


## English abstract

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*Voices from the East. Perspectives on multilingualism in Eastern Finland*

The present volume is a collection of articles examining the languages spoken in different parts of Eastern Finland in the past and present. In previous research, the multilingualism of Eastern Finland has not been addressed with similar diversity of localities or contexts of language use. The book challenges the myth of monolingual Eastern Finland. The articles look at different social situations where various language skills are needed and where they have determined the direction of individuals' lives covering the languages of homes, hobbies, public administration, teaching and religious practice. The articles highlight language skills acquired by means of formal learning, or through labor migration; new languages and dialects have arrived with migrants. The wars that Finland took part in during 1939–1945 were multilingual meeting places and formed a completely unique language scenery in the history of Eastern Finland. At present, the new electronic tools of communication are shaping the everyday language use of the local inhabitants. On the other hand, the opposite of multilingualism, the shrinking of linguistic diversity in the community, is also taking place: languages are rejected and forgotten – even silenced.

The articles in this compilation provide a comprehensive insight into the materials and methods that can be used to approach multilingualism in the past and present, or to detect it in the first place. They make use of interviews with language speakers, observation of language use situations, diaries, oral and written history, fiction and non-fiction, and analyses of both the virtual and physical linguistic landscapes.