Introductory Stuff

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Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics
About the Course

- Linguistically based
- Read Syllabus
  - Goals
  - Attendance
  - Evaluation
  - Deadlines
  - Accommodations
Disclaimer

- My role
  - Coach

- Your responsibility
  - Academic Athlete
    - Keep up
    - Keep in touch
    - Do your best
Technical Enhancements

- My Homepage  
  - Slides
  - Course Info
  - General Links

- Blackboard  
  - Paper Submission
  - Discussion

- Clickers  
  - Attendance, Participation, Quizzes (maybe)
Clicker Test

I am ready for the semester to begin

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Chapter 1

Foundational Stuff
Whaddya Think?

Language is simple.

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Language:

... define in 25 words or less ...

LVQ Practice
Language for a Linguist...

- Communicative
- Community-based
- Systematic
- Generative
- Arbitrary
- Human
Whenever we speak...

Primary areas of interest for Sociolinguistics
Two Views of Language

- Noam Chomsky
  - Focus on ideal situation
    - Homogeneous speech community
    - Competence = performance

- Dell Hymes
  - Focus on real people
    - Speech community is critical
    - Competence ≠ Performance

Which approach will allow us to examine Dialect?
A. Chomsky
B. Hymes
What is the most noticeable feature of dialect?

A. Pronunciation
B. Vocabulary
C. Intonation
D. Grammar
E. Speed
Dialect

- American English
  - Words in the South

- International English
  - Nigerian English
  - Chinese English
  - Many more at: [http://www.ku.edu/~idea/](http://www.ku.edu/~idea/)
Politics of Language

Languages of the WORLD

1. French & Sango
2. French & English
3. Seswana
4. English & Others
5. Malagasy & French
6. Pashto & Dari
Linguistic Perspectives

- Mutual Intelligibility
  - English
    - American
    - British
    - Nigerian

- Mutual Unintelligibility
  - Chinese
    - Mandarin (Beijing)
    - Cantonese (Hong Kong)

“A language is a dialect with a navy...”
Choose the best statement below

A. Our language controls our thoughts
B. Our thoughts control our language
C. Our culture controls our thoughts
D. Our thoughts control our culture
E. Our language, thoughts & cultural are inseparably intertwined
Sapir-Whorf

- Language & Culture:

  * Inseparable Couple?

  - Strong view...
  - Weak view...
**Our Word Choice Matters...**

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- Consider the following...
  - “blue” vs. “azure”
  - “postman” vs. “mail carrier”
  - “senior citizen” vs. “old dude”
  - “white” vs. “honkie” vs. “cracker”
“I ain’t got none” *(Yes, I say it)*

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**Prescriptive rules**

- “Correct English is the slang of prigs who write history and essays.”

  *George Eliot*
Prescriptive Fallacies

- The standard is more logical
- The standard is classical
- Older is better
- Language should be pure
  *(free from foreign influences...)*
Speech vs. Writing...

I used to hate writing assignments, but now I enjoy them.

I realized that the purpose of writing is to inflate weak ideas, obscure poor reasoning, and inhibit clarity.

With a little practice, writing can be an intimidating and impenetrable fog. Want to see my book report?

"The dynamics of interbeing and monological imperatives in Dick and Jane: A study in psychic transrelational gender modes."

Academia, here I come!
Which is Primary?

A. Speech
B. Writing

Why do you think so?
Speech vs. Writing

- Primacy of Speech
  - Traditional focus of Sociolinguistics

- Quasi Independence of Writing
  - Coming into its own
  - Electronic Communication
  - Organizational Communication
  - English for Specific Purposes
Languages are not products residing in grammars and dictionaries, but flexible, interactive tools...
Language & Society

- Functionalism in Sociolinguistics
  - Culture
  - Socialization
  - Norms & values
  - Status & role
Linguistics & Politics overlap?

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Marxism in Sociolinguistics

- What’s the relevance to today?
  - Race
  - Gender
  - Social class
  - Others?

- Benefits/Dangers of this approach?
  - cf. Sapir-Whorf...
All languages created equal?

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- Theoretically?
- Practically?
Rural India Plowing

- What’s the moral?
- Possible corollaries?
Research Approach Matters?

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- Interactionalism *(cf. Hymes)*
  - Bottom-up approach
  - Benefits/dangers...?
Languages are not products residing in grammars and dictionaries, but flexible, interactive tools...
Key Vocab

- Culture
- Socialization
- Norms/Values/Mores
- Status/Role
Which is a Speech Community?

A. This class  
B. The city of Spartanburg  
C. Upstate South Carolina  
D. South-eastern United States  
E. All of the above
Speech Community

... define in 25 words or less...

(5 pts on pg 38)
Speech Community Cont’d

- Bilingualism (incl. Multilingualism)
  - in Society
  - in Education
- Bi-Dialectalism
- Diglossia

(segue to next slide...)
Diglossia

- What is it?
  - How many languages?
  - What is the status of the languages?
  - How is language selection governed?
Common Code Usages

- **High:**
  - Sermons, lectures, political stuff, serious news, poetry, fine literature

- **Low**
  - Instructions to workers & servants, conversation with friends, pop-culture stuff, folk literature, humor
Diglossia in Use

- “High” is *seen* as more ____ than “Low”

- How does diglossia develop?
- Why does it persist?
  - Pride
  - Power
  - Tradition
Diglossia Examples?

- Arab Speaking World?
- Spanish Speaking World?
- English Speaking World?
Diglossia in Spartanburg?

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Why do you think so?
Whaddya Think?

- Diglossia should be a part of an ‘enlightened’ community?

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Why do you think so?
Don’t Forget

- Read
  - See Schedule

- Reflect & Write
  - ~ 250 word reflection on “a day in your life”
    - How did you use language (different situations, goals, products)
    - What dialects/styles did you use? When? Why?
    - Relate class concepts to your day