access to a linguistic code other than his or her own?  204
  10.5 How extensive is crossing, linguistically? What linguistic areas are individuals who cross most likely to use?  206
  10.6 Does crossing lead to less racism?  209
  10.7 Crossing versus passing  211
      Discussion questions  214
      Suggestions for further reading  215

Notes  216
Glossary of terms  218
References  228
Index  243