

Preface to the third edition

The second edition of this book was published in 1991, and since then a number of important books and papers in the field have appeared. My first task, therefore, has been to update thoroughly the recommendations for further reading and, where possible, to incorporate some new ideas. I have tried to avoid recommending works which are no longer in print, although this has not always been possible. The structure of the book remains virtually unchanged except that I have moved the discussion of distinctive features from Chapter 20 to Chapter 13, and shortened it. I feel it now fits more naturally with the discussion of other phonological issues in that chapter, which I have simplified a little. I have given up the use of the name *Received Pronunciation (RP)* for the accent described in the book: it is a term which I have always disliked, and I have chosen to refer instead to *BBC pronunciation*. I have attempted to improve the treatment of word stress, and have added some more modern ideas about the analysis of intonation.

Since the publication of the second edition, I have worked on the 15th edition of the *Daniel Jones English Pronouncing Dictionary* (Jones, 1997; edited and revised by Roach and Hartman), and I have made a number of changes to transcriptions in the present book in order to avoid disagreements with what I would regard as a companion volume. I have made a large number of minor changes to the text in an attempt to make it clearer to read, and I have removed a number of errors. I wish I could believe that I have removed all of them. The recorded exercises have been kept unchanged in order to retain continuity with the earlier editions, and these are now also available on audio CD.

In the previous editions I thanked the many people who had given me help, and I remain grateful to all of them. This third edition has

had the benefit of advice from many more people who have used the book for teaching or study and who have suggested improvements. I would like to thank everyone who has helped me in this way, although there are too many for me to name all of them. Takeshi Shimaoka and Hiroshi Miura translated the book into Japanese, and passed on to me many valuable observations as a result of their careful work. Snezhina Dimitrova has given me very useful feedback from her experience with using the book. At the University of Reading my colleagues Erik Fudge, Paul Kerswill and Linda Shockey have provided me with helpful advice and ideas. I am grateful to Jane Setter for helpful advice and discussion on many points. She and James Hartman were co-editors of the 15th edition of the *Daniel Jones English Pronouncing Dictionary*, and their collaboration has also been helpful in the revision of the present book. I would like to thank Mickey Bonin of Cambridge University Press for his editorial work and guidance. I remain grateful, as ever, to my wife Helen, who has helped in the work of revising the book and supported me while I was trying to finish the work.