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In Memoriam, Professor Bernard Dov Spolsky, ז"ל (1932–2022)

We were saddened to learn of the death of Professor Bernard Dov Spolsky, our close colleague and a member of the advisory board of the *Journal of Jewish Languages*. Spolsky was a prolific scholar and a leader not only in Jewish languages but in several fields, including applied linguistics, educational linguistics, sociolinguistics, and language policy.

Spolsky grew up in New Zealand and, in the 1950s, earned his BA and MA at the University of New Zealand. He spent a few years in Israel and then earned his PhD at the Université de Montréal. After starting his university teaching career in North America, he moved back to Israel in 1980 and spent the rest of his career at Bar-Ilan University. His teaching spanned English, Linguistics, Anthropology, and Education. He held leadership roles in several organizations, including the American Association of Applied Linguistics, the Israel Association of Applied Linguistics, and the International TESOL Association.

Several of his books served as foundations for entire fields and were translated into multiple languages: *Educational Linguistics: An Introduction* (1978), *Conditions for Second Language Learning: Introduction to a General Theory* (1989), *Measured Words: The Development of Objective Language Testing* (1995), *Language Policy* (2004), and *Language Management* (2009). Drawing data from languages as diverse as Navajo, Māori, Samoan, Aramaic, Hebrew, and Palestinian Arabic, he made theoretical and methodological contributions that have influenced generations of scholars and practitioners.

Within our field, he offered an in-depth study of Jewish multilingualism in the first century in 1985 and, later, an impressive synthesis of research on the sociology of many Jewish languages in his 2014 book, *The Languages of the Jews: A Sociolinguistic History*, as well as in a 2016 book, *The Languages of Diaspora and Return*. He also studied the languages around him in current times, producing *The Languages of Israel: Policy, Ideology and Practice* (1999, with Elana Shohamy) and *The Languages of Jerusalem* (1991, with Robert L. Cooper). He presented Hebrew language revitalization as a case study that could be useful to any community concerned about language shift.

Spolsky served as the Editor-in-Chief of *Applied Linguistics*, *Language Policy*, and *The Asia TEFL Journal* and edited dozens of books and journal issues. His

research and editorial work brought together scholars who would not normally encounter one another and fields of research that might not otherwise intersect. Examples include his research on language use in the Old City of Jerusalem and Bethlehem and his study of immigrant identities and language use in Israel and Germany.

Beyond his academic accomplishments, Dov Spolsky was known in many circles as a consummate *mensch*. He approached his editorial and reviewing work with generosity and served as a mentor for many scholars. He collaborated with many, often inviting them to co-author articles and co-edit books with him. In an obituary of his friend and colleague Robert Cooper, Spolsky quoted his own son Joel praising Cooper, including “how kind and nice he was ... he was consistently considerate and gracious in ways that ordinary mortals couldn’t even think of” (Spolsky 2013:106). Anyone who engaged with Dov Spolsky would agree that this also applied to him.

The *Journal of Jewish Languages*, its editors, and its publishing house, Brill, extend their deepest condolences to Dov’s family and friends.

Selected works by Bernard Dov Spolsky on Jewish languages, in chronological order:

- Spolsky, Bernard. 1983. “Triglossia and Literacy in Jewish Palestine of the First Century.” *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 42: 95–110.
- Spolsky, Bernard. 1985. “Jewish Multilingualism in the First Century: An Essay in Historical Sociolinguistics.” In *Readings in the Sociology of Jewish Languages*, ed. Joshua A. Fishman. Leiden: Brill, 35–50.
- Spolsky, Bernard and Joel Walters. 1985. “Jewish Styles of Worship: A Conversational Analysis.” *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 56: 51–65.
- Spolsky, Bernard. 1986a. “Avoiding the Tyranny of the Written Word: The Development of the Mediated Mode of Jewish Literacy from the First to Tenth Centuries.” *Australian Review of Applied Linguistics* 9.2: 23–37.
- Spolsky, Bernard. 1986b. “Teaching Hebrew in the Diaspora: Rationales and Goals.” *Jewish Education* 54.3: 11–20.
- Spolsky, Bernard. 1991a. “Control and Democratization of Sacred Literacy.” In *Encounters with Judaism: Jewish Studies in a Non-Jewish World*, ed. Samuel Rodin. Waikato Studies in Religion. Hamilton: Waikato University and Colcom Press, 37–53.
- Spolsky, Bernard. 1991b. “Diglossia in Hebrew in the Late Second Temple Period.” *Southwest Journal of Linguistics* 10.1: 85–104.
- Spolsky, Bernard & Robert L. Cooper. 1991. *The Languages of Jerusalem*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Hallel, Michael & Bernard Spolsky. 1993. “The Teaching of Additional Languages in Israel.” *Annual Review of Applied Linguistics* 13: 37–49.

- Spolsky, Bernard. 1995. Review of Lewis Glinert, ed., *Hebrew in Ashkenaz*. *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 58.2: 355–356.
- Spolsky, Bernard. 1997. “Multilingualism in Israel.” In William Grabe, ed. *Annual Review of Applied Linguistics* 17: 138–150.
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- Spolsky, Bernard & Sarah Bunin Benor. 2006. “Jewish Languages.” In *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*, ed. Keith Brown. 2nd ed., vol. 6. Amsterdam: Elsevier, 120–124.
- Spolsky, Bernard. 2006. “Israel and the Jewish Languages.” In *Sociolinguistics: An International Handbook of the Science of Language and Society*, eds. Ulrich Ammon, Norbert Dittmar, Klaus Mattheier, & Peter Trudgill (2nd ed., Vol. 3). Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1924–1929.
- Spolsky, Bernard. 2010. “Jewish Religious Multilingualism.” In *The Sociology of Language and Religion: Change, Conflict and Accommodation*, ed. Tope Omoniyi. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 14–28.
- Spolsky, Bernard. 2013. “Obituary: Robert Cooper.” *Language Policy* 12.1: 103–114.
- Spolsky, Bernard. 2014a. *The Languages of the Jews: A Sociolinguistic History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Spolsky, Bernard. 2014b. Review of Sarah Bunin Benor, *Becoming Frum: How Newcomers Learn the Language and Culture of Orthodox Judaism*. *Journal of Jewish Languages* 2.1: 99–103.
- Spolsky, Bernard. 2016. *The Languages of Diaspora and Return*. Leiden: Brill.
- Spolsky, Bernard. 2018. “Sociolinguistics of Jewish Language Varieties.” In *Languages in Jewish Communities, Past and Present*, eds. Benjamin Hary & Sarah Bunin Benor. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton, 583–601.
- Spolsky, Bernard. 2019. “Religion and Education in the Preservation of Hebrew and Other Jewish Language Varieties.” In *Language Maintenance, Revival and Shift in the Sociology of Religion*, eds. Rajeshwari Vijay Pandharipande, Maya Khemlani David, & Miriam Eisenstein Ebsworth. Bristol: Multilingual Matters, 127–137.
- Benor, Sarah Bunin & Bernard Spolsky. 2020. “The Sociolinguistic Ecology of Jewish Communities: The Changing State of Jewish Language Varieties.” In *Handbook of the Changing World Language Map*, eds. Stanley D. Brunn & Roland Kehrein. New York: Springer. 1–10.
- Spolsky, Bernard. 2021. Review of Lily Kahn, ed., *Jewish Languages in Historical Perspective*, edited by Kahn, Lily. *Journal of Jewish Languages* 9.1: 151–153.

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