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High vs. Low and Mixed Varieties

Status, Norms and Functions  
across Time and Languages

Edited by  
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## Preface of the editors

The present volume is based on the papers delivered at the “Oslo Workshop on High and Low varieties, diglossia, and language contact: linguistic products and social processes”, which was organized at the University of Oslo on June 14 and 15, 2010.

The workshop was conceived as a meeting of scholars who at some point in their career had worked and published on some aspect of language and code variation in the language of their specialization. They were asked to ‘revisit’ their research and reflect on their data in a perspective of ‘High’ and ‘Low’ relationship of varieties in the language community, of differences in status and functions, and of changes in status and prestige. The notions of ‘High’ and ‘Low’ were thus intended as a guiding principle, or golden thread, without excluding from discussion other issues reflecting the research interests of the contributors and their fields.

We are grateful to the participants for accepting the invitation, for their contributions to the discussion during the proceedings and for their subsequent elaborations of their papers.

We also wish to express our gratitude to our home institution, the Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages (IKOS), University of Oslo, as well as to the KULTRANS program of the Faculty of Humanities, University of Oslo, for generous funding of this workshop. Last, but not least, we would like to thank Dr. Barbara Krauß of Harrassowitz Verlag for accepting this volume in the series *Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes*.

Oslo, June 2012

Gunvor Mejdell

Lutz Edzard