

## *Linguistic Behaviour in the Time of Language Conflict*

Sociolinguistic research within the framework of a socio-psychological model into the German-Hungarian language conflict in the period of the dual monarchy (1867-1918)

The aim of the research as presented in the dissertation is twofold:

- (a) to explain the linguistic behaviour of definite social groups in a situation of language conflict at a given point in history and, in close connection with this,
- (b) to disclose whether the *socio-psychological* theory of human behaviour, namely, the *theory of planned behaviour*, applied to the solution - and tested in the process of the solution - to a *sociolinguistic* problem as laid down in (a), is applicable to tackling genuine *sociolinguistic* problems, that is, whether the theory referred to above is capable of explaining and predicting forms of *linguistic* behaviour.

To attain these two ends, the following steps were taken. First, the forms of linguistic behaviour to be discussed and explained in the dissertation were described. The description was founded on the statistical data concerning the mother tongue and level of language proficiency of speakers involved in the research (Chapter 1). Then the theoretical and axiomatic background to the research was outlined and the valency and importance of its object in historical linguistics and conflict linguistics was examined (Chapter 2). The concepts of sociolinguistics, conflict linguistics, and social psychology to be applied to the interpretation were defined, then the theory of planned behaviour, which had given the theoretical framework to the explanation of the forms of linguistic behaviour described in Chapter 1, was reviewed (Chapter 3). Finally, after all this theoretical and methodological discussion had been closed down and further background information necessary for the analyses had been given (Chapters 4, 5 and 6), an attempt was made to explain the *language loss* of the middle-class Germans on the one hand and the *language maintenance* of the rural German population on the other during the German-Hungarian language conflict in the Hungarian part of the dual monarchy between 1867 and 1918 (Chapters 7 and 8).

What can be stated as a result of the research, which also draws upon the analysis of empirical data, is that the theory of planned behaviour in question is a suitable tool for the explanation of why speech communities lose or preserve their language(s). This result is worthy of attention because, to our best knowledge, no established theory - or claim to anything that could develop into one - exists in sociolinguistics, let alone historical sociolinguistics, that fulfils the requirements of both explanation and prediction of linguistic behaviour.