In the past few decades, studies on multilingualism have become central especially in the field of sociolinguistics. The majority of the earlier studies have focused on spoken language and code-switching in conversation, but it is clear that for millennia and even today multilingualism is present also in written discourse. Some researchers have previously applied theories of multilingualism and code-switching to written data, but the theoretical and methodological discussion has centred especially on spoken data. To some extent, the existing theories and models can be applied to written material, but the written medium itself poses questions and problems that the researchers have to take into consideration.

*Language Mixing and Code-Switching in Writing: Approaches to Mixed-Language Written Discourse* sets out to answer some of these questions, but more importantly it takes as its goal to draw attention to them and the multiple methods and data sources available for researchers. The book consists of thirteen articles (or chapters), each presenting one type of data source for written multilingualism. The first chapter is a theoretical and methodological introduction, and each chapter includes specific discussion on these topics. I shall briefly summarise the contents of each article and conclude with an overall review of the book.
The first chapter by Mark Sebba (pp. 1–26) discusses some of the methodological and theoretical issues in studies on multilingual texts. Sebba argues that there should be a coherent framework for researchers working with multilingual written data, but since one of the aims of the book is to present several different research methods, the framework relates mostly to questions of how multilingual texts are produced and read, or in other words the literary practices which form the context for the texts. In addition to the well-established features of written discourse (e.g. its permanence compared with spoken interaction), Sebba dedicates a major part of the chapter to the discussion of the visual features of mixed-language texts and texts as images. This move from text as merely text to text as a written whole seems especially fruitful, and it has been adapted in many of the following chapters.

Chapter 2 by Herbert Schendl (pp. 27–43) is one of the two historical studies in the book. Schendl presents a survey both of the general phenomenon of medieval mixed-language texts and of previous research. His case study comprises of analyses and comparison of two very different genres: Old English charters and Middle English sermons (both surviving in manuscript format). The analyses include discussion on both formal and functional features of the texts, but the main contribution of this chapter is that it shows how multilingualism in writing was a widely used and non-stigmatised discourse strategy in medieval Britain.

Chapter 3 by Arja Nurmi and Päivi Pahta (pp. 44–67) is the other historical study. Even though they, too, analyse multilingualism in historical English (between the years 1400 and 1800), they focus on one specific text type: correspondence written by women. The chapter includes a lengthy discussion of the socio-historical context of the texts and the corpus methods that were used in the analysis. However, the main part of the text is dedicated to the analysis of the functions of the switched passages with qualitative methods. Nurmi and Pahta show that code-switching has several different functions, some of which are more textual (e.g. genre-specific conventions) and some more pragmatic (e.g. expressing identity).

In Chapter 4 (pp. 68–88), Cecilia Montes-Alcalá studies code-switching in three U.S.–Latino novels. She applies both corpus-based quantitative and qualitative methods in assigning functions to the switches. The seven functional categories are based on functions that have been shown to be central in other studies on code-switching, and they include such typical ones as quotations and lexical need, but also very broad categories such as stylistic switching. Montes-Alcalá provides a very brief discussion of each function with several examples from the novels, as well as general distributions of the functions within and between the different texts, concluding that all of the functions were found in the novels in different degrees.
Chapter 5 by Sebba (pp. 89–105) focuses on code-switching between British English and British Creole in the writings of British-born Caribbeans. Since there are no definite norms for representing Creole in writing, Sebba pays particular attention to the orthography of his material and the ways that graphic choices can be used both to highlight differences (e.g. by using particular spellings for signalling code-switched passages) and to hide them. He concludes the chapter by stressing that the writers of these texts develop their own conventions for writing Creole depending on their current purposes.

Chapter 6 by Samu Kytölä (pp. 106–127) presents an overview of questions related to studies on multilingualism in computer-mediated communication (CMC), as well as a study on language-mixing in Finnish football forum writings. Kytölä includes in this chapter a thorough discussion of CMC in general, discussion forums in particular, as well as suitable methods for approaching multilingual writing in CMC. His discussion focuses on three different types of methods that can be applied together: quantitative (corpus-based) methods, qualitative (pragmatic or sociolinguistic) methods, and online ethnographic methods.

Chapter 7 by Carmen Lee and David Barton (pp. 128–145) continues the CMC line by presenting an analysis of multilingual practices on Flickr.com, an online image-sharing site. In their methodological discussion they stress both online writing as literacy practices and the multimodal nature of their data. Lee and Barton explain the use of multiple languages on Flickr through both observation and the use of informants, and they argue for the benefits of including both of these perspectives in studies on multilingual writing practices.

In Chapter 8 (pp. 146–169) Kristin Vold Lexander proposes a model for analysing multilingualism in SMS messages. Similar to the preceding chapter, the notion of literacy practices is central for this approach. Lexander exemplifies how the writers can manage their relationships and their identities through switching between several languages, such as French, English, Wolof and Arabic, and she also takes into consideration how the writers and readers themselves perceived these messages. The orthographic choices of the writers are also taken into account, and it is shown that the visual form can also be used to indicate switches from one register to another, even if the language does not change.

Chapter 9 by Aïssatou Mbojd-Pouye and Cécile van den Avenne (pp. 170–191) focuses on literary practices in Mali. Mbojd-Pouye and van den Avenne analyse everyday texts such as entries in notebooks and letters written by ‘low-skilled’ writers in Bamanan and French. The analysis takes into account both the syntactic and the textual level of code-switching. The researchers stress the importance of examining the material as a part of a textual whole, as well as the mode of production and the visual features of the texts. They also argue that
even these ‘low-skilled’ writers use code-switching as a meaningful device, as lack of competence cannot explain all cases of multilingual practices in their material.

In Chapter 10 (pp. 192–211), Shahrzad Mahootian studies code-switching in mainstream Chicano writing, complementing the study with some examples from Afghani-American writing. Her focus is on how mixed-code discourse as a resource ‘can influence and restructure existing power relationships’ (p. 198), and she shows how this is highlighted by the fact that code-switching can be an accepted mode of discourse even in mainstream media. The results show that code-switching in her material has four main functions: signalling defiance, promoting a globalised identity, indicating shifts in social status and power, and as linguistic symbols for emerging ethnic groups.

In Chapter 11 (pp. 212–232), Carla Jonsson discusses code-switching between Swedish and Meänkieli/Finnish or Sami in two contemporary Swedish novels. Similar to some other chapters in the book, Jonsson applies an ethnographic approach, drawing in addition on New Literacy Studies. The study consisted of both analysing the texts independently and interviewing the authors of these novels. The analysis takes into account both local (conversation-internal functions and mediation between the text and the reader) and global (e.g. expressing identity) functions of code-switching. Jonsson argues that the novels serve to decentre the monolingual Swedish norm and to legitimise the silenced voices of the minority language speakers.

Chapter 12 by Sirpa Leppänen (pp. 233–254) concentrates on multilingualism and hybridity in fan fiction writing on the Internet. She applies and argues for a multidisciplinary approach, which combines sociolinguistics, linguistic anthropology and textual analysis. Leppänen demonstrates that her material is fundamentally heteroglossic, and she argues that web writing and reading ‘are fundamentally indexical activities, allowing participants to come together as communities of practice’ (p. 250). Four different cases of heteroglossic writing are discussed, and these examples provide evidence for the different types of strategies that can be connected to language-mixing in writing.

Chapter 13 by Philipp Sebastian Angermeyer (pp. 255–272) focuses on script alternation and digraphia in multilingual situations, the majority of the examples coming from Russian-American writings. Angermeyer shows that in parallel texts (i.e. in which approximately the same contents appear in more than one language) the script choice corresponds to standard usage, while in mixed-language texts the choice of script becomes a resource for the writer. Script alternation can then be employed, for example, to highlight language differences or downplay them, and to express identity.
In conclusion, most of the chapters in the book take into consideration or focus on the themes highlighted by Sebba in the first chapter. The prevalent themes include approaching multilingual writing as literacy practices, studying texts as parts of both material and textual wholes, and taking into consideration the visual features of the texts and their contexts. The book does not provide answers to all theoretical or methodological problems, but since it is doubtful whether a single framework would be suitable for every type of written mixed-language discourse, the variety of methods seems a better option. However, since many of the contributors applied existing theories originally devised for the analysis of spoken language, it did not become clear whether we need a framework developed specifically for written multilingualism, or whether the existing models are adequate if they are supplemented with theoretical insights concerning the written mode itself.

Language Mixing and Code-Switching in Writing offers researchers a varied package of studies on multilingual written discourse. Even though there is no consensus on, for example, a typology for the functions of code-switching, all of the chapters share some aspects in their approaches. Several different genres, text-types and language situations are introduced, and many different methods are discussed, which would also serve well students interested in multilingualism. Hopefully this book will inspire researchers to further develop frameworks that are applicable to both spoken and written mixed-language discourse.