

Douglas Biber's new book extends and refines the research and methodology reported in his ground-breaking *Variation across speech and writing* (1988). In it he gives a linguistic analysis of register in four widely differing languages: English, Nukulaelae Tuvaluan, Korean, and Somali. Using the Multi-Dimensional analytical framework employed in his earlier work, Biber carries out a principled comparison of both synchronic and diachronic patterns of variation across the four languages. Striking similarities as well as differences emerge, allowing Biber to predict for the first time cross-linguistic universals of register variation. This major new work will provide the foundation for the further investigation of cross-linguistic universals governing the patterns of discourse variation across registers, and will be of wide interest to any scholar interested in discourse, register, and the linguistic correlates of orality and literacy.

