For many young Japanese women, the English language has never been just another school subject. For them, English is the tool of identity transformation, and the means of obtaining what they passionately desire – the West and Western men. *Language Desire* sets out to uncover, explore and understand Japanese women’s passion for learning English. Drawing on ethnographic data and popular media texts, this book reveals the mechanisms by which English language learning in Japan has become conflated with romantic desire for Western men, and how such desire, in turn, impacts on the processes and outcomes of second language learning. *Language Desire* offers a window into how young Japanese women encounter and capitalise on racial, sexual, cultural, and linguistic politics in the second language context as they negotiate identity and desire.