Language Society and Culture

Social Dialects

Varieties of language used by ◆ groups defined according to :
- Class ◆
- Education ◆
- Occupation ◆
- Age ◆
- Sex ◆
  etc. ◆

Education, Occupation , Social Class

◆ It seems to be the case that a person who spends a long time going through college or university will tend to have spoken language features which derive from written language

◆ Some professors are recognized by " talks like a book "

Differences in occupation and social ◆ class have some effect on the speech of individuals.

Every job has a certain amount of ◆ 'jargon' which those not involved in a similar occupation find difficult to understand.

Bucket of mud , ◆
draw one , ◆
hold the cow◆

A chocolate ice cream ◆
And a coffee without cream◆

Age and Sex

◆ Variation according to age is most noticeable across the grandparent-grandchild time span.

◆

◆ Grandfathers may be confused by some of the speech of a teenage granddaughter.

Female speakers tend to use more prestigious forms than male speakers with the same general background ◆

Ethnic Background

Some examples of ethnic differences. ◆

The speech of recent immigrants, ◆ and often their children will contain identifying features. In some areas where there is strong language loyalty to the original language.

Black English is a widespread social ◆
dialect . When a group within a
society undergoes some form of
isolation , such as the discrimination
or segregation experienced
historically by American black.

Idiolect

◆ The term idiolect is used for the personal dialect of each individual speaker of a language .

◆ There are other factors , such as voice quality and physical state which contribute to the identifying features in an individual's speech

Style

◆ It refers to the relations among participants in a language activity, especially the level of formality (formal , colloquial , etc.)

◆ There is a gradation of style of speech , from very formal to the very informal.

Going for a job interview, one may ◆
say:

Excuse me , is the manager in his ◆
office ? I have an appointment.

Speaking to a friend about another ◆ friend , one might be less formal ;

Hey , is that lazy dog still in bed ? ◆

I gotta see him about something. ◆

Style -Shifting

Style-shifting occurs in all speakers ◆ to a different degree; interlocutors regularly and consistently change their linguistic forms according to context.

Style shifting refers to a single ◆ speaker changing his or her style in response to context.

Differences in style carry over into ◆ the written language . A written form of a message will be more formal in style than in spoken equivalent.

I'm writing to inform you .. ◆

Just wanted to let you know... ◆

Register

- It refers to variety of language defined according to its use in social situation

- e.g. a register of scientific , religious , formal English, etc.

- Language activity that takes place in various contexts makes differences in the type of language selected as appropriate to different types of situation

Register is associated with the ◆ setting and scene in which they are used than with the people who are using them .

Levels of formality

◆ a. How about coming to the movie tonight ?

◆ b. Would you like to come to the movie tonight ?

◆ C. Might I escort you to the movie tonight ?

◆ D. I would deem it a privilege if you would accompany me to the cinema.

Diglossia

◆ It refers to a situation where two very different varieties of a language co-occur throughout a speech community , each with a distinct range of social function. Both varieties are felt to be alternative by native speakers .

◆ E.g. Arabic (high: classical ; low : colloquial)

Linguistic Determinism

Language determines thought. ◆

It is your language that makes you ◆ perceive how the world is through the categories and the number of words , the choices in words.

Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis

The language of American Indians led them to view the world differently from those who spoke European languages..   ◆

Language Universals

All languages have certain common ◆
properties. Every human language :

- can be learnt by children, ◆

- employs an arbitrary symbol ◆
  system , and ◆

- can be used to send and receive ◆
  messages by its users . ◆