This book discusses language, dialect, and accent along with the development of Dialectology from the 1800s to the 1950s. It illustrates the relationship among English dialects and Standard English. Chapter one is an introduction to dialect and chapter two discusses the development of dialectology. The rest of the book focuses on social and urban Dialectology in the United States and in Britain.

This book is similar to Thomas’s The English Language: An Owner’s Manual in that it defines key terms and explains the ins and outs of the study of Dialectology. Hamilton’s article, “Dialect Development in Mobile Urban Culture” provides an example of the urban dialect that occurs in the United States that this book discusses.