CONTENTS

Book editors and contributors v

Introduction 1
Janet Maybin and Neil Mercer

1 Everyday talk 5
Janet Maybin
1.1 Introduction 5
1.2 The structure and function of conversation 5
1.3 Context and meaning 12
1.4 Communicative strategies and conversation style 16
1.5 Stories, accounts and identity 21
1.6 Conclusion 27
Reading A Communicative strategies in Aboriginal English 28
Diana Eades
Reading B The role of compliments in female–male interaction 32
Janet Holmes
Reading C Fear of fat: interpretative repertoires and ideological dilemmas 36
Margaret Wetherell

2 Literacy practices in English 42
Mike Baynham and Janet Maybin
2.1 Introduction 42
2.2 Speech and writing 42
2.3 Text and context 45
2.4 Reading and writing practices in English 49
2.5 Diversity and change 56
2.6 Literacy and identity 61
2.7 Conclusion 63
Reading A Multiliteracy practices and values: an ethnographic account of a Panjabi family in Britain 64
Mukul Saxena
Reading B Changing literacy practices in a South African informal settlement 67
Catherine Kell
Reading C Computer-mediated English: sociolinguistic aspects of computer-mediated communication 76
Simeon Yates

3 English at work 84
Neil Mercer
3.1 Introduction 84
3.2 English among co-workers 87
3.3 Working with the public 101
3.4 Conclusion 107
7 An English canon? 235
 Janet Maybin
 7.1 Introduction: what is a canon? 239
 7.2 The traditional English literature canon 246
 7.3 Women and the canon 248
 7.4 Postcolonial writers 253
 7.5 Theory and the canon 256
 7.6 Canons, cultural literacy and political correctness in the USA 256
 7.7 Conclusion 265
 Reading A English in the Caribbean: notes on nation language and poetry 266
 Edward Kamau Brathwaite
 Reading B Hegemony and literary tradition in the United States 272
 Alan Wald

8 A tongue, for sighing 275
 Jane Miller
 8.1 Introduction: dilemmas for writers 275
 8.2 Decolonizing the mind 277
 8.3 Appropriating English 280
 8.4 The politics of entry into English 282
 8.5 Recreating dialogue 283
 8.6 English and cultural identity 288
 8.7 Marginality, gender and language 291
 8.8 Conclusion: change and renewal 296
 Reading A Extract from ‘The language of African literature’ 299
 Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o
 Reading B Extract from Arrow of God 302
 Chinua Achebe
 Reading C Extract from Finding the Centre 303
 V.S. Naipaul
 Reading D Extract from The Woman Warrior 305
 Maxine Hong Kingston
 Reading E Extract from Lost in Translation 307
 Eva Hoffman
 Reading F Extract from ‘The murmur of Malvern’ 308
 Seamus Heaney

References 311
Acknowledgements 319
Index 322