



Jarash University
Faculty of Arts
Department of English Literature and Translation
Sociolinguistics Course Plan

Instructor: Dr Areej Al-Hawamdeh

Academic Year: 2019-2020

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to sociolinguistics, the study of the relationship between language and society. We will look at variation at all levels of language and how such variation constructs and is constructed by identity and culture. An exploration of attitudes and ideologies about these varieties will of particular importance to understanding this relationship. We will also consider some of the educational, political, and social repercussions of these sociolinguistic facts. In short, this course covers research that asks: What motivates speakers to make different linguistic choices? And what communicative and social functions are served by those choices?

Course Objectives

At the end of this module, student should be able to demonstrate:

1. Knowledge and critical understanding of basic sociolinguistic terms and concepts, include accent, dialect, variety, and standardization.
2. Knowledge and critical understanding of the notions of speech events, communicative competence, and speech community.
3. An awareness of how language variation and the related phenomenon of language choice signal the social identity of speakers and their social relationships, and how power relationships are reflected in language use.

4. An awareness of the links between language variation, language choice, and social context.
5. Familiarity with the main methods of sociolinguistic research.

Students should have an enhanced understanding of the way language is used to create and define social context, and this will lead to a greater appreciation of issues of linguistic discrimination.

Attendance policy

Absence from lectures and /or tutorials shall not exceed 15% . Students who exceed the 15% limit without a medical or emergency excuse acceptable to and approved by the Dean of the relevant college /faculty shall not be allowed to take the final examination and shall receive a mark of zero for the course. If the Dean approves the excuse, the student shall be considered to have withdrawn from the course.

Responsibilities:

This is an upper-level/undergraduate-level course, and I expect you to behave in ways that maximize your and others’ learning, including:

- take responsibility and initiative in doing all the work and doing it on time.
- be prepared for each class (including doing the readings before class).
- turn off your cell phone during class.
- actively and cooperatively participate in class activities.
- ask questions when you have them, but don’t monopolize class time with personal issues.
- seek help when you need it.
- don’t miss class – or if you have an emergency, talk with me about work to make up, and get notes from other students.
- keep up-to-date with any schedule changes that are announced, even if you are late or miss a class.

Course Outline:

Week	Date	Subject	Remarks
1		Introduction to sociolinguistics	
		What is	

2		sociolinguistic concerned about?	
3		The social study of language	
4		Variation and variants	
5		The ethnography of speaking and the structure of conversation	
6		Language choice in multilingual communities	
7		Locating variation in speech	
8		Styles, gender, and social class	
9		How can a minority language be maintained?	
10		Bilingual and bilingualism	
11		Vernacular languages	
12		Standard languages	
13		Proposal writing	

14		Proposal writing	
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Textbook(s):

- 1. The handbook of language variation and change. Edited by: Chmbers, Trudgill, and Schilling Estes.**
2. An Introduction to Sociolinguistics. Janet Holmes.
3. Sociolinguistics. Bernard Spolsky.

Supporting Textbooks and References

Books & periodicals available in the library

1. Coates, J. (ed)(1997) Language and Gender: A Reader. Oxford, Blackwell.
2. Edwards, A.D. (1976) Language in Culture and Class. London, Heinemann.
3. Fishman, Joshua A. (1991) Reversing Language Shift. Clevedon, Avon: Multilingual Matters.
4. Guperz, John J. (ed)(1983) Language and Social Identity.
5. Holmes, Janet (1998) "Paying Compliments: a sex-preferential positive politeness strategy." Journal of Pragmatics. 12,3:445-65
6. Labov, William (1990) "The iintersection of sex and social class in the course of linguistic change." Language Variation and Change. 2,3:205-54
7. Romaine, Suzan (2000) Language in Society: An Introduction to Sociolinguistics. 2nd edition. Oxford University Press.
8. Suleiman, Yasir. (ed) (1994) Arabic Sociolinguistics: Issues and Perspectives.
9. Tannen, Deborah (ed.) (1993) Gender and Conversational Interaction.
10. Trudgill, Peter (1996) Sociolinguistics: An Introduction to Language and Society.
11. Wardhaugh, Ronald (1997) Introduction to Sociolinguistics. Blackwell

Teaching Methods

The class is a led by the lecturer; however, **class discussions and group work occupy the greater part of the lecture.** Time is also given to students to write and reflect on the material read and presented.

Modes of Assessment	Score	Date
Mid-term Exam	30	
Proposal	10	
Participation/Assignment / Seminar/ Project / Quiz	20	
Final Exam	40	Term paper to be submitted during the final exams period