Sociological Approach to Human Language

19-11-2019

What is
the Sociology of language?

- Sociology [ˌsəʊʃɪˈɒlədʒɪ] / [soʊsiɒlədʒi] is the study of society or of the way society is organized.
- Sociology of language is the study of the relations between language and society.
- It is closely related to the field of **sociolinguistics** [ˌsəʊʃɪəʊlɪŋˈgwɪstɪks] or [ˌsəʊsɪəʊlɪŋˈgwɪstɪks], which focuses on the effect of society on language.

What is Sociolinguistics?
[ˌsəʊʃɪəʊlɪŋˈɡwɪstɪks] or [ˌsəʊsɪəʊlɪŋˈɡwɪstɪks]

- Sociolinguistics is the descriptive study of the effect of any and all aspects of society, including cultural norms, expectations, and context, on the way language is used, and society's effect on language.

- It differs from sociology of language, which focuses on the effect of language on society. Sociolinguistics overlaps considerably with pragmatics. It is historically closely related to linguistic anthropology, and the distinction between the two fields has been questioned.

What is Sociolinguistics?
[ˌsəuʃɪəʊlɪŋ'gwɪstɪks] or [ˌsəʊsɪəʊlɪŋ'gwɪstɪks]

- The term sociolinguistics is used generally for the study of the relationship between language and society. This is a broad area of investigation that developed through the integration of linguistics with a number of other academic disciplines.

- It has strong connections with anthropology through the study of language and culture, and with sociology through the investigation of the role language plays in the organization of social groups and institutions.

- It is also tied to social psychology, particularly with regard to how attitudes and perceptions are expressed and how in-group and out-group behaviors are identified. We use all these connections when we try to analyze language from a social perspective.

What is Sociolinguistics?
[ˌsəʊʃɪəʊlɪŋˈgwɪstɪks] or [ˌsəʊsɪəʊlɪŋˈgwɪstɪks]

- It also studies how language varieties differ between groups separated by certain social variables (e.g., ethnicity, religion, status, gender, level of education, age, etc.) and how creation and adherence to these rules is used to categorize individuals in social or socioeconomic classes.

- As the usage of a language varies from place to place, language usage also varies among social classes, and it is these **sociolects** [ˈsəʊsɪə(ʊ)lɛkt, ˈsəʊʃɪə(ʊ)-] (Oxford Dic) that sociolinguistics studies.

What is
the Sociology of language?

- The sociology of language studies society in relation to language, whereas Sociolinguistics studies language in relation to society.

- For the former, society is the object of study, whereas, for the latter, language is the object of study.

What is
the Sociology of language?

- The sociology of language studies social groupings and powers in relation to language, whereas Sociolinguistics studies language in relation (of exercising power) to society.

- For the former, society is the object of study, whereas, for the latter, language is the object of study.

What is Sociolinguistics?
[ˌsəʊʃɪəʊlɪŋˈgwɪstɪks] or [ˌsəʊsɪəʊlɪŋˈgwɪstɪks]

- In other words, sociolinguistics studies language and how it varies based on the user's *sociological background*, such as gender, ethnicity, age, status, and socioeconomic [ˌsəʊsɪəʊˌiːkəˈnɒmɪk ˌ-ˌɛkə-] class.

What is Sociolinguistics?
[ˌsəʊʃɪəʊlɪŋˈgwɪstɪks] or [ˌsəʊsɪəʊlɪŋˈgwɪstɪks]

- The social aspects of language were in the modern sense first studied by Louis Gauchat in Switzerland.

- Gauchat studied the French language spoken in Switzerland. In 1899 he founded 'Glossaire des patois de la Suisse romande' ('Glossary of dialects of French-speaking Switzerland'), an institution to publish comprehensive studies of Switzerland's French dialects.

What is dialect in sociolinguistics?

- Dialect [ˈdaɪəlekt] (n.) is a regionally or socially distinctive variety of language, identified by a particular set of words and grammatical structures.

What is dialect in sociolinguistics?

- Spoken dialects are usually also associated with a distinctive pronunciation, or accent.

- Any language with a reasonably large number of speakers will develop dialects, especially if there are geographical barriers separating groups of people from each other, or if there are divisions of social class.

- One dialect may predominate as the official or standard form of the language, and this is the variety which may come to be written down.

What is dialect continuum in sociolinguistics?

- In sociolinguistics, a term used to describe a chain of dialects spoken throughout an area; also called a dialect chain. At any point in the chain, speakers of a dialect can understand the speakers of other dialects who live adjacent to them; but people who live further away may be difficult or impossible to understand.

- For example, an extensive continuum links the modern dialects of German and Dutch, running from Belgium through the Netherlands, Germany, and Austria to Switzerland.

- See also post-creole continuum.

A Sprachbund (German: [ˈʃpʁaːxbʊnt], "Federation of Languages"

- A Sprachbund (German: [ˈʃpʁaːxbʊnt], "federation of languages"), also known as a linguistic area, area of linguistic convergence, diffusion area or language crossroads, is a group of languages that have common features resulting from **geographical proximity and language contact.** They may be genetically unrelated, or only distantly related. Where genetic affiliations are unclear, the Sprachbund characteristics might give a false appearance of relatedness.
- **Areal features** are common features of a group of languages in a Sprachbund.

What is dialect continuum in sociolinguistics?

- It is usually said that people speak different languages when they do not understand each other. But the so-called 'dialects' of Chinese (Mandarin, Cantonese, etc.) are mutually unintelligible in their spoken form. (They do, however, share the same written language, which is the main reason why one talks of them as 'dialects of Chinese'.).

- And the opposite situation occurs: Swedes, Norwegians and Danes are generally able to understand each other, but their separate histories, cultures, literatures and political structures warrant Swedish, Norwegian and Danish being referred to as different languages.

What is Sociolinguistics?
[ˌsəuʃɪəulɪŋˈgwɪstɪks] or [ˌsəusɪəulɪŋˈgwɪstɪks]

- Sociolinguistics in the West first appeared in the 1960s and was pioneered by linguists such as William Labov /ləˈboʊv/ in the US and Basil Bernstein in the UK.

- In the 1960s, William Stewart and Heinz Kloss introduced the basic concepts for the sociolinguistic theory of pluricentric languages, which describes how standard language varieties differ between nations (e.g. American/British/Canadian/Australian English; Austrian/German/Swiss German; Bosnian/ Croatian/ Montenegrin/Serbian Serbo-Croatian.

What is
the Sociology of language?

- On the other hand, sociology of language (also known as macrosociolinguistics ['mækrəu]; sociolinguistics [ˌsəuʃɪəulɪŋ'gwɪstɪks] Lingvouniv En-Ru or [ˌsəʊsɪəʊlɪŋ'gwɪstɪks] Collins En-En; Oxford AMED) studies society and how it is impacted by language.

What is
the Sociology of language?

- Andreas Pickel states,

  "**Religion** and **other symbolic systems** strongly shaping social practices and shaping political orientations are examples of the social significance such languages can have."

What is
the Sociology of language?

- The basic idea is that language reflects, among several other things, attitudes that speakers want to exchange or that just get reflected through language use.
- These attitudes of the speakers are the sociologist's information.

What is
the Sociology of language?

- Sociology of language seeks to understand the way that social dynamics are affected by individual and group language use.

What is
the Sociology of language?

- Language can be considered to be a social value within this field, which researches social groups for phenomena like multilingualism and **lingual conflict.**
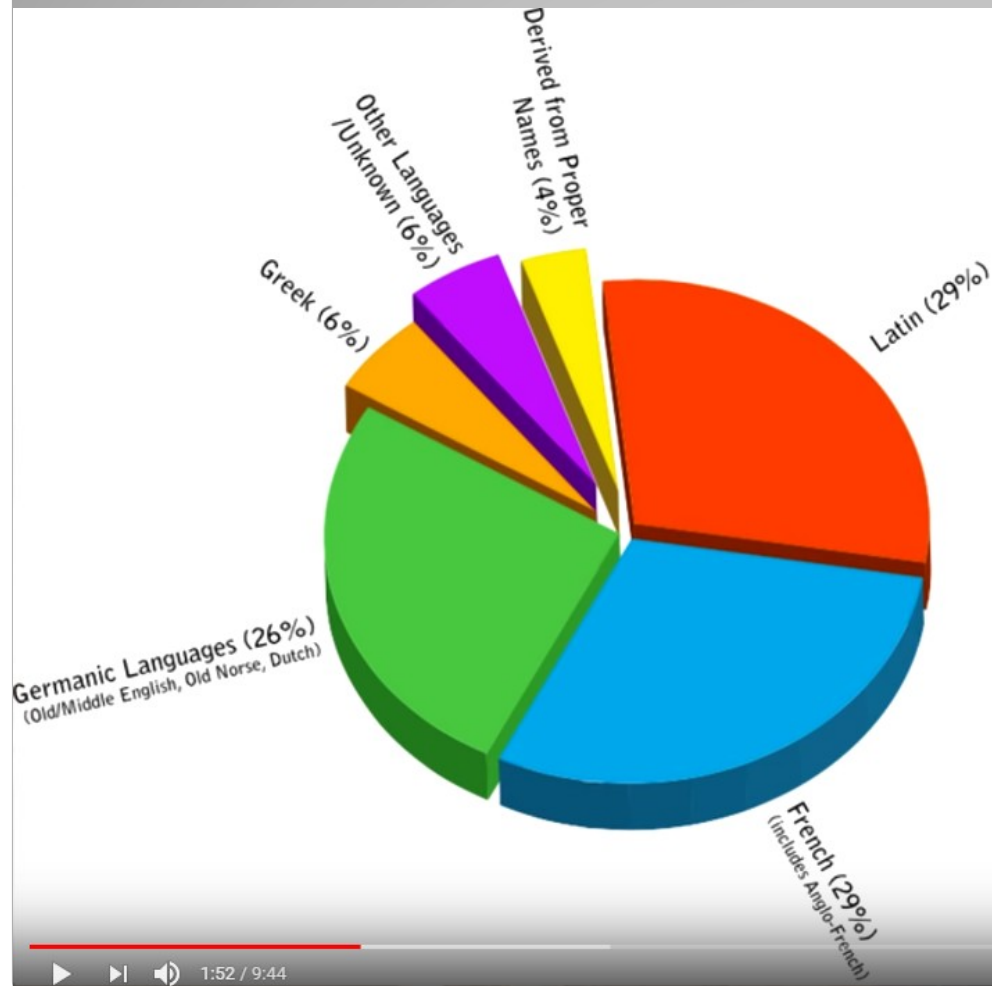
What is
the Sociology of language?

- Language has to do with who is 'authorized' to use what language, with whom and under what conditions.

Communication, language of power hypocricy

Communication, power, prejudice and understanding between cultures

Words keep memory of their origin

Words keep memory of their origin

Pairs of equivalent words for animals & food

Animals (Germanic)

Cow (from OE **cū**)

Pig (from OE **picga**)

Sheep (from OE **sceap**)

Snail (from OE **snægl**)

Food (French)

Beef (from French **boeuf**)

Pork (from French **porc**)

Mutton (from French **mouton**)

Escargot (from French escargot)

"Pig" comes from Old English "picga"
but "pork" comes French "porc"

What is
the Sociology of language?

Language has to do with

- how an **individual or group identity** is established by the language that they have available for them to use.

- Sociology of Language seeks to understand **individual expression**, which makes the investment in the **linguistic tools** that one has access to in order to bring oneself to other people.

What is
the Sociology of language?

Sociology of language, particularly American sociolinguistics, was regarded to have been founded in the early 1960s,

mainly by William Labov /ləˈboʊv/, who developed much of the methodology.

The **matched-guise test by Wallace Lambert** is a sociolinguistic experimental technique used to determine the true feelings of an individual or community towards a specific language, dialect, or accent.

What is
the Sociology of language?

Sociology of language, particularly American sociolinguistics, was regarded to have been founded in the early 1960s, mainly by William Labov /ləˈboʊv/, who developed much of the methodology.
The **sociolinguistic interview** is an integral part of collecting data for sociolinguistic studies.

What is
Speech community?

Speech community is a concept in sociolinguistics that describes a distinct group of people who use language in a unique and mutually accepted way among themselves.

This is sometimes referred to as a **Sprechbund**.

What is
Speech community?

To be considered part of a speech community, one must have a communicative competence.

That is, the speaker has the ability to use language in a way that is appropriate in the given situation.

It is possible for a speaker to be *communicatively competent* in more than one language.

What is
Speech community?

Speech communities can be members of a profession with a specialized jargon, distinct social groups like high school students or hip hop fans, or even tight-knit groups like families and friends. Members of speech communities will often develop slang or jargon to serve the group's special purposes and priorities.

What is
Community of Practice?

A **community of practice** (**CoP**) is a group of people who share a craft or a profession.

Presently
the term jargon /ˈdʒɑːgən/
most often refers
to the words
particular
to a given profession.

What is
Community of Practice?

A **community of practice** (**CoP**) is a group of people who share a craft or a profession.

Argot [ˈɑːgəʊ] (noun) is the jargon or slang of a particular group or class: teenage argot.
Origin: mid 19th cent. (originally denoting the jargon or slang of criminals): from French, of unknown origin.

What is
Community of Practice?

A **community of practice** (**CoP**) is a group of people who share a craft or a profession.

Slang [slæŋ] – about vocabulary, idiom, etc., that is not appropriate to the standard form of a language or to formal contexts, may be restricted as to social status or distribution, and is characteristically more metaphorical and **transitory** than standard language.

What is Community of Practice?

A **community of practice (CoP)** is a group of people who share a craft or a profession.

Slang [slæŋ] consists of words, expressions, and meanings that are informal and are used by **people** who know each other very well or who have the **same interests**.

Slang [slæŋ] is a type of language that consists of words and phrases that are regarded as **very informal**, are more common in speech than writing, and are typically restricted to a particular context or group of people:

'Grass' is slang for marijuana.

What is Community of Practice?

Community of Practice allows for sociolinguistics to examine the relationship between socialization, competence, and identity.

Since identity is a very complex structure, studying language socialization is a means to examine the micro-interactional level of practical activity (everyday activities). The learning of a language is greatly influenced by family but it is supported by the larger local surroundings, such as school, sports teams, or religion. Speech communities may exist within a larger community of practice.

What is
Community of Practice?

Members of (**CoP**) may have somethin g in common:

A. Shared topics or subject of interest
B. Shared activities and interactions;
C. Shared repertoire, tools and strategies, ideas and results (maybe also involvement, transparency of meanings and emotional connections).

What is
Community of Practice?

Members of (**CoP**) may have something in common:

A. Shared topics or subject of interest
B. Shared activities and interactions;
C. Shared repertoire, frames, tools and strategies, ideas and results;
D. Shared background (e.g. age)

and values. Now watch the video:

What is
Prestige [prɛ'stiːʒ]?

Prestige [prɛ'stiːʒ] generally means high status or reputation achieved through success, influence, wealth, etc.

Sociolinguistic prestige is especially visible in situations where two or more distinct languages are in use, and in diverse, socially stratified urban areas, in which there are likely to be speakers of different languages and/or dialects interacting frequently.

What is Prestige [prɛ'stiːʒ]?

Prestige [prɛ'stiːʒ] is the level of regard normally accorded a specific language or dialect within a speech community, relative to other languages or dialects. The concept of prestige in sociolinguistics provides one explanation for the phenomenon of variation in form, among speakers of a language or languages.

Prestige varieties are those varieties which are generally considered, by a society, to be the most "correct" or otherwise superior variety.

What is
Prestige [prɛˈstiːʒ]?

Prestige [prɛˈstiːʒ] is the level of regard normally accorded a specific language or dialect within a speech community, relative to other languages or dialects.

Different languages and dialects are accorded prestige based upon factors, including

"rich literary heritage, high degree of language modernization, considerable international standing, or the prestige of its speakers".

What is Prestige [prɛ'stiː3]?

The prestige variety, in many cases, is the standard form of the language though there are **exceptions**, particularly in situations of covert prestige where a non-standard dialect is highly valued.

In addition to dialects and languages, **prestige** is also applied to smaller linguistic features, such as the **pronunciation** or usage of words or grammatical constructs, which may not be pronounced enough to constitute a separate dialect.

What is Vernacular [vəˈnækjʊlə] and Patois [ˈpætwɑː]?

Additionally, which varieties, registers or features will be considered more prestigious depends on audience and context.

Vernacular [vəˈnækjʊlə] the vernacular is the commonly spoken language or dialect of a particular people or place.

Patois [ˈpætwɑː; French patwa] is an unwritten regional dialect of a language, esp of French, usually considered substandard.

What is
Prestige [prɛ'sti:ʒ]?

There are thus the concepts of **overt** and **covert prestige**. Whereas overt prestige is related to standard and "formal" language features and expresses power and status; covert prestige is related more to vernacular and often patois, and expresses solidarity, community and group identity more than authority.

What is Prestige [prɛˈstiːʒ]?

Prestige varieties are often those that are regarded mostly highly within a society.

As such, the standard language, the form promoted by authorities and considered "correct" or otherwise superior, is often the prestige variety.

However, there are many exceptions to this rule, such as Arabic, in which **Egyptian Arabic** is widely used in mass media aimed at international audiences, while **Literary Arabic** (also known as Standard Arabic) is **a more prestigious form**.

What is Prestige [prɛ'sti:ʒ]?

Prestige varieties are usually the language varieties of the prestigious social classes.

Therefore, the **prestige variety** of a given language community or nation-state has symbolic significance and may act as an instrument of political power.

What is Prestige [prɛ'sti:ʒ]?

The notion of a "standard" language in a speech community is related to the prestige of the languages spoken in the community. In general, "greater prestige tends to be attached to the notion of the standard, since it can function in higher domains, and has a written form.

While there are some counterexamples, such as Arabic, "**prestigious** and **standard** varieties [tend to] coincide to the extent that the two terms can be used interchangeably."

What is
Prestige [prɛˈstiːʒ]?

The notion of a "standard" language in a speech community is related to the prestige of the languages spoken in the community. In general, "greater prestige tends to be attached to the notion of the standard, since it can function in higher domains, and has a written form.

While there are some counterexamples, such as Arabic, "**prestigious** and **standard** varieties [tend to] coincide to the extent that the two terms can be used interchangeably."

What is
Prestige [prɛ'stiːʒ]?

The terms and conditions of prestige assigned to a language variety are subject to change depending on speaker, audience, situation and context. A dialect or variety which is considered prestigious in one context, will not carry the same status in another. *The relative status of language* varies according to audience, situation and other contextual elements is highly local. *Covert prestige* refers to relatively high value placed on a non-standard form of language.

What is Prestige [prɛ'stiːʒ]?

- The prestige accorded to the **churchmen, lawyers and scholars** who used Latin was transferred to the language itself. Latin was held to be noble and beautiful, not just the thoughts expressed in it or the people who used it. What is called 'beauty' in a language is more accurately seen as a reflection of the prestige of its speakers.

What is Prestige [prɛ'sti:ʒ]?

- This phenomenon is not limited to English-speaking populations.
- In Western Europe, multiple languages were considered to be of high prestige at some time or another,
- including "Italian as the Mediterranean Lingua Franca and as the language of the Renaissance;
- and the 17th-18th century French of the court culture".

Language differences

- **Telling a language from a dialect** may be a matter of prestige.
- "Language differences are not only marks of differential group membership, but also powerful triggers of group attitudes".
- Such fuzziness has resulted in the aphorism

"A language is a dialect with an army and a navy."

Language difference

- A canonical example of this is the Scandinavian languages, including Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian, where language differences "constitute barriers to but do not wholly block communication", but are considered distinct languages because they are spoken in different countries.

What is
Koine ['kɔɪneɪ]?

- **Koine** ['kɔɪneɪ] (UK: /'kɔɪni/, US: /kɔɪ'neɪ, 'kɔɪneɪ, kiː'niː/(n.) is a common language among speakers of different languages; a bridge language, a lingua franca (the latter one being viewed as any 'bridge language').

- **Etymology:**

- from Greek koinē dialektos – common language.

What is
Koine [ˈkɔɪneɪ]?

- **Koine**[ˈkɔɪneɪ] (n.) means the spoken language of a locality which has become a **standard language or lingua franca.**
- There are such notions in use as
   (for Old English) 'West Saxon literary koine'
- or (for US-influenced British English) – 'mid-Atlantic koine'.

What is
Koine ['kɔɪneɪ]?

- **Koine**['kɔɪneɪ] (n.) means the spoken language of a locality which has become a **standard language or lingua franca.**

- The term was originally used with reference to the Greek language used throughout the eastern Mediterranean [ˌmedɪt(ə)'reɪnɪən] countries during the Hellenistic [ˌhelɪ'nɪstɪk] and Roman periods; but it is now applied to cases where a vernacular [və'nækjulə] has come to be used throughout an area in which several languages or dialects are spoken.

Social causes for differences in dialects

- While some differences between dialects are regional in nature, there are also social causes for differences in dialects.

- Researcher John Joseph Gumperz observed that the lower prestige groups sought to imitate the higher prestige speech patterns and that over time, it had caused the evolution of the prestige away from the regional standard, as higher prestige groups sought to differentiate themselves from lower prestige groups.

Social causes for differences in dialects

- One notable example of the relationship between dialect and social stratification in English is William Labov's 1966 study of the variable pronunciation of r in New York City. Labov went to three department stores that catered to three clearly delineated socioeconomic groups—Saks (high), Macy's (middle), and S. Klein (low)—and studied how their employees pronounced the phrase "fourth floor". His results demonstrated that the employees at Saks pronounced r most often, Macy's employees pronounced r less often, and at S. Klein, seventy-nine percent of the respondents said no r at all.

What is
Prestige [prɛˈstiːʒ]?

- Labov attributed his findings to the perceived prestige of each dialect. He noted that New York City's "dropped 'r' has its origins in posh British speech", but after World War II, "with the loss of Britain's imperial status 'r'-less British speech ceased to be regarded as 'prestige speech'".

Style-shifting

- In his department store study, Labov included another subtle element that allowed him not only to investigate the type of social stratification, but also speech style as a social feature of language use. The most basic distinction in speech style is between formal uses and informal uses.

- Formal style is when we pay more careful attention to how we're speaking and informal is when we pay less attention. They are sometimes described as 'careful style' and 'casual style'. A change from one to another is called style-shifting.

Style-shifting

- As we look more closely at variation in speech style, we can see that it is not only a function of speakers' social class and attention to speech, but it is also influenced by their perception of the listeners.

- This type of variation is sometimes described in terms of '**audience design**', but it is more generally known as **speech accommodation**, defined as our ability to modify our speech style toward or away from the perceived style of the person(s) we're talking to.

Stylistic register

- Another influence on speech style that is tied to social identity derives from register.

- A **register** is a conventional way of using language that is appropriate in a specific context, which may be identified as [situational] (e.g. in church), [occupational] (e.g. among lawyers) or [topical] (e.g. talking about ballet).

What is Covert Prestige [prɛ'stiːʒ]?

- The idea of covert prestige was first introduced by William Labov, who noticed that even speakers who used non-standard dialects often believed that their own dialect was "bad" or "inferior". Labov realized that there must be some underlying reason for their use of the dialect, which he identified as a signal of group identity.

Class aspiration and Prestige

- Studies, such as those by William Labov in the 1960s, have shown that social aspirations influ-ence speech patterns. This is also true of class aspirations.
- In the process of wishing to be associated with a certain class (usually the upper class and upper middle class) people who are moving in that di-rection socio-economically will adjust their speech patterns to sound like them.

Class aspiration and Prestige

- However, not being native upper-class speakers, they often hypercorrect, which involves overcorrecting their speech to the point of introducing new errors.
- The same is true for individuals moving down in socio-economic status.

Class aspiration and Prestige

- It can be realised on the level of the individual sound/phoneme, as Labov discovered in investigating pronunciation of the post-vocalic /r/ in the North-Eastern USA, or on the macro scale of language choice, as realised in the various diglossia that exist throughout the world, where Swiss-German/High German is perhaps most well known.

Class aspiration and Prestige

- An important implication of the sociolinguistic theory is that speakers 'choose' a variety when making a speech act, whether consciously or subconsciously.

- The terms acrolectal (high) and basilectal (low) are also used to distinguish between a more standard dialect and a dialect of less prestige. Basilect [ˈbasɪlɛkt, ˈbeɪsɪ-] is a less prestigious dialect or variety of a particular language, contrasted with acrolect [ˈakrə(ʊ)lɛkt].

Class aspiration and Prestige

- Crucial to sociolinguistic analysis is the concept of prestige; certain speech habits are assigned a positive or a negative value, which is then applied to the speaker.
- This can operate on many levels.

What is Prestige [prɛ'stiːʒ]?

- Peter Trudgill observed that more working class women spoke the standard dialect than men.
- Farida Abu-Haidar performed a similar study in Baghdad of prestige in the Arabic language, after which she concluded that in Baghdadi Arabic, women are more conscious of prestige than are men.

Adstratum [ˈadstrɑːtəm, adˈstrɑːtəm] is a language or group of elements within it that is responsible for changes in a neighbouring language

- When different languages or language varieties come in contact with one another, a variety of relationships can form between the two, all typically influenced by **prestige**.
- When the two contact languages have equal power or prestige, they form adstratum, as exemplified by Old English and Norse, which shared elements with each other more or less equally.

Prestige in Language contact

- Far more common is for the two languages to have an unequal power relationship, as is the case of many colonial language contact situations.

Prestige in Language contact

- In the case of pidgins and creoles, it is usually noted that the low prestige language provides the phonology while the high prestige language provides the lexicon and grammatical structure.

- Creole [ˈkriːəʊl] is a language that has its origin in extended contact between two language communities, one of which is generally European. It incorporates features from each and constitutes the mother tongue of a community

Lingua Franca [ˌlɪnguʌˈfræŋkə]

- **Lingua Franca** [ˌlɪnguʌˈfræŋkə], lingua francas or linguae francae [ˈfrænsiː] has a few meanings:
- 1) a language used for communication among people of different mother tongues;
- 2) a hybrid language containing elements from several different languages used in this way;
- 3) any system of communication providing mutual understanding.

Lingua Franca [ˌlɪnguʌˈfrænkə]

- **Lingua Franca** [ˌlɪnguʌˈfrænkə], lingua francas or linguae francae [ˈfrænsiː]

  is a term used in sociolinguistics, and often in everyday speech, to refer to an auxiliary language used to enable routine communication to take place between groups of people who speak different native languages; also sometimes called an interlingua.

Lingua Franca [ˌlɪnguʌˈfræŋkə]

English is the world's most common *lingua franca*, followed by French;
Other languages are also widely used as lingua franca:
In East Africa, for example, Swahili [swəˈhiːli, swɑː-] is the lingua franca;
in many parts of West Africa, Hausa [ˈhausə] is used.

A pidgin /ˈpɪdʒɪn/

- A pidgin /ˈpɪdʒɪn/, or pidgin language, is a grammatically simplified means of communication that develops between two or more groups that do not have a language in common:
- typically, its vocabulary and grammar are limited and often drawn from several languages. It is most commonly employed in situations such as trade, or where both groups speak languages different from the language of the country in which they reside (but where there is no common language between the groups).

A pidgin /ˈpɪdʒɪn/

- Fundamentally, a pidgin is a <u>simplified</u> means of linguistic communication, as it is constructed impromptu [ɪmˈprɔmptjuː], or by convention, between individuals or groups of people.
- A pidgin is not the native language of any speech community, but is instead learned as a second language.

A pidgin /ˈpɪdʒɪn/

- A pidgin may be built from words, sounds, or body language from a multitude of languages as well as onomatopoeia [ˌɔnəˌmætəˈpiːə].
- As the lexicon of any pidgin will be limited to core vocabulary, words with only a specific meaning in lexifier language may acquire a completely new (or additional) meaning in the pidgin.

A pidgin /ˈpɪdʒɪn/

Pidgins are usually less morphologically complex but more syntactically rigid than other languages, usually have fewer morphosyntactic irregularities than other languages.

Characteristics shared by most pidgins:

A. Typologically most closely resemble isolating languages;
B. Uncomplicated clausal structure (e.g., no embedded clauses, etc.);
C. Reduction or elimination of syllable codas;
D. Reduction of consonant clusters or breaking them with epenthesis;
E. Elimination of aspiration or sound changes;
F. Monophthongization is common, employment of as few basic vowels as possible, such as [a, e, i, o, u].

Characteristics shared by most pidgins:

A. Lack of morphophonemic variation;
B. Lack of tones, such as those found in West African, Asian and many North American Indigenous languages;
C. Lack of grammatical tense; use of separate words to indicate tense, usually preceding the verb;
D. Lack of conjugation or declension;
E. Use of reduplication to represent plurals, superlatives, and other parts of speech that represent the concept being increased.

Pidginization (ˌpɪdʒɪnaɪˈzeɪʃən) or pidginisation (n)

Pidginization (ˌpɪdʒɪnaɪˈzeɪʃən) or pidginisation (n) is the process when a language becomes made up of elements of two or more other languages and used for contacts, esp trading contacts, between the speakers of other languages.

Prestige versus Equal Merit

The prevailing view among contemporary linguists is that regardless of perceptions that a dialect or language is "better" or "worse" than its counterparts, when dialects and languages are assessed "on purely linguistic grounds, all languages—and all dialects—have equal merit".

Characteristics shared by most pidgins:

Linguists admit that pidgins can become creole languages when a generation of children learn a pidgin as their first language, a process that regularizes speaker-dependent variation in grammar.

Creoles can then replace the existing mix of languages to become the native language of a community (such as the Chavacano language in the Philippines, Krio in Sierra Leone, and Tok Pisin in Papua New Guinea). However, not all pidgins become creole languages; a pidgin may die out before this phase would occur (e.g. the Mediterranean Lingua Franca).

A creole language, or simply creole ['kriːəul]

A creole language, or simply creole ['kriːəul], is a stable natural language that develops from the simplifying and mixing of different languages within a fairly brief period of time: often, a pidgin evolved into a full-fledged language. While the concept is similar to that of a mixed or hybrid ['haɪbrɪd] language, creoles are often characterized by a tendency to systematize their lexifier (e.g., by eliminating orthographic irregularities or regularizing the conjugation of irregular verbs).

A creole language, or simply creole [ˈkriːəul]

Like any language, creoles are characterized by

A. a consistent system of grammar,
B. possess large stable vocabularies,
C. and are acquired by children as their native language.

These three features distinguish a creole language from a pidgin.

The terms **substrate** and **superstrate**

The terms substrate [ˈsʌbstreɪt] and superstratum [suːpəˈstrɑːtəm, -ˈstreɪtəm] are often used when two languages interact.

However, the meaning of these terms is reasonably well-defined only in second language acquisition or language replacement events, when the native speakers of a certain source language (the substrate) are somehow compelled to abandon it for another target language (the superstrate).

The terms substrate and superstrate

The terms substrate [ˈsʌbstreɪt] and superstratum [suːpəˈstrɑːtəm, -ˈstreɪtəm] are often used when two languages interact. Superstratum [suːpəˈstrɑːtəm, -ˈstreɪtəm] is the language of a conquering or colonizing population as it supplants that of an indigenous population, as for example French and English in the Caribbean

The terms substrate and superstrate

The terms substrate [ˈsʌbstreɪt] and superstratum [suːpəˈstrɑːtəm, -ˈstreɪtəm] are often used when two languages interact.

The outcome of such an event is that erstwhile speakers of the substrate will use some version of the superstrate, at least in more formal contexts.

The substrate may survive as a second language for informal conversation.

The terms substrate/superstrate; adstratum [ˈadstrɑːtəm]

The language replacement model may not be appropriate in creole formation contexts, where the emerging language is derived from multiple languages without any one of them being imposed as a replacement for any other.

Adstratum [ˈadstrɑːtəm, adˈstrɑːtəm] (ad-stra-tum noun pl. adstrata) is a language or group of elements within it that is responsible for changes in a neighbouring language

The terms **substrate** and **superstrate**

The distinction may be meaningful when the contributions of each parent language to the resulting creole can be shown to be very unequal, in a scientifically meaningful way.

In the literature on Atlantic Creoles, "superstrate" usually means European and "substrate" non-European or African.

Decreolization

Decreolization [ˌdiː ˌkri ː ‿əl aɪ ˈzeɪʃ ə n -ˌkreɪ-, -ˌ•əʊl-, -ɪˈ•- AmE \ -ə ˈzeɪʃ-]

Since **creole languages** rarely attain official status, the speakers of a fully formed creole may eventually feel compelled to *conform their speech to one of the parent languages*.

This decreolization process typically brings about a post-creole speech continuum characterized by **large-scale variation** and **hypercorrection** in the language.

Decreolization

Decreolization [ˌdiː ˌkri ː ʳəl aɪ ˈzeɪʃ ə n -ˌkreɪ-, -ˌ•əʊl-, -ɪˈ•- AmE \ -ə ˈzeɪʃ-]
is the process of evolving from a creole into a standard language or a variety of a standard language.

Decreolization

- Over time, continued contact between the creole and the prestige language may result in decreolization, in which the creole begins to more closely resemble the prestige language.

Decreolization creole continuum

- Decreolization thus creates a creole continuum, ranging from an acrolect (a version of the creole that is very similar to the prestige language), to mesolects (decreasingly similar versions), to the basilect (the most "conservative" creole).
- An example of decreolization described by Hock and Joseph is African American Vernacular English (AAVE), in which older, more conservative versions preserve features such as the completive marker done while newer, less conservative versions do not.

mesolect [ˈmezəˌlekt, ˈmesə-, ˈmēzə-, ˈmēsə-]

Diglossia [daɪˈɡlɒsɪə] & Triglossia

Diglossia [daɪˈɡlɒsɪə] means a situation in which two languages (or two varieties of the same language) are used under different conditions within a community, often by the same speakers.

The term is usually applied to languages with distinct 'high' and 'low' (colloquial) varieties, such as Arabic...

Diglossia [daɪˈglɒsɪə] & Triglossia

Diglossia [daɪˈglɒsɪə] is the fact of co-existence in a language of a high, or socially prestigious, and a low, or everyday, form, as for example, (High) German and Swiss German in Switzerland.

A situation where three varieties or languages are used with distinct functions within a community is called triglossia. An example of a triglossic situation is the use of French, Classical Arabic and Colloquial Tunisian Arabic in Tunisia, the first two being rated High and the last Low. Tunisia [tjuːˈnɪzɪə] ; Тунис - Republic of Tunisia

Diglossia [daɪˈɡlɒsɪə] & Triglossia

Diglossia [daɪˈɡlɒsɪə] means a situation in which two languages (or two varieties of the same language) are used under different conditions within a community, often by the same speakers.

The term is usually applied to languages with distinct 'high' and 'low' (colloquial) varieties, such as Arabic...

Diglossia [daɪˈglɒsɪə] & Triglossia

Some instances of contact between languages with different prestige levels have resulted in **diglossia** [daɪˈglɒsɪə], a phenomenon in which a community uses a **high prestige language or dialect** in certain situations, usually for newspapers, in literature, on university campuses, for religious ceremonies, and on television and the radio, but uses a **low prestige language or dialect** for other situations, often in conversation in the home or in letters, comic strips, and in popular culture.

Diglossia [daɪˈglɒsɪə] & Triglossia

The examples of diglossic societies:

- In most African countries, a European language serves as the official, prestige language (Standard French, English, Portuguese), while local languages (Wolof, Bambara, Yoruba) or creoles (Ivorian French, Nigerian English) serve as everyday languages of communication.

Diglossia [daɪˈglɒsɪə] & Triglossia

Diglossia [daɪˈglɒsɪə] should not be mixed with bilingualism [baɪlɪ̯ŋgwəlɪzəm].
Bilingualism is the ability to speak two languages equally well...

Diglossia [daɪˈglɒsɪə]& Triglossia

The examples of diglossic societies:

- in the Middle East and North Africa, Standard Arabic and vernacular Arabics;
- in Greece, Katharevousa καθαρεύουσα γλώσσα, and Dhimotiki – δημοτική;
- in Switzerland, Swiss Standard German and Swiss German;
- and in Haiti, Standard French and Haitian [ˈheɪʃɪən, -ʃ(ə)n] Creole [ˈkriːəʊl].

Diglossia [daɪˈglɒsɪə] & Triglossia

In diglossic societies, the prestigious language tends to be very conservative and resist change over time while the low-prestige language, the local vernacular, undergoes normal language change.

Diglossia [daɪˈglɒsɪə] & Triglossia

Polyglossia (pronunciation: /ˌpɒlɪˈglɒsɪə/)is a noun that refers to the coexistence of multiple languages (or distinct varieties of the same language) in one society or area.

It was first used in the 1970s in the Academic journal International Migration Review".

Polyglossia is a useful term for describing situations where more than two distinct varieties are used for clearly distinct purposes.

Diglossia [daɪˈglɒsɪə] & Triglossia

In his 1959 article, Charles A. Ferguson defines diglossia as follows:

DIGLOSSIA is a relatively stable language situation in which, in addition to the primary dialects of the language (which may include a standard or regional standards), there is a very divergent, highly codified (often grammatically more complex) superposed variety, the vehicle of a large and respected body of written literature, either of an earlier period or in another speech community, which is learned largely by formal education and is used for most written and formal spoken purposes but is not used by any sector of the community for ordinary conversation.

Sociolinguistic
or 'Language Situation'

Linguistic situation is a sociolinguistic characteristic of a particular locality, historical or geographical area, ethnic region, some state or its administrative units, or a group of states and territories of any other kind, within which areal and social relationships, as well as the functional interaction of the forms (and styles) of that or another language or several languages are considered and assessed.

Sociolinguistic
or 'Language Situation'

The classification of language situations is based on principles and criteria that can be combined into several groups. There are quantitative, qualitative, and evaluative (estimative) group of characteristics.

Sociolinguistic
or 'Language Situation'

Quantitative paremeters of language situations include:

The number of components of the language situation (the degree of linguistic diversity), that is the number of idioms in the research area. There may be mono-component and poly-component language situations.

The poly-component situations overweigh, monolingual regions included , since in almost all languages of the world territorial and social varieties differ.

.

Sociolinguistic
or 'Language Situation'

The number of carriers of each of the idioms, defined as the percentage of the population groups speaking each of the idioms in a particular language region (demographic power of idioms). Language situations with an equal or different number of speakers of language forms (demographically equilibrium and non-equilibrium language situations) are distinguished.

Sociolinguistic
or 'Language Situation'

The number of areas of communication in which each of the idioms is used in relation to the total number of such areas (communicative power of idioms). In varying degrees of the communicative power of idioms, language situations are divided in the same way as in demographic power into equilibrium and non-equilibrium.

Sociolinguistic
or 'Language Situation'

Number of functionally dominant idioms. In non-equilibrium situations, the presence of one or more functionally dominant idioms is noted, in connection with which unipolar and multipolar language situations are distinguished.

Sociolinguistic or 'Language Situation'

Qualitative features include:

The linguistic nature of the language situation, which includes either different forms of one language, or different languages. On this basis, single-language and multilingual language situations are distinguished.

The degree of structural and genetic proximity of idioms is language situations with similar and dissimilar, closely related and unrelated idioms.

Sociolinguistic
or 'Language Situation'

Linguistic situations with typologically similar idioms are called homomorphic, with related idioms - homogeneous, with typologically dissimilar idioms - heteromorphic, with unrelated idioms - heterogeneous.

Since structural similarities and genetic relationships are not interconnected, linguistic situations can be characterized simultaneously by combination of two features: a homogeneous and homomorphic situation, a homogeneous and heteromorphic situation, etc.

Sociolinguistic
or 'Language Situation'

Functional equivalence or inequality of idioms. Linguistic situations in which linguistic forms have equal official status are called harmonious, linguistic situations with unequal status idioms are called disharmonious.

The nature of the origin of the dominant idiom (metal) on a state scale. On this basis, linguistic situations are distinguished with a local idiom (endoglossic) and with a foreign idiom (exoglossic).

Sociolinguistic
or 'Language Situation'

Evaluation features

Signs of one or another idiom can differ according to internal and external estimates. Idioms can be evaluated by their prestige, aesthetic characteristics, functionality, etc.

Differences in internal ratings given by the native speakers to their native idiom (positive, neutral, negative) determine the degree of so-called loyalty of the language community and affect the degree of stability and preservation of the language.

Sociolinguistic
or 'Language Situation'

Evaluation features

If there is diglossia in the language situation, diglossic language situations are distinguished (all others, respectively, are non-diglossic).

Sociolinguistic or 'Language Situation'

A. D. Schweitzer and L. B. Nikolsky divide linguistic situations into two groups:

exoglossic - sets of languages:

* balanced language situations (with the functionally equivalent languages or language subsystems making up the situation);
* unbalanced language situations (with components distributed by areas of communication and social groups);

endoglossic - sets of subsystems of the same language:

* balanced language situations;
* unbalanced language situations.

Sociolinguistic
or 'Language Situation'

exoglossic [ˌɛksə(ʊ)ˈglɒsɪk] - adjective denoting or relating to a non-indigenous language that is used as an official or second language in a particular country or community
Compare with endoglossic

Origin: 1980s:

from exo- , Greek glōssa 'language, tongue', and -ic

endoglossic [ˌɛndə(ʊ)ˈglɒsɪk] - adjective denoting or relating to an indigenous language that is used as the first or official language in a country or community
Compare with exoglossic

Origin: 1980s:

from endo- , Greek glōssa 'language, tongue', and -ic

A medium of instruction

A medium of instruction (plural: media of instruction, or mediums of instruction) is a language used in teaching. It may or may not be the official language of the country or territory.

If the first language of students is different from the official language, it may be used as the medium of instruction for part or all of schooling. Bilingual or multilingual education may involve the use of more than one language of instruction. UNESCO* considers that "providing education in a child's mother tongue is indeed a critical issue"

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis

Linguistic relativity

Edward Sapir (1884–1939) claimed that 'we dissect nature along lines laid down by our native languages . . . by the linguistic systems in our minds.'
So we can talk about different language pictures of the world, or a peculiar worldview pre-determined by a certain language...

Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis

Linguistic relativity, also known as the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, is named after Edward Sapir (1884–1939) and his student Benjamin Lee Whorf (1897–1941), although neither scholar used the term.

Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis

Strong versions of the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis suggest that an individual's language has a profound impact on the way the individual thinks and acts, while the weaker version proposes that language has merely a moderate influence on an individual's behavior.

Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis

Some linguists argue that if individuals were truly so profoundly different as a result of their languages, then it would be immensely difficult to translate works between cultures and languages.

Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis

However, there are Linguistic universals that occur in most, if not all, natural languages. Cross-linguistic and cross-cultural translations happen everyday, some even in a fraction of a second thanks to Artificial intelligence linguistic models such as Google Translate.

Inuit ['ɪnjuːɪt] snow lexicon

Although there may not be hundreds of distinct Inuit words for snow, snow expert Matthew Sturm agrees that the English snow lexicon is overall "clearly inferior" to the Inuit snow lexicon.

Usage: The peoples inhabiting the regions from the central Canadian Arctic to western Greenland prefer to be called Inuit ['ɪnjuːɪt] rather than Eskimo, and this term now has official status in Canada. The language is also known, esp. to its speakers, as Inuktitut [ɪ'nʊktɪtʊt].By analogy, the term Inuit is also used as a synonym for Eskimo in general. However, this latter use, in including people from Siberia who are not Inupiaq-speakers, is, strictly speaking, not accurate. Since neither Inupiaq nor Yupik ['juːpɪk] (with around 3,000 speakers) is in common US usage, only Eskimo includes all of these peoples and their languages, belonging to one of the three branches of the Eskimo-Aleut language family.

Inuit ['ɪnjuːɪt] snow lexicon

Despite also having several words for snow, such as 'snowdrift', 'snowflake', and 'flurries', the vast majority of English snow-related words all have the same root: 'snow'. Meanwhile, in Inuit, there are multiple independent terms for snow. For example, aput means 'snow on the ground', qana means 'falling snow', piqsirpoq means 'drifting snow', and qimuqsuq means 'a snowdrift'. All four of these terms for snow have independent roots of each other. This is similar to how there are several independent terms use to describe water in English, such as 'water', 'river', 'ocean', and 'dew'. Since snow is such a vital part of Inuit society, it is natural that their language has more nuance ['njuːɑːn(t)s] for snow than does the English language.

The interlingual approach

Interlingua (n.) is a term used in machine translation for a proposed inter-mediate representation constructed to facilitate the automatic translation of one language into another.

In an interlingual approach, the source language is given a highly abstract representation which captures all the syntactic and semantic information necessary for translation into several target languages.

The interlingua would usually be a specially constructed formal language, but other artificial languages have been proposed (such as Esperanto [ˌespə'ræntəu]), and in theory a natural language could also be used.

The difficulty of developing a model of syntactic or semantic universals has limited the applicability of this approach.

Chinese-English bilinguals

Mandarin Chinese is a language that lacks absolute tense. In other words, it is not necessary to specify the temporal location of an event in Mandarin. Instead, one or two words can be added to the beginning or end of a sentence to denote tense. It is usually assumed that the speaker is using present tense, but the listener may also have to depend on context clues to determine the tense.

Chinese-English bilinguals

Researchers Yang Li, Manon Jones, and Guillaume Thierry from Bangor University have conducted a study that suggests that fluent Chinese-English speakers did not explicitly recognize time misalignments in complex English sentences, as opposed to native English speakers.

The study involved analyzing N400 (neuroscience) modulations to determine when the participants took additional semantic processing effort to recognize tense misalignments.

Code-mixing

Code-mixing is similar to the use or creation of pidgins; but while a pidgin is created across groups that do not share a common language, code-mixing may occur within a multilingual setting where speakers share more than one language.

What is a Code?

The concept of the 'code' is central in structuralist semiotics.

While Saussure dealt only with the overall code of language (langue), he did of course stress that signs are not meaningful in isolation, but only when they are interpreted in relation to each other.

What is a Code?

The concept of the 'code' is central in structuralist semiotics.

It was another linguistic structuralist, Roman Jakobson, who emphasized that the production and interpretation of texts depends upon the existence of codes or conventions for communication (Jakobson 1960 and 1971c).

What is a Code?

Influenced by communication theorists, he substituted the distinction of code from message for the Saussurean distinction of langue from parole (Jakobson 1990, 15).

Since the meaning of a sign depends on the code within which it is situated, codes provide a framework within which signs make sense. Indeed, we cannot grant something the status of a sign if it does not function within a code.

Codes organize signs into meaningful systems which correlate signifiers and signifieds through the structural forms of syntagms and paradigms.

We live in encoded reality

   "Some of the social codes which constitute our reality are relatively precisely definable in terms of the medium through which they are expressed - skin color, dress, hair, facial expression, and so on."

   John Fiske,
   TELEVISION CULTURE

Extralinguistic [ˌɛkstrəlɪŋˈgwɪstɪk]

Extralinguistic (adj.) - in its most general sense, this term refers to anything in the world (other than language) in relation to which language is used – the extralinguistic situation. The term extralinguistic features is used both generally, to refer to any properties of such situations, and also specifically, to refer to properties of communication which are not clearly analyzable in linguistic terms, e.g. gestures, tones of voice. Some linguists refer to the former class of features as metalinguistic; others refer to the latter class as paralinguistic.

Paralanguage [ˈpærəˌlæŋgwɪdʒ]

Paralanguage [ˈpærəˌlæŋgwɪdʒ], also known as vocalics, is a component of meta-communication that may modify meaning, give nuanced meaning, or convey emotion, by using techniques such as prosody, pitch, volume, intonation, etc. It is sometimes defined as relating to non-phonemic properties only. Paralanguage may be expressed consciously or unconsciously.

Paralinguistics [ˌpærəlɪŋˈɡwɪstɪks]

Paralanguage [ˈpærəˌlæŋɡwɪdʒ]
is the non-lexical component of
communication by speech,
for example intonation,
pitch and speed of speaking,
hesitation noises... When at large – pieces
of non-verbal semiotics, such as body
language included (e.g. gesture and facial
expression). The study of paralanguage is
known as paralinguistics.

Paralanguage [ˈpærəˌlæŋgwɪdʒ]

The term para language is combination of two words-"para"' means like and "language" means mode of communication.

Thus, para language literally means "like language".

In the words of Prof. Barker and Gaut,

"A language alongside of language and includes vocal characteristics such as pitch, range, resonance, tempo and quality and various vocal sounds such as grunts, groans and clearing the throat."

Sociology of language @ Sociolinguistics

sociolect	dialect	language varieties
idiolect	status	socioeconomic class
subsratum	adstratum	superstratum
pidgin	creole	decreolization
Lingua Franca	koine	macrosociolinguistics
interlingua	endo(exo-) glossic	political correctness
bilingualism	code-mixing	code-switching
vernacular	patois	diglossia [daɪˈglɒsɪə]
acrolect	mesolect	basilect
argot	Sprechbund	Linguistic relativity hypothesis
slang	Gender-inclusive	jargon
paralanguage	Dialect continuum	medium of instruction
gender	Socioling.interview	The matched-guise test
code	register	Style-shifting

Q-01. Forms of language being

Check yourself!