

Introduction to Sociolinguistics
Master Syllabus
Rosina Lippi-Green
last updated 9/2010

About this course:

Sociolinguistics is, in the broadest sense, the study of the role of language in human society. Formal study began in the late 50s with the hypothesis that language variation is not random, but structured and emblematic, and that all language change is preceded by a period of variation, short or very long. Since those early days, theory, methods and focus have evolved greatly.¹

I will lecture for about ¼ of class time overall. The other ¾ of our time will be consumed by class discussions, presentations, and case study workgroups. Grading is based on preparation, participation in class discussions (for which you need to be present, of course), your presentation of a newspaper article or news broadcast report (details forthcoming), and a final case study/paper with an oral exam element.

Goals: Students should finish this course with an understanding of

- the scope of sociolinguistics and its relationship to other linguistic subdisciplines and other academic fields
- traditional sociolinguistic theory and methods
- more recent theoretical constructs, in particular critical language studies, perceptual dialectology language ideology
- a variety of major case studies which underlie our understanding of how language functions in the community
- field methods, data gathering, and analysis

Possible primary texts:

Coupland, Nikolas and Adam Jaworski (2009). The New Sociolinguistics Reader. Palgrave Macmillan.

Milroy, Lesley and Matthew J. Gordon (2003). Sociolinguistics: Method and Interpretation. Blackwell Pub.

Wolfram, W. and B. Ward (2006). American Voices: How Dialects Differ from Coast to Coast. Blackwell Pub.

¹ Introduction to Sociolinguistics has been designed for those who have had an introductory linguistics class. If you don't have that preparation but you believe you have enough subject knowledge and you would like to take the class, please contact me to set up a meeting.

Readings by Topic

from primary texts and/or course pack

Theory: Then and Now

- Harrison, Gail (2007). "Language as a Problem, a Right or a Resource?," Journal of Social Work 7, 71-92.
- Milroy, Lesley (2004). "Language Ideologies and Linguistic Change," Sociolinguistic variation: Critical reflections.
- Milroy, Lesley and Matthew J. Gordon (2003). "Adaptations of the Traditional Model." In Sociolinguistics: Method and Interpretation. Blackwell Pub.
- Woolard, Kathryn A. (2008). "Why Dat Now?: Linguistic-Anthropological Contributions to the Explanation of Sociolinguistic Icons and Change " Journal of Sociolinguistics 12, 432-452.

Iconic Studies

- Labov, William (1972). "The Social Stratification of (R) in New York City Department Stores." In Sociolinguistic Patterns 43-69. Philadelphia: University of Philadelphia Press.
- Labov, William (1970). The Logic of Nonstandard English. Champaign, Ill: National Council of Teachers of English, by special arrangement with the Center for Applied Linguistics.
- Trudgill, Peter (1983). "Acts of Conflicting Identity: The Sociolinguistics of British Pop-Song Pronunciation." In Peter Trudgill (ed.), On Dialect Oxford: Blackwell.

Ideology

- Bucholtz, Mary (2001). "The Whiteness of Nerds: Superstandard English and Racial Markedness," Journal of Linguistic Anthropology 11, 84-100
- Lippi-Green, Rosina (2010 forthcoming) "The Myth of Standard Language" and "The Language Subordination Process" In English with an Accent: Language, Ideology and Discrimination in the U.S. 2nd rev ed. NY: Routledge
- Milroy, James (2001). "Language Ideologies and the Consequences of Standardization," Journal of Sociolinguistics 5, 530-555.
- Nunberg, Geoffrey (1983/1997). "The Decline of Grammar," The Atlantic Monthly.
- Scarpa, Steven (2005). "Grammar Makes a Comeback: Importance of Making Distinction between Colloquial Speech and Standard English " Professional Media Group.
- Withrow, Dolly (2009). "Here's a Soap-Opera Approach to Grammar," 27 July 2009 Charleston Daily Mail. Charleston.
- Woolard, K. A. and B. B. Schieffelin (1994). "Language Ideology," Annual review of anthropology 23, 55-82.

Changes in Progress

- Labov, William (2001). "Gender Differentiation of the Northern Cities Shift." In Principles of Linguistic Change London: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Lindquist, Hans (2007). "Viewpoint -Wise: The Spread and Development of a New Type of Adverb in American and British English," Journal of English Linguistics 35, 132-156.

Rickford, John R., T. Wasow, A. Zwicky and I. Buchstaller (2007). "Intensive and Quotative All: Something Old, Something New," American Speech 82.

Perceptual Dialectology

Bucholtz, Mary, Nancy Bermudez, Victor Fung, Rosalva Vargas and Lisa Edwards (2008). "The Normative North and the Stigmatized South," Journal of English Linguistics 36, 62-87.

Fridland, Valerie and Kathryn Bartlett (2006). "Correctness, Pleasantness, and Degree of Difference Ratings across Regions," American Speech 81, 358-386.

Preston, Dennis Richard (1989). "Standard English Spoken Here: The Geographical Loci of Linguistic Norms." In Ulrich Ammon (ed.), Status and Function of Languages and Language Varieties 24-354. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.

Wolfram, W (2004). "Dialect Awareness in Community Perspective," Linguistic diversity in the South: changing codes, practices, and ideology, 15.

Regional Variation

Wolfram, W. and B. Ward (2006). American Voices: How Dialects Differ from Coast to Coast. Blackwell.

Labov, William (1996). "The Organization of Dialect Diversity in North America," Fourth International Conference on Spoken Language Processing. Philadelphia, October 6, 1996.

Wolfram, Walt (2003). "Language Variation in the American South: An Introduction," American Speech 78,

Bender, Margaret Clelland (2004). Linguistic Diversity in the South : Changing Codes, Practices, and Ideology. Athens: University of Georgia Press.

Social Factors in Variation Leading to Change

Eckert, Penelope (2003). "Language and Adolescent Peer Groups," Journal of Language and Social Psychology 22, 112-118.

Fought, Carmen (2006). "What Is Ethnicity? Language and the Construction of Ethnic Identity." In Language and Ethnicity xiv, 249 p. Cambridge, UK ; New York: Cambridge University Press.

Huebner, T. and L. Uyechi (2004). "Asian American Voices: Language in the Asian American Community," Language in the USA: themes for the twenty-first century, 245.

Kerswill, P. (2006). "Socio-Economic Class," The Routledge Companion to Sociolinguistics, Routledge, London, 51–61.

Milroy, L. and M. J. Gordon (2003). "Ethnicity and Race." In Sociolinguistics: Method and Interpretation: Blackwell Pub.

Wolfram, W (2004). Social Varieties of American English. New York: Cambridge University Press.

African American Vernacular English

Baugh, John (2001). Beyond Ebonics: Linguistic Pride and Racial Prejudice. New York: Oxford University Press.

Baugh, John (2003). "Linguistic Profiling," Black linguistics: Language, society, and politics in Africa and the Americas, 155-168.

Baugh, John (2004). Ebonics and Its Controversy. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Debose, C. (2007). "The Ebonics Phenomenon, Language Planning, and the Hegemony of Standard English," Talkin Black talk: Language, education, and social change, 30–42-30–42.

- Fordham, Signithia (1999). "Dissin" The Standard: Ebonics as Guerrilla Warfare at Capital High," Anthropology & Education Quarterly 30, 272-293.
- Haynes, V. Dion (1996). "Ebonics Defenders Rebutting Criticism Jesse Jackson Blasts Black English Idea," December 23, 1996 Chicago Tribune. Chicago.
- Jackson, Jacquelyne J. (1997). "On Oakland's Ebonics: Some Say Gibberish, Some Say Slang, Some Say Dis-Den-Dat, Me Say Dem Dumb, It Be Mother Tongue," Black Scholar 27, 18-25.
- Jennings, Peter and Carol Lin. (1996) "Ebonics, Riley," December 24, 1996. ABC Evening News, New York: ABC.
- Jordan, June (1995). "Nobody Mean More to Me Than You and the Future Life of Willie Jordan." In Peter Elbow (ed.), Landmark Essays on Voice and Writing: Lawrence Erlbaum.
- Koppel, Ted. (1996) "Ebonics," December 26, 1996. Nightline, New York: ABC.
- Lippi-Green, Rosina (1997). "What We Talk About When We Talk About Ebonics: Why Definitions Matter," Black Scholar 27, 7-11.
- N.A. (1997). "The Ebonics Virus," The economist.
- Perry, Theresa and Lisa D. Delpit (1998). The Real Ebonics Debate : Power, Language, and the Education of African-American Children. Boston: Beacon Press.
- Rickford, John R. (1997). "Suite for Ebony and Phonics," Discover 18, 82.
- Rickford, John R. (1999). "The Ebonics Controversy in My Background: A Sociolinguist's Experiences and Reflections," Journal of Sociolinguistics 3, 267-275.
- Rickford, John R., Jim Bettinger, Communications Chip Taylor and Channel Stanford (1998). Black English as an American Dialect. Derry, N.H.: Chip Taylor Communications.
- Roberts, John. (1996) "Language/Ebonics," December 22, 1996. CBS Evening News, New York: CBS.
- Ronkin, Maggie and Helen E. Karn (1999). "Mock Ebonics: Linguistic Racism in Parodies of Ebonics on the Internet," Sociolinguistics 3, 360-380.
- Sclafani, Jennifer (2008). "The Intertextual Origins of Public Opinion: Constructing Ebonics in the New York Times," Discourse & Society 19, 507-527.
- Sclafani, Jennifer (2008). "The Intertextual Origins of Public Opinion: Constructing Ebonics in the New York Times," Discourse & Society 19, 507-527.
- Simpson, Carol and Carol Lin. (1996) "Ebonics," December 22, 1996. ABC Evening News, New York: ABC.
- Smith, Harry and Sandra Hughes. (1996) "Black Language," December 30, 1996. CBS Evening News, New York: CBS.
- Smitherman, Geneva (1995). "'Students' Right to Their Own Language": A Retrospective," The English Journal 84, 21-27.
- Smitherman, Geneva (2003). Talkin That Talk: Language, Culture, and Education in African America. Routledge.
- Walker, Janet M. (1994). "Disney's Policy? No Black People, Please," July 23, 1994 New York Amsterdam News. New York.

Spanish-speaking Americans

- Cobas, José and Joe Feagin (2008). "Language Oppression and Resistance: The Case of Middle Class Latinos in the United States," Ethnic and Racial Studies 31, 390-410.
- Giles, Howard, Angie Williams, Diane M. Mackie and Francine Rosselli (1995). "Reactions to Anglo- and Hispanic-American-Accented Speakers: Affect, Identity, Persuasion, and the English-Only Controversy," Language & Communication 15, 107-120.

- Mendoza-Denton, Norma (1999). "Linguistics and Communicative Practices - Sociolinguistics and Linguistic Anthropology of US Latinos," Annual review of anthropology 28, 375-375.
- Nuessel, F. (1997). "Growing up Bilingual: Puerto Rican Children in New York," Lingua 103, 59-59.
- Otheguy, Ricardo (2008). "Language and Dialect Contact in Spanish in New York: Toward the Formation of a Speech Community," Language 83, 770-802.
- Santa Ana, Otto (2002). Brown Tide Rising : Metaphors of Latinos in Contemporary American Public Discourse. Austin: University of Texas Press.

Language Policy, Language Rights & Bilingualism

- Crawford, James (2000). At War with Diversity : U.S. Language Policy in an Age of Anxiety / James Crawford. Clevedon, England ; Buffalo, NY :: Multilingual Matters.
- Des, G. V. A. I. (2001). "Bilingual Individuals and Language-Based Discrimination: Advancing the State of the Law on Language Rights," Language Ideologies: Critical Perspectives on the Official English Movement, Volume II: History, Theory, and Policy.
- Hyltenstam, K., E. Bylund, N. Abrahamsson and H. S. Park (2009). "Dominant-Language Replacement: The Case of International Adoptees," Bilingualism: Language and Cognition 12, 121-140-121-140.
- Kroskrity, Paul V. and Margaret C. Field (2009). Native American Language Ideologies : Beliefs, Practices, and Struggles in Indian Country. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.
- MacGregor-Mendoza, P. (2000). "Aqui No Se Habla Espanol: Stories of Linguistic Repression in Southwest Schools," Bilingual Research Journal 24, 355-368.
- MacGregor-Mendoza, P. (2000). "Aqui No Se Habla Espanol: Stories of Linguistic Repression in Southwest Schools," Bilingual Research Journal 24, 355-368
- Perani, D., E. Paulesu, N. S. Galles, E. Dupoux, S. Dehaene, V. Bettinardi, S. F. Cappa, F. Fazio and J. Mehler (1998). "The Bilingual Brain. Proficiency and Age of Acquisition of the Second Language," Brain 121
- Perani, D., E. Paulesu, N. S. Galles, E. Dupoux, S. Dehaene, V. Bettinardi, S. F. Cappa, F. Fazio and J. Mehler (1998). "The Bilingual Brain. Proficiency and Age of Acquisition of the Second Language," Brain 121.
- Santa Ana, Otto (2004). Tongue-Tied : The Lives of Multilingual Children in Public Education. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
- Social and Foundation for Co-Existence (2006). Language Discrimination to Language Equality : A Report of the Audit on the Implementation of the Official Language Policy. Colombo: Foundation for Co-Existence.
- Valdes, G. (2004). "Between Support and Marginalisation: The Development of Academic Language in Linguistic Minority Children," Bilingualism and language pedagogy, 10-40
- Labov, William (1996). "The Organization of Dialect Diversity in North America," Fourth International Conference on Spoken Language Processing. Philadelphia, October 6, 1996.
- Labov, William (1972). "The Logic of Nonstandard English." In A. Cashdan and Elizabeth Grugeon (eds.), Language in Education 198-211. London: Routledge & Keegan Paul.