Language Planning and Policy in Native America
History, Theory, Praxis

Teresa L. McCarty

Foreword by
Richard E. Littlebear

MULTILINGUAL MATTERS
Bristol • Buffalo • Toronto
## Contents

Dedication vi
Statement by Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Chief Thomas Gamble vii
Acknowledgements ix
Foreword by Richard E. Littlebear xiii
Preface xvii

1 Contextualizing Native American LPP: Legal–Political, Demographic and Sociolinguistic Foundations 1
   First Peoples, First Principles: Tribal Sovereignty 2
   Peoples, Populations and Lands 4
   Native American Languages 8
   Assessing Language Vitality and Endangerment 17
   Contemporary Native American Language Use in Public and Communal Spaces 21

2 Conceptualizing Native American LPP: Critical Sociocultural Foundations 32
   LPP Goals and Approaches 32
   A Critical Sociocultural Perspective on Language Planning and Policy 39
   Safety Zone Theory 42

3 Native American Languages In and Out of the Safety Zone, 1492–2012 46
   Print Literacy as a Colonizing Tool 48
   Colonial Schooling: The ‘Slow Match’ of Forced Cultural Transformation 50
   Subverting the Safety Zone 56
   Policy Turnabout: ‘To Preserve, Protect, and Promote Native American Languages’ 60
   Repatriating the Spoken Word 62