Secrecy
Anne Storch

in Secret Manipulations: Language and Context in Africa
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Item type: chapter

This chapter deals with secrecy and presents case studies of how secret languages are created, used, and revealed among the Jukun (Nigeria), Lango and Adhola (Uganda), and Fulbe (West Africa), and in the New World. A case study of initiation language in Senegal further illustrates how secret languages are created on the base of linguistic knowledge.

Phonetics and phonology
Sandra Clarke and Andrew Erskine

in Newfoundland and Labrador English
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This chapter outlines the chief segmental (consonant and vowel) features of contemporary Newfoundland and Labrador English, and includes a brief introduction to IPA phonetic symbols and phonetic terminology. Wells’ lexical sets (Wells 1982, Accents of English) provide an organizational framework for vowel description; the vowels of standard or General Canadian English serve as a reference point. To capture the range of variation evident within the region, vowel and consonant features are presented not only for standard Newfoundland speech, but also for the province’s two major traditional rural vernacular varieties (Newfoundland and Labrador “Irish English” and “(southwest) British English”). These include shared features (e.g. TH-Stopping) as well as features differentiating the two regional types (e.g. postvocalic L articulation, syllable-initial H-deletion and H-insertion). The chapter also contains a brief description of Newfoundland English phonetic
processes (deletion, insertion, assimilation), along with several prosodic or suprasegmental features (speech tempo, stress, pulmonic ingressive articulation).

The Discursive Construction of Sex
Lal Zimman

in Queer Excursions: Retheorizing Binaries in Language, Gender, and Sexuality

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The division between biological sex and social gender is critical in much of feminist theory as well as in discourses about gender that circulate in transgender communities. This chapter investigates the role of body part terminology in the discursive construction of biological sex through a lexical analysis of interaction in an online community for transgender men. Members of the community under study in this chapter tease apart conventional definitions of genital terminology that collapse the body parts themselves from the gender categories with which they are associated in ways that allow them to use both canonically female and canonically male terminology (e.g., vagina and cock) in reference to the same individual. Ultimately, these discourses challenge the naturalization of sex. They instead suggest support for the poststructuralist notion that the gendered meanings attached to the body are themselves contingent on discourse.