

SPAN 546/LING 533 Fall 2003  
T/Th 12:30-1:45  
ORTG 435

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Office hours: T 11-12, Th 2-2:45 or by appointment

## LINGUISTIC IDEOLOGY VS. LANGUAGE USE

The assumption that non-standard features in oral varieties (e.g. African American Vernacular English, Canadian French, New Mexican Spanish) represent recent innovations is widespread, even among linguists. In this course we examine the role of grammatical ideology in society, language use, and linguistic inquiry. What is the standard? Have strong grammatical traditions in languages such as English, French, and Spanish influenced actual usage? The problem of the lack of diachronic spoken-language data in ascertaining the existence and direction of change is tackled in a novel way by incorporating grammarians' injunctions over the centuries as potential conditioning factors in the analysis of contemporary variability (Poplack and Tagliamonte 2001; Poplack, Van Herk, and Harvie 2002). Students will identify a morphosyntactic variable with a history of prescriptive attention, and will analyze its occurrence in a corpus of speech using variationist methodology.

### Course materials:

Readings on reserve/online at Zimmerman Library.

Poplack, Shana, and Sali Tagliamonte. 2001. African American English in the diaspora. Oxford: Blackwell.

GoldVarb, a variable rule computer application, for Macintosh

([http://www.crm.umontreal.ca/~sankoff/Goldvarb\\_Eng.html](http://www.crm.umontreal.ca/~sankoff/Goldvarb_Eng.html)) or PC

(<http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/lang/webstuff/goldvarb/>).

### General references on reserve:

Chambers, J. K. 2003. Sociolinguistic theory. 2nd ed. Oxford: Blackwell.

Labov, William. 1972. Sociolinguistic patterns. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Labov, William. 1994. Principles of linguistic change, Volume 1: Internal factors. Oxford: Blackwell.

Labov, William. 2001. Principles of linguistic change, Volume 2: Social factors. Oxford: Blackwell.

Lippi-Green, Rosina. 1997. English with an accent: Language, ideology, and discrimination in the United States. London: Routledge.

Milroy, James, and Lesley Milroy. 1999. Authority in language: Investigating standard English, 3rd ed. London: Routledge.

Wright, Laura (ed.) 2000. The development of Standard English 1300-1800: Theories, descriptions, conflicts. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

### Student response papers:

Hard copy due at end of class period. For each reading assigned: one-three sentence summary, one-two sentence evaluation, and one or two discussion questions.

Aug 26 & 28:           **Introduction**

- Labov, William. How I got into linguistics, and what I got out of it. Ms., University of Pennsylvania. <http://www.ling.upenn.edu/~wlabov/HowIgot.html>
- Labov, William. 1972. Chapter 5: The logic of nonstandard English. *Language in the inner city*. 201-40. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Lippi-Green, Rosina. 1997. Introduction; Chapter 3: The standard language myth; Chapter 4: Language ideology and the language subordination model. In Lippi-Green, 3-6; 53-73.
- Milroy, James, and Leslie Milroy. 1999. Chapter 1: Prescription and standardization; Chapter 2: Standard English and the complaint tradition. In Milroy & Milroy, 1-46.

Sept 2 & 4:           **The ideology of the standard**

- Trudgill, Peter. 1999. Standard English: What it isn't. *Standard English: The widening debate*, ed. by T. Bex and R.J. Watts, 117-28. London: Routledge.
- Milroy, James. 2000. Historical description and the ideology of the standard language. In L. Wright (ed.), 11-28.
- Watts, R.J. 2000. Mythical strands in the ideology of prescriptivism. In L. Wright (ed.), 29-48.
- Niño-Murcia, Mercedes. 2001. Late-stage standardization and language ideology in the Colombian press. *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 149.119-44.

Sept 9, 11, 16:       **Grammatical ideology and idealism in linguistics**

- Diver, William. 1985. The history of linguistics in the West: How the study of language went wrong in the western tradition. *Special English Linguistics Series*, Tezukayama College, April, transcribed by Takoshi Aoyama.
- Huffman, Alan. 1996. Chapter 1: The problem of *lui* and *le*. *The categories of grammar*, 1-29. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- Hopper, Paul J. 1997. When 'grammar' and discourse clash: The problem of source conflicts. *Essays on language function and language type*, ed. by Joan Bybee, John Haiman and Sandra Thomspon, 231-47. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- Thompson, Sandra A. 2002. "Object complements" and conversation. *Studies in Language* 26:1.125-64.
- Labov, William. 1972. The study of language in its social context. *Sociolinguistic patterns*, 183-259. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Labov, William. 1987. Some observations on the foundations of linguistics. Ms., U Pennsylvania, <http://www.ling.upenn.edu/~wlabov/Foundations.html>

Sept 18               **The persistence of the non-standard**

- Milroy, James, and Leslie Milroy. 1999. Chapter 5: Linguistic prescription and the speech community. In Milroy & Milroy, 77-98.
- Chambers, J. K. 2003. Chap. 5, Sect. 4: The persistence of the non-standard. In Chambers, 241-47.
- Lippi-Green, Rosina. 1997. Chapter 1: The linguistic facts of life. In Lippi-Green, 7-40.
- Labov, William. 2001. Chapter 1: The Darwinian paradox; Chapter 16: Conclusion. *Principles of linguistic change, Volume 2: Social factors*, 3-34; 498-518. Oxford: Blackwell.

Sept 23                    **Form-function asymmetry**

Sankoff, David. 1988. Sociolinguistics and syntactic variation. *Linguistics: The Cambridge survey*, Vol. IV, ed. by Frederick J. Newmeyer, 140-61. Cambridge: CUP.

Sept 25                    **Quantitative Measurement**

Guy, Gregory. 1993. The quantitative analysis of linguistic variation. *American dialect research*, ed. by Dennis R. Preston, 223-49. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Woods, Anthony; Paul Fletcher; and Arthur Hughes. 1986. Tables and graphs; Summary measures; Probability. *Statistics in language studies*, 8-47; 59-76. Cambridge: CUP.

Sept 30 & Oct 2        **Extracting and Coding Data**

Wolfram, Walt. 1993. Identifying and interpreting variables. *American dialect research*, ed. by Dennis R. Preston, 193-221. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Workshop: Extracting variants and coding factor groups in Excel.

Oct 7 & 9                **Introduction to VARBRUL**

Bayley, Robert. 2002. The quantitative paradigm. *The handbook of language variation and change*, ed. by J.K. Chambers, Peter Trudgill, and Natalie Schilling-Estes, 117-41. Blackwell.

Sankoff, David. 1988. Variable rules. *Sociolinguistics: An international handbook of the science of language and society*, ed. by U. Ammon, N. Dittmar, and K. J. Mattheier, 140-61. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.

Young, Richard, and Robert Bayley. 1996. VARBRUL analysis for second language acquisition research. *Second language acquisition and linguistic variation*, ed. by R. Bayley and D. Preston, 253-306. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Workshop: Condition files and results files.

Oct 14                    **Data and method: Apparent time; Diachronic corpus research**

Labov, William. 1994. Chap. 1: The use of the present to explain the past; Chap. 3: The study of change in progress: Observations in apparent time. *Principles of linguistic change, Volume 1: Internal factors*, 9-27; 43-72. Oxford: Blackwell.

Biber, Douglas; Susan Conrad; and Randi Reppen. 1998. Chapter 8: Historical and stylistic investigations; Methodology Box 2: Issues in diachronic corpus design. *Corpus linguistics: Investigating language structure and use*, 203-29; 251-53. Cambridge: CUP.

Biber, Douglas. 1995. Chapter 8, Section 2: Diachronic register variation in English. *Dimensions of register variation*, 283-300. Cambridge: CUP.

Oct 21                    **New resources: Grammar databases**

Poplack, Shana; Gerard Van Herk; and Dawn Harvie. 2002. "Deformed in the dialects": An alternative history of non-standard English. *Alternative histories of English*, ed. by Peter Trudgill and Richard Watts, 87-110. London: Routledge.

Oct 23                    **The variationist comparative method**

Poplack, Shana, and Sali Tagliamonte. 2001. Introduction; Chapter 5: Method. African American English in the diaspora, 1-9; 88-102. Oxford: Blackwell.

#### **CASE STUDIES**

Oct 28 & 30:            **Operationalizing competing hypotheses on the origin of forms:  
The English Past and Verbal -s**

Poplack, Shana, and Sali Tagliamonte. 2001. Chapter 6: The past tense; Chapter 7: The present tense. In: Poplack & Tagliamonte, 103-206.

Nov 4 & 6:                **Tracing grammaticization through inherent variability: The future**

Poplack, Shana, and Sali Tagliamonte. 2001. Chapter 8: The future tense. In Poplack & Tagliamonte, 207-35.

Poplack, Shana, and Danielle Turpin. 1999. Does the FUTUR have a future in (Canadian) French? *Probus* 11.133-64.

Nov 11& 13:            **Frequency and variability: The French Subjunctive**

Poplack, Shana. 1992. The inherent variability of the French subjunctive. *Theoretical studies in Romance linguistics*, ed. by C. Lauefer and T.A. Morgan, 235-63. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Poplack, Shana. 2001. Variability, frequency, and productivity in the irrealis domain of French. *Frequency and the emergence of linguistic structure*, ed. by Joan Bybee and Paul Hopper, 405-28. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Nov 18 & 20:            **Using extralinguistic factors to gauge change: The Spanish Conditional**

Harris, Martin. 1986. The historical development of conditional sentences. *Romance Philology* 39(4). 405-36.

Silva-Corvalán, Carmen. 1984. The social profile of a syntactic-semantic variable: Three verb forms in Old Castile. *Hispania* 67. 594-601.

Serrano, Maria Jose. 1995. Sobre un cambio sintáctico en el español canario: del indicativo al subjuntivo y condicional. *Hispania* 78.178-89.

Gutiérrez, Manuel. 1996. Tendencias y alternancias en la expresión de condicionalidad en el español hablado en Houston. *Hispania* 79.567-77.

Nov 25:                    **Grammaticization of the Spanish Present Perfect**

Schwenter, Scott. 1994. The grammaticalization of an anterior in progress: Evidence from a Peninsular Spanish dialect. *Studies in Language* 18.71-111.

Dec 2, 4, 9 & 11:        **Student Presentations**

**Final research paper: The effect of grammatical ideology on usage**

Choose linguistic variable and corpus, due:

Nov. 4

Oral version due (to be presented in class):

Dec. 2 - 11

Written version due:

Dec. 16

*No written submissions can be considered after this date*

In a corpus of oral speech\*, locate a linguistic variable with some history of prescriptive attention, preferably one whose treatment can be traced over a period of time.

Extract tokens of this variable from the corpus.

From both prescriptive and descriptive literature\*\*, identify constraints that have been proposed to condition the choice of variants; operationalize these as factors suitable for quantitative analysis.

Code all extracted tokens for these factors.

Use variable rule analysis to assess the contribution of factors selected as significant to the probability of occurrence of one of the variants.

Address the following question: To what extent has grammatical ideology affected language use? (Is the variable involved in change and, if so, in what direction?)

\* For Spanish, recordings and transcriptions from the New Mexico – Colorado Spanish Survey (NMCOS) may be used, with permission from Neddy A. Vigil.

\*\* Students working on the same language are encouraged to collaborate in assembling a grammar database.