



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE
SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES
AND LINGUISTICS

Joshua Fishman has been one of the most important academic influences on me. It all began in late 1966 with a visit to my dentist in Melbourne. Whenever I went to the city to face the dentist's drill, I would reward my courage by browsing in the Dutch-Australian Depot, which was the local distributor for Mouton books. One particular volume attracted my attention – *Language Loyalty in the United States*. I had written my dissertation on bilingualism and already revised it for publication, but this book opened up a new world for me. Until then, I had regarded language maintenance and shift as background information for studies of structural change in immigrant languages. By the time I left the bookshop with a heavy book in my hand and a much lighter wallet in my pocket, I had already read and thoroughly enjoyed half the book. I reviewed it for an Australasian journal, and this enabled me to enter into correspondence with my new guru. It was another six years before we actually met in person, and I still have a photo of Joshua and another of my academic role models, Einar Haugen debating my paper with me during a session of the AILA conference in Copenhagen. Since then, I have been delighted to have been a joint plenary speaker with Joshua at a number of conferences in Europe.

Throughout my academic career, I have derived great inspiration from Joshua Fishman, the pioneer of the sociology of language. He laid the foundations for this important sub-discipline and ever since he has been conducting projects that have elaborated it and extended the frontiers of our knowledge of language and society. This he has done through countless monographs and through his journal, *International Journal of the Sociology of Language*, and his series, *Contributions to the Sociology of Language*. These have given thousands of people the opportunity to participate in international dialogue and facilitated the spread of knowledge in the field. I am greatly honored to have been invited to be a member of the editorial board of IJSL on its foundation in 1972 and very grateful to have had an edited volume published in IJSL and several books in the series.

Even more importantly, I have been immensely inspired by the nexus Joshua has developed between research, policy and action and his contributions to all three, by the way in which he lives multilingualism, by his kindness and generosity, by the impressive way in which he speaks in public and writes, and by the versatility of his interests.

He has been extremely supportive of my work in so many ways and I know he has helped many others too. It was he who encouraged me to publish with more 'mainstream' international publishers and journals. When things were bad at my former university, he encouraged me in such a way that I ended up changing jobs, generating many opportunities which would otherwise not have come my way.

Joshua visited us in Australia twice, for a whole term in 1985 and a shorter time in 2000. The two visits were an absolute treat –. Many of us still frequently think of and talk about his visits, – colleagues and graduate students whose research took a more productive course because of interactions with him, former students who remember that they had heard lectures by Joshua Fishman. He always took time to share ideas, to listen, and to give advice.

Joshua's continuing prolific output as an author of quality monographs and articles – without ever being repetitive – is also an inspiration to all of us. He remains young, dynamic and refreshing in his ideas and stimulating as a conversation partner.

Thank you, Joshua for everything – have a wonderful day, and many more healthy, happy and productive years for the good of humanity,

Michael Clyne