

L a n g u a g e i n S o c i e t y

Ling 70 / Spring 2002

Instructor:	Joseph Park	TA:	Jeanie Castillo
Office:	South Hall 3509	Office:	South Hall 3515
Office Hours:	M 12-1, W 11-12 or by appointment	Office Hours:	TBA

Lecture	MWF 9:00-9:50	HSSB 1174
Sections	Tue 8:00-8:50, 3:00-3:50	Santa Rosa Hall

Course Description

This course will examine various aspects of the relationship between language and society, drawing upon findings from the field of sociolinguistics. Especially, this course will emphasize the ways in which language both reflects and constitutes our view and understanding of society. After surveying the ways in which language can vary according to social context and social groups, we will examine the roles those varieties play in the expression of social identity and the (re)production of social stereotypes and power relationships. We will also explore some of the mechanisms by which social factors can influence everyday language, both in its structure and meaning. Finally, we will discuss how the key concepts of the course can shed light on some of the current social issues that relate to language.

Text

Reading packet for this course is available at AS Notes at the UCen. There are no other textbooks for this course.

Grading

Quizzes (4)	15%
Mid-term project	25%
Final paper	30%
Final exam	30%

Requirements

1. Readings

Readings must be done before the lecture for which they are assigned.

2. Discussion sections

You must register for and attend one of the two weekly discussion sections, whose times and places are listed above. In general, sections will be used for review and discussion of readings and lectures, and you will have an opportunity to apply the material presented in class to real language data.

3. Quizzes

There will be four quizzes during the quarter, as indicated in the syllabus. Each quiz will consist of 12 multiple-choice scantron questions and will test concepts from the readings and lectures. Quizzes will take place during the first ten minutes of class, and you should bring a small scantron and a pencil. No early or late quizzes will be given.

4. Exams

There is no midterm exam for this class. The final exam will be cumulative, covering all material presented during the course. Questions on the exam will be of definition and short essay type, and will include a data analysis question similar to the exercises done in the discussion sections. The final exam will be on **Tuesday, June 11th, 8-11 am**. No early or late exams will be given.

5. Mid-term project

There will be a short mid-term project in which you will produce a description of a language variety of your choice. Detailed explanation and instructions will be handed out later in the course.

6. Final paper

You will write an 8-10 page essay on a topic of your choice that relates to the intersection of language and society. An outline of the essay is due on **Monday, May 13th**. The final paper is due on **Monday, June 3rd**. Only the final paper will be assigned a grade. For more details on the final paper, see the attached sheet.

The Linguistics Department is willing to accommodate, upon request, the special needs of those with disabilities. If you require this material in another format or need special accommodations due to a disability, please notify the instructor or call the Linguistics Department at (805) 893-3776.

Class schedule
(Topics, readings, and assignments)

Introduction

4/1 M Introduction

Varieties of Language

4/3 W Dialect Wolfram & Schilling-Estes Ch.1
4/5 F Register Ferguson
4/8 M Communicative Style Tannen
4/10 W Accent Lippi-Green Ch. 2

Contact among Varieties

4/12 F Multilingualism Thomason / **Quiz 1**
4/15 M Language Choice Urciuoli
4/17 W Pidgins and Creoles Baker & Jones

Language Variation

4/19 F Introduction to Variation Labov
4/22 M Regional Variation Wolfram & Schilling-Estes Ch.5
4/24 W Ethnic Variation: AAVE Rickford & Rickford
4/26 F Men's and Women's language Hudson 1, Holmes / **Quiz 2**

Varieties in Society

4/29 M Language Attitudes Giles & Coupland
5/1 W Language and Identity: The Deaf Community Baker
5/3 F Appropriation of Language: The Use of Mock Spanish Hill / **Mid-term report due**
5/6 M Varieties in the Media Lippi-Green Ch. 5

Social Aspects of Everyday Language

5/8 W Power and Solidarity Hudson 2
5/10 F Politeness Grundy / **Quiz 3**
5/13 M Preference Organization Pomerantz / **Outline for final paper due**
5/15 W Perspective and Ideology Lee
5/17 F Discourse and the Reproduction of Ideology van Dijk

Issues in Language and Society

5/20	M	Endangered Languages and Language Death	Nettle & Romaine
5/22	W	Reviving Endangered Languages	<i>Guest lecture: Prof. Marianne Mithun</i>
5/24	F	Bilingual Education	Rickford / Quiz 4
5/27	M	No Class: Memorial Day Holiday	
5/29	W	English Policy in California and the United States	<i>Guest Lecture: Prof. Jan Frodesen</i>
5/31	F	English in the Context of Globalization	Pennycook
6/3	M	Prescriptivism	Lakoff / Final paper due

Conclusions

6/5	W	Conclusions	
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► **Final exam: Tuesday, June 11, 8-11 am**

List of Readings

- Wolfram, Walt, and Natalie Schilling-Estes. 1998. "The Reality of Dialects". Ch. 1 in *American English: Dialects and Variation*, 1-23. Malden: Blackwell.
- Ferguson, Charles A. 1983. "Sports announcer talk: Syntactic aspects of register variation." *Language in Society* 12: 153-172.
- Tannen, Deborah. 1981. "New York Jewish conversational style". *International Journal of Sociology of Language* 30: 113-49. Reprinted in Adam Jaworski and Nikolas Coupland (eds.) 1999. *The Discourse Reader*, 459-473. London : Routledge.
- Lippi-Green, Rosina. 1997. "The myth of non-accent". Ch. 2 in *English with an accent: Language, Ideology, and Discrimination in the United States*, 41-52. London: Routledge.
- Thomason, Sarah G. 2001. "Multilingualism in nations and individuals". Ch. 3 in *Language Contact: An introduction*, 27-38, 42-48. [excerpts]. Washington D.C.: Georgetown University Press.
- Urciuoli, Bonnie. 1996. "The political topography of bilingualism." Ch. 4 in *Exposing Prejudice: Puerto Rican Experiences of Language, Race, and Class*, 73-105. Boulder: Westview Press.
- Baker, Colin, and Sylvia Prys Jones. 1998. "Pidgins and Creoles." *Encyclopedia of Bilingualism and Bilingual Education*, 142-150. Clevedon: Multilingual Matters.
- Labov, William. 1972. "The social stratification of [r] in New York City department stores." *Sociolinguistic Patterns*, 43-54. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. Reprinted in Nikolas Coupland and Adam Jaworski (eds.) 1997. *Sociolinguistics: a reader*, 168-178. New York: St. Martin's Press.
- Wolfram, Walt, and Natalie Schilling-Estes. 1998. "Regional variation". Ch. 5 in *American English: Dialects and Variation*, 125-150. Malden: Blackwell.
- Rickford, John Russell, and Russell John Rickford. 2000. "Vocabulary and Pronunciation", "Grammar", Ch. 6 & 7 in *Spoken Soul: The story of Black English*, 91-128. New York: John Wiley and Sons Inc.
- Hudson, R. A. 1996. "The quantitative study of speech" Ch. 5 in *Sociolinguistics* (2nd ed.), 193-199 [excerpts]. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Holmes, Janet. 1998. "Myth 6: Women talk too much." Laurie Bauer and Peter Trudgill (ed.), *Language Myths*, 41-49. Penguin Books.
- Giles, Howard, and Nikolas Coupland. 1991. "Language Attitudes". Ch. 2 in *Language: Contexts and Consequences*, 32-59. Buckingham: Open University Press.

Baker, Colin. 1999. "Sign language and the Deaf community." Joshua Fishman (ed.), *Handbook of Language and Ethnic Identity*, 122-139. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Hill, Jane H. 1993. "Hasta La Vista, Baby: Anglo Spanish in the American Southwest." *Critique of Anthropology* 13.2: 145-176.

Lippi-Green, Rosina. 1997. "Teaching children how to discriminate: what we learn from the Big Bad Wolf". Ch. 5 in *English with an accent: Language, Ideology, and Discrimination in the United States*, 79-103. London: Routledge.

Hudson, R. A. 1996. "Speech as social interaction." Ch. 4 in *Sociolinguistics*, 120-131 [excerpts]. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Grundy, Peter. 2000. "Brown and Levinson's model of politeness strategies". In *Doing Pragmatics*, 156-159 [excerpts]. London: Arnold.

Pomerantz, Anita. 1984. "Agreeing and disagreeing with assessments: some features of preferred/dispreferred turn shapes." J. Maxwell Atkinson and John Heritage (eds.), *Structures of Social Action: Studies in Conversation Analysis*, 57-101. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Lee, David. 1992. "Language, Perspective, and Ideology." Ch. 5 in *Competing Discourses: Perspective and Ideology in Language*, 91-108. London: Longman.

van Dijk, Teun A. 1992. "Discourse and the denial of racism". *Discourse and Society* 3.1: 87-118. Reprinted in Adam Jaworski and Nikolas Coupland (eds.) 1999. *The Discourse Reader*, 541-558. London : Routledge.

Nettle, Daniel, and Suzanne Romaine. 2000. "Where have all the languages gone?" Ch. 1 in *Vanishing Voices*, 1-25. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Rickford, John. 1999. "Using the vernacular to teach the standard." Ch. 16 in *African American Vernacular English: Features, Evolution, Educational Implications*, 329-347. Malden: Blackwell.

Pennycook, Alastair. 1994. "The world in English." Ch. 1 in *The Cultural Politics of English as an International Language* [excerpts], 1-24. London: Longman.

Lakoff, Robin. 1990. "Language Bosses." Ch. 15 in *Talking Power*, 283-302. New York: Basic Books.