ENG 241 - Sociolinguistics

5 ECTS credit points
Spring Semester, 2019

Instructor: Dr. Constantina Fotiou

Days, Time & Venue: Tuesday & Friday 12:00–13:30, Kallipoleos Campus, A107
Office hours: Tuesday 10:00–12:00 and by appointment
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Brief description

The basic premise of sociolinguistics is that one cannot study language outside its context. The study of sociolinguistics can be seen “as a way of viewing the world around you” (to quote from the main textbook of this course, p. 1). This course introduces students to the field of sociolinguistics by focusing on language variation and change as well as how sociocultural factors affect linguistic behavior. It also examines language ideologies, attitudes and myths as well as language contact phenomena, processes and outcomes. Finally, it focuses on the presence and role of English in today’s world before exploring studies that are oriented towards social justice.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, the students will have:

- acquired an understanding of basic theoretical principles, concepts and methodological approaches underlying sociolinguistics
- understood how sociocultural factors affect linguistic behaviour
- studied the role variation plays in language and how it can lead to language change
- acquired an understanding of how some languages have more ‘power’ than others and how that can lead to the establishment of norms, standards, and the perpetuation of certain attitudes towards certain linguistic varieties
- gained an overall understanding of societal multilingualism and become familiar with various language contact phenomena
- studied the role of English in today’s world with a focus on its status in Cyprus
- acquired an understanding of how research in sociolinguistics is related to social justice
Outline

Weeks 1–2
I) Introduction to the field of Sociolinguistics

Lecture 1  Introduction to the course and key concepts  (15/01)
   • W&F Chapter 1, pp.  1–7, 20–21

Lecture 2  On languages, dialects and varieties (1)  (18/01)
   • W&F Chapter 2, pp. 27–38, 40–42
   • Introducing Sociolinguistics, Chapter 1, pp. 8–12 & 20–26

Lecture 3  On languages, dialects and varieties (2)  (22/01)
   • W&F Chapter 2, pp. 38–40, 42–56

Lecture 4  Defining groups of speakers  (25/01)
   • W&F Chapter 3, pp. 62–74

Weeks 3–6
II) Language variation, change & methods in variationist sociolinguistics

Lecture 5  Introduction to Language Variation  (29/01)
   • W&F Chapter 6, pp. 142–157

Lecture 6  Methods in Variationist Sociolinguistics & Research Ethics  (01/02)
   • W&F Chapter 6, pp. 157–168
   • Sociolinguistics Method and Interpretation. Chapter 3, pp. 79–87

Lectures 7 & 8  First Wave of Variation Studies  (05/02, 08/02)
   • W&F Chapter 7, pp. 169–185
   • Introducing Sociolinguistics Chapter 3, pp. 75–89

Lecture 9  Second Wave of Variation Studies  (12/02)
   • W&F Chapter 7, pp. 185–189
   • Introducing Sociolinguistics, Chapter 4, pp. 121–127.

Lecture 10  Language Variation and Change (A)  (15/02)
   • W&F Chapter 8, pp. 196–223

Midterm  (19/02)

Lecture 11  Language Variation and Change (B)  (22/02)
   • W&F Chapter 8, pp. 196–223

Lecture 12  On Cypriot Greek and Standard Modern Greek  (26/02)
   • Reading material available on Blackboard
Weeks 7–8
III) Language Attitudes, Ideologies and Myths

Lecture 13  Language attitudes and ideologies (1)   (01/03)
- W&F Chapter 3, pp. 74–77, Chapter 4, pp. 88–90
- The Routledge Companion to Sociolinguistics Chapter 16, pp. 133–139

Lecture 14  Language attitudes and ideologies (2)   (05/03)
- Regimes of Language: Ideologies, Polities and Identities, Chapter 2 'Language Ideology and Linguistic Differentiation, pp. 35–83 (available on blackboard)

Lecture 15  Language Myths   (08/03)
- Reading material available on Blackboard

Weeks 9–11
IV) Language Contact

Lecture 16  Multilingual Societies   (12/03)
- W&F Chapter 4, pp. 82–88, 90–96

Lecture 17  Multilingual Societies and language ideologies   (15/03)
- W&F Chapter 4, pp. 88–90
- Reading material available on Blackboard

Lecture 18  Linguistic Landscapes   (19/03)
- W&F Chapter 4, pp. 86–88
- Reading material available on Blackboard

Lecture 19  Linguistic Landscapes (Practical Component)   (22/03)

Lecture 20  Multilingual Discourse   (26/03)
- Reading material available on Blackboard

Lecture 21  Contact Languages: Structural consequences of social factors   (29/03)
- W&F Chapter 5, pp. 114–134

Week 12
V) On the English language

Lecture 22  The rise and spread of English as a lingua franca   (02/04)
- W&F Chapter 14, pp. 387–392
- Reading material available on Blackboard

Lecture 23  The English language in Cyprus   (05/04)
- Reading material available on Blackboard

Week 13
VI) Group Presentations and deadline for individual reports   (09/04, 12/04)
Week 14
VII) Sociolinguistics and Social Justice

Lecture 24  Language Policy and Planning (16/04)
• W&F, Chapter 14, pp. 367–377, 381–383
• Introducing Sociolinguistics Chapter 8 pp. 242–253, 265–270

Lecture 25  Sociolinguistics and Education (19/04)
• W&F, Chapter 13, pp. 339–355

Final Exam: date/time TBA

Evaluation
Group presentation and individual report on the presentation: 20%
Completion of assigned reading before each class,
regular attendance & active participation: 10%
Mid-term exam: 20%
Final Exam: 50%
A study guide will be provided so that you can prepare for your mid-term and final exam

Class Policies
Adhering to the University of Cyprus policy, class attendance is compulsory. You are required to
come to class on time and bring your textbook with you (unless your assigned reading involves
other material). In case you do miss a class, you are responsible for finding out what you missed by
contacting your colleagues. Use of mobile phones is prohibited in class. Your success in this course
depends on you doing the pre-assigned reading, taking good notes and on your regular attendance
and active participation.

Main textbook (required) to be purchased by students
Wiley & Sons, Inc (henceforth, W&F). Note: The book has a companion website
(www.wiley.com/go/wardhaugh/sociolinguistics) with additional online material, examples,
exercises, chapter-by-chapter study guide and a list of key terms. You are encouraged to use it.

Reading list
Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing. (e-book)
London, New York: Routledge. (on short loan)
Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press (e-book)
Publishing. (on short loan)
University Press. (e-book)