



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

Office Location: Dept. of English Studies, M Building, Kallipoleos Av., Room: M106

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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 linguist 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, Politics 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

Wardhaugh, R. and J. M Fuller. 2015. *An introduction to Sociolinguistics (7thed.)*. Chichester: John 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

Bauer, L. & P. Trudgill. 1998. *Language Myths*. London: Penguin Books. (on short loan)

Chambers, J., P Trudgill & N. Schilling-Estes. 2013. *Handbook of Language Variation and Change*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing. (e-book)

Llamas, C., L. Mullany & P. Stockwell. 2007. *The Routledge Companion to Sociolinguistics*. London, New York: Routledge. (on short loan)

Mesthrie, R., J. Swann, A. Deumert & W. L. Leap. 2009. *Introducing Sociolinguistics (2nd ed.)*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press (e-book)

Milroy, L. & M. Gordon. 2003. *Sociolinguistics Method and Interpretation*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing. (on short loan)

Romaine, S. 2000. *Language in society: an introduction to sociolinguistics*. New York: Oxford University Press. (e-book)