



## Authority in Language: Investigating Standard English (Routledge Linguistics Classics)

By James Milroy, Lesley Milroy

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*Authority in Language* explores the perennially topical and controversial notion of correct and incorrect language.

James and Lesley Milroy cover the long-running debate over the teaching of Standard English in Britain and compare the language ideologies in Britain and the USA, involving a discussion of the English-Only movement and the Ebonics controversy. They consider the historical process of standardisation and its social consequences, in particular discrimination against low-status and ethnic minority groups on the basis of their language traits.

This *Routledge Linguistics Classic* is here reissued with a new foreword and a new afterword in which the authors broaden their earlier concept of language ideology.

*Authority in Language* is indispensable reading for educationalists, teachers and

linguists and a long-standing text for courses in sociolinguistics, modern English grammar, history of English and language ideology.

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#### Review

‘The Milroys’ *Authority in Language* is the most significant textual milestone in researching the ideological construction of Standard English. An absolute must for both historical linguists and sociolinguists.’

Richard J. Watts, Emeritus Professor, University of Bern, Switzerland

‘No book on the market does a better job of explaining the issues surrounding standardization and linguistic authority in a way which is both scholarly and accessible to students.’

Deborah Cameron, University of Oxford, UK

#### About the Author

James Milroy is Emeritus Professor of Linguistics, University of Sheffield, and Fellow of the Faculty of Linguistics and Philology, University of Oxford. He is author of *Language Variation and Change*.

Lesley Milroy is currently Professor Emerita, University of Michigan and a Fellow of the Faculty of Linguistics and Philology, University of Oxford. She is co-author of *Sociolinguistics: Method and Interpretation*.

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