

An Introduction to Sociolinguistics

Third Edition

Janet Holmes

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Contents

<i>Preface</i>	xv
<i>Author's acknowledgements</i>	xvi
<i>Publisher's acknowledgements</i>	xvii
1 What do sociolinguists study?	1
What is a sociolinguist?	1
Why do we say the same thing in different ways?	3
What are the different ways we say things?	4
Social factors, dimensions and explanations	9
Answers to exercises in chapter 1	13
Concepts introduced	15
References	16
Useful additional reading	16
Section A Multilingual speech communities	17
2 Language choice in multilingual communities	19
Choosing your variety or code	19
Diglossia	27
Code-switching or code-mixing	35
Answers to exercises in chapter 2	47
Concepts introduced	50
References	50
Quotations	51
Useful additional reading	51
3 Language maintenance and shift	52
Language shift in different communities	52
Language death and language loss	58
Factors contributing to language shift	60
How can a minority language be maintained?	64
Language revival	66
Answers to exercises in chapter 3	70
Concepts introduced	72
References	73

Quotations	73
Useful additional reading	73
4 Linguistic varieties and multilingual nations	74
Vernacular languages	75
Standard languages	76
Lingua francas	80
Pidgins and creoles	83
Answers to exercises in chapter 4	94
Concepts introduced	96
References	96
Quotations	97
Useful additional reading	97
5 National languages and language planning	98
National and official languages	99
Planning for a national official language	105
Developing a standard variety in Norway	109
The linguist's role in language planning	112
Answers to exercises in chapter 5	119
Concepts introduced	122
References	123
Quotations	123
Useful additional reading	123
Section B Language variation: focus on users	125
6 Regional and social dialects	127
Regional variation	128
Social variation	136
Social dialects	137
Answers to exercises in chapter 6	154
Concepts introduced	155
References	155
Quotations	155
Useful additional reading	156
7 Gender and age	157
Gender-exclusive speech differences: highly structured communities	157
Gender-preferential speech features: social dialect research	160

Brief contents

<i>Preface</i>	xv
<i>Author's acknowledgements</i>	xvi
<i>Publisher's acknowledgements</i>	xvii
1 What do sociolinguists study?	1
Section A Multilingual speech communities	17
2 Language choice in multilingual communities	19
3 Language maintenance and shift	52
4 Linguistic varieties and multilingual nations	74
5 National languages and language planning	98
Section B Language variation: focus on users	125
6 Regional and social dialects	127
7 Gender and age	157
8 Ethnicity and social networks	184
9 Language change	204
Section C Language variation: focus on uses	233
10 Style, context and register	235
11 Speech functions, politeness and cross-cultural communication	270
12 Gender, politeness and stereotypes	296
13 Language, cognition and culture	329
14 Analysing discourse	355
15 Attitudes and applications	405
16 Conclusion	431
<i>References</i>	447
<i>Appendix I Phonetic symbols</i>	467
<i>Appendix II Preface to first edition</i>	469
<i>Appendix III Preface to second edition</i>	470
<i>Glossary</i>	471
<i>Index</i>	473

Gender and social class	161
Explanations of women's linguistic behaviour	164
Age-graded features of speech	173
Age and social dialect data	175
Age grading and language change	178
Answers to exercises in chapter 7	180
Concepts introduced	181
References	181
Quotations	182
Useful additional reading	182
Appendix	182
8 Ethnicity and social networks	184
Ethnicity	184
Social networks	193
Answers to exercises in chapter 8	201
Concepts introduced	202
References	202
Quotations	203
Useful additional reading	203
9 Language change	204
Variation and change	205
How do changes spread?	211
How do we study language change?	216
Reasons for language change	219
Answers to exercises in chapter 9	227
Concepts introduced	230
References	231
Quotations	231
Useful additional reading	231
Section C Language variation: focus on uses	233
10 Style, context and register	235
Addressee as an influence on style	236
Accommodation theory	242
Context, style and class	246
Style in non-Western societies	255
Register	259

CONTENTS

Answers to exercises in chapter 10	265
Concepts introduced	268
References	268
Quotations	269
Useful additional reading	269
11 Speech functions, politeness and cross-cultural communication	270
The functions of speech	270
Politeness and address forms	280
Linguistic politeness in different cultures	287
Answers to exercises in chapter 11	292
Concepts introduced	294
References	295
Quotations	295
Useful additional reading	295
12 Gender, politeness and stereotypes	296
Women's language and confidence	296
Interaction	305
Gossip	310
The construction of gender	315
Sexist language	317
Answers to exercises in chapter 12	322
Concepts introduced	326
References	327
Quotations	327
Useful additional reading	328
13 Language, cognition and culture	329
Language and perception	330
Whorf	335
Linguistic categories and culture	340
Discourse patterns and culture	344
Language, social class and cognition	346
Answers to exercises in chapter 13	351
Concepts introduced	352
References	353
Quotations	353
Useful additional reading	354

14	Analysing discourse	355
	Pragmatics and politeness theory	356
	Ethnography of speaking	365
	Interactional sociolinguistics	372
	Conversation Analysis (CA)	378
	Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)	388
	Answers to exercises in chapter 14	398
	Concepts introduced	402
	References	403
	Quotations and definitions	404
	Useful additional reading	404
15	Attitudes and applications	405
	Attitudes to language	405
	Sociolinguistics and education	420
	Answers to exercises in chapter 15	427
	Concepts introduced	429
	References	429
	Quotations	429
	Useful additional reading	430
16	Conclusion	431
	Sociolinguistic competence	431
	Dimensions of sociolinguistic analysis	439
	Sociolinguistic universals	442
	Concepts introduced	446
	References	446
	Useful additional reading	446
	<i>References</i>	447
	<i>Appendix I Phonetic symbols</i>	467
	<i>Appendix II Preface to first edition</i>	469
	<i>Appendix III Preface to second edition</i>	470
	<i>Glossary</i>	471
	<i>Index</i>	473

Preface

The third edition of my textbook has provided a further opportunity to respond to some of the many valuable suggestions that readers have sent to me over the last 10 years. I have added some new examples, updated the references and recommended readings once again, and in response to many requests I have added a new chapter on approaches to the analysis of discourse. I have also added some additional sociolinguistic concepts, and expanded the discussion of material in places.

This book uses many examples from a range of sources. When no explicit source is provided, the examples are based on my own experience, and especially on corpora of recorded materials that I have accumulated over many years of teaching and research. The examples are generally 'cleaned up' and edited for presentation in this introductory book, but almost all are 'authentic' in that I began from a genuine interaction.

A number of teachers have told me that they find this book useful for teaching sociolinguistics to students for whom English is an additional language. Since the book was written, inevitably, with an English-speaking audience in mind, I encourage teachers to adapt the exercises to the situations of their students.

I hope the new chapter proves useful and that the amendments and additions increase the value of the book both for students and teachers.

*Janet Holmes
Wellington, New Zealand
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