

ENG518
Introduction to Sociolinguistics
Spring 2005

LA 216, TTh 9:35-10:50

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Office hours: Th 1-3 and by appointment

Outline

This course is an introduction to the field of sociolinguistics. By taking this course, you will become familiar with the history and current issues of sociolinguistic research, gain the insight to unravel the complex relationship between language and social organization, and be able to carry out socially-oriented linguistic research in your area of specialization. To this end, this course will survey various approaches of sociolinguistics, critically consider the notion of variation, address the dynamics of language in macro-social settings and micro-interactive contexts, and study how the mutually constitutive relationship between language and society is mediated through language ideology and identity construction. Students will actively participate in the class through leading weekly discussions of the readings, and carry out an extensive literature review on a sociolinguistic topic of their choice.

Text

Rajend Mestherie, Joan Swann, Andrea Deumert, and William Leap. 2000. *Introducing Sociolinguistics*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Evaluation

Assignments:	30% (2 × 15%)
Discussion leading:	10%
Research topic description:	5%
Annotated bibliography:	20%
Literature review report:	25%
Literature review presentation:	10%

Schedule (IS=*Introducing Sociolinguistics*)

INTRODUCTION

Wk 1 1/18-20	Approaches to sociolinguistics	IS Ch.1 Shuy 1990 [1997]
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VARIATION IN LANGUAGE

Wk 2 1/25-27	Variationist sociolinguistics: Regional and social dialects	IS Chs.3,4 Cameron 1990 [1997]
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Wk 3 2/1-3	Register variation	Ferguson 1983 Bruthiaux 1994	
Wk 4 2/8-10	Corpus analysis of variation	Biber, Conrad, and Reppen 1994	Comparative register analysis assignment due
Wk 5 2/15-17	Style and social meaning	Irvine 2001 Eckert 2004	Research topic description due

LANGUAGE IN BROADER SOCIAL CONTEXT

Wk 6 2/22-24	Language contact and multilingualism	IS Ch.8,9 Mühlhäusler 1996
Wk 7 3/1-3	Language planning	IS Ch.12 Mazrui 2002
Wk 8 3/8-10	Language choice and codeswitching	IS Ch.5 Blom and Gumperz 1972[1986]

CONVERSATION, CROSS-TALK, AND INTERACTION

Wk 9 3/15-17	Interaction as social context	IS Ch.6 Wolfson 1989	Annotated bibliography due
Wk 10 3/22-24	No class: Spring break		
Wk 11 3/29-31	Language difference in interaction/cross-talk	IS Ch.7 Gumperz 1982	Conversational structure assignment due
Wk 12 4/5-7	Language, interaction, and power	Whalen, Zimmerman, Whalen 1988 Kitzinger 2000	

LINGUISTIC CONSTRUCTION OF IDENTITY

Wk 13 4/12-14	Language ideology	Irvine and Gal 2000 Kulick 1998
Wk 14 4/19-21	Language and identity	Ochs 1992 Bucholtz and Hall 2004
Wk 15 4/26-28	Student presentations	
Wk 16 5/3-5	Student presentations Review and summary	

List of Readings

- Shuy, Roger. 1990[1997]. A brief history of American sociolinguistics: 1949-1989. In Christina Bratt Paulston & G. Richard Tucker, eds., *The early days of sociolinguistics: Memories and reflections*. Dallas, TX: Summer Institute of Linguistics. 11-32.
- Cameron, Deborah. 1990[1997]. Demythologizing sociolinguistics. In Nikolas Coupland and Adam Jaworski eds., *Sociolinguistics: A reader and coursebook*. New York: Palgrave. 55-67.
- Ferguson, Charles A. 1983. Sports announcer talk: Syntactic aspects of register variation. *Language in Society* 12:153-172.
- Bruthiaux, Paul. 1994. Me Tarzan, You Jane: Linguistic simplification in "Personal Ads" register. In Douglas Biber and Edward Finegan (eds.), *Sociolinguistic perspectives on register*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 136-154.
- Biber, Douglas, Susan Conrad, and Randi Reppen. 1994. Corpus-based approaches to issues in applied linguistics. *Applied Linguistics* 15.2:169-189.
- Irvine, Judith T. 2001. "Style" as distinctiveness: The culture and ideology of linguistic differentiation. In Penelope Eckert & John R. Rickford, eds., *Style and sociolinguistic variation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 185-210.
- Eckert, Penelope. 2004. The meaning of style. *Texas Linguistic Forum* 47: 41-53. *Proceedings of the Eleventh Annual Symposium about Language and Society—Austin. April 11-13, 2003*. (<http://studentorgs.utexas.edu/salsa/salsaproceedings/salsa11/SALSA11papers/eckert.pdf>)
- Mühlhäusler, Peter. 1996. Pidgins and creoles. In *Linguistic ecology: Language change and linguistic imperialism in the Pacific region*. London: Routledge. 74-103.
- Mazrui, Alamin M. 2002. The English language in African education: Dependency and decolonization. In James W. Tollefson ed., *Language policies in education: Critical issues*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum. 267-281.
- Blom, Jan-Petter, & John J. Gumperz. 1972[1986]. Social meaning in linguistic structure: Code-switching in Norway. In John J. Gumperz and Dell Hymes, eds., *Directions in sociolinguistics: The ethnography of communication*. New York: Blackwell. 407-434.
- Wolffson, Nessa. 1989. Investigating spoken interaction. In *Perspectives: Sociolinguistics and TESOL*. Boston: Heinle & Heinle. 55-78.
- Gumperz, John. 1982. Interethnic communication. In *Discourse strategies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 172-186.
- Whalen, Jack, Don H. Zimmerman, and Marilyn R. Whalen. 1988. When words fail: A single case analysis. *Social Problems* 35(4):335-362.
- Kitzinger, Celia. 2000. Doing feminist conversation analysis. *Feminism & Psychology* 10(2):163-193.
- Irvine, Judith T., and Susan Gal. 2000. Language ideology and linguistic differentiation. In Paul V. Kroskrity, ed., *Regimes of language: Ideologies, politics, and identities*. Santa Fe, NM: School of American Research Press. 35-84.
- Kulick, Don. 1998. Anger, gender, language shift, and the politics of revelation in a Papua New Guinean Village. In Bambi Schieffelin, Kathryn Woolard, and Paul Kroskrity, eds., *Language ideologies: Practice and Theory*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 87-102.
- Bucholtz, Mary, and Kira Hall. 2004. Language and identity. In Alessandro Duranti ed., *A companion to linguistic anthropology*. Malden, MA: Blackwell. 369-394.
- Ochs, Elinor. 1992. Indexing gender. In Alessandro Duranti & Charles Goodwin, eds., *Rethinking context: Language as an interactive phenomenon*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 335-358.