

## English Sociolinguistics

Description: Students study the mutual relationship between English and its native-speaking community. The running theme of the course is variation in English by region, social class, ethnicity, gender, and topic or genre or register. The social variety enjoying overt prestige is the standard dialect. Non-standard dialects are the bonds and symbols of local and group affiliation.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge and Understanding of:

1. Social structure and variation along certain parameters
2. Language structure modules
3. Categorization of users into groups
4. Categorizing functions into groups

Learning the skills of:

1. Identifying linguistic variables
2. Identifying contexts
3. Grouping variable features by clusters

Learning subject specific skill of:

1. Defining what features make a dialect
2. Defining what features make an accent
3. Dealing with issues related to community languages in the US and UK
4. Comparing features of standard and non-standard English

## Weekly Course Schedule

Week	Topic and Pages
1	Course preview, social and non-social context
2	Elements of the speech act situation; the variable
3	What is language variation? Dialect, accent, idiolect Atlases Pages: 134 - 140
4	Regional lexical and phonological variation, social variation, non-standard phonological variation; pp. 141 – 153
5	Non-standard morphological and syntactic variation Language and gender variable patterns; pp. 153-165
6	Midterm
7	Language variation, Boston, dialect versus language, American English: language or dialect? Pp. 356 – 358
8	Standard and non-standard dialects, dialectology,

	language variation and change, variationist sociolinguistics; 359 – 364
9	William Labov and methodology; pp. 364 – 367
10	Ethical issues, race, ethnicity, networks, Chicano English pp. 371 – 378
11	Dialect and language contact, code-switching, attitudes pp. 380 388
12	Exercise, American dialects, national unity and politics of Dialects; pp. 389 – 395
13	Regional variation, emergence and social factors; pp. 397- 405 Dialects in the UK (handout)
14	Language policy and bilingual education in the US, official English policy
15	Language policy in the UK, community languages Features of non-standard British dialects
16	FINALS