

December 26, 2005

Dear Joshua,

Among the many who will be sending you birthday greetings, few will have as many reasons to be grateful to you as I do. At the very beginning of my career, you introduced me to the joy and zest of scholarship, which served as a touchstone for me during my career at the university as well as now, after retirement. You introduced me to the sociology of language, a field that developed and matured in great part because of your own work. You brought me into contact with Charles Ferguson z"l and the Language Survey of Ethiopia, helped organize a fellowship for me at Stanford, and, perhaps most important, brought me to Israel, this last a life-altering event.

During the time we worked together, on *Bilingualism in the Barrio* and *The Spread of English*, and during that summer we spent together in Honolulu, you served as an ideal mentor. Instead of imposing your own views, you helped me develop my own. My career would have been very different, probably less productive and almost certainly not as rich, had I not worked for you at its inception. For all this I thank you.

You even were responsible for the timing of our son's birth. Because we thought we would be going on to Nigeria with you for a year and a half, and because we weren't keen for Alice to give birth in a Nigerian hospital, we speeded up our timing. This of course was the least of the consequences of the Nigerian civil war but of course it was important for us.

How long ago all this seems. We've known you now for forty years. May we continue to do so for another forty and during that time may you continue to be as productive as ever.

Happy birthday!

Alice joins me in sending you our warmest congratulations.

All best wishes,



Robert L. Cooper