

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Individual and Group Identities

- Accents, lexical choice, grammar, communication patterns all reflect GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN, ETHNICITY and SOCIAL BACKGROUND.
- Social identity drawn from membership of particular groups where it can be used to include or exclude others.
- Standard English: prestigious identity.
- Nonstandard English: reinforce solidarity and speaker's sense of belonging, reinforce social distance by excluding those who are not a part of the group.
- Variety: language of a particular region or group of people (regional/ social).
- Dialects: regional or local varieties.
- Sociolects: social varieties used by different social groups.
- Speech repertoire: range of linguistic varieties that speakers have available to them and that they draw on to perform certain social roles (flexibility in language).
- Despite egalitarianism in Australia, there are different classes marked by educational achievement, level of income and type of occupation (reflected in speech).
- Australian accents: "Individuals may not want to identify with an 'ocker' image in their linguistic behaviour: nor do they want to identify with what might be perceived as British affectation".
- Electronic communication represents regional and social variation and PERSONAL variation e.g. interrobang and capitals e.g. REALLY?!
- Way we address each other is linked to identity and cultural systems.
 - e.g. Sir/ Madam as opposed to girls, boys, and guys reflect formality of the relationship between interlocutors.
 - Mate has a friendly mitigating intention.
 - First names commonly used in Aus due to egalitarianism.
 - Nicknames reflect intimacy for close-knit groups (generally ironic in Aus e.g. Shorty for tall person and abbreviations e.g. Jazz).

JARGON AND SLANG

- Unity and belonging.
- Fundamental indicators of individual and group identities.
- Safeguard privacy or secrecy.

Jargon:

- Specialised language used within a trade, professional, hobby or other group do not involve “permanent” linguistic features.
- e.g. pop singers: demonstrate identity through pronunciation and even some grammatical forms.
- Distinguish varieties on the basis of subject matter and also the basis of domain.
- Jargon is not fixed and continuously varies in response to different situational factors dependent on: 1. relationship between interlocutors 2. situational context 3. mode 4. subject matter and register.
- SATISFY COMMUNICATION NEEDS OF GROUP.
- MARK GROUP BOUNDARIES AND PROMOTE IN-GROUP SOLIDARITY.
- Facilitate communication and erect barriers on other social groups.
- Language particular to a particular group such as a profession or trade (aka intellectual quackery).
- Jargon can be characterised based on:
 - Lexical choices e.g. abbreviations and acronyms.
 - Syntax e.g. imperatives in recipes and agentless passives.
 - Prosodic e.g. commentaries.
 - Graphic: representation or format.

Slang:

- Colloquialisms: used among people who have common work-related or recreational interests/ reinforce and display group identity especially when used to exclude others.
- Shared experiences.
- Hospital slang: “crumbles” frail and elderly almost dying; “vegetables” comatose patients; “FLK” funny looking kid.
- Insiders such as hospital staff use this to distance self from sickness and death around them, and to blot out awareness of.
 - Easier to manage taboo (dying and death every day/ downgrade the severity).
 - Build rapport in work environment and serve as a “clique” or an in-group recognitions device.
- Conceal the nefarious nature of whatever they designate and keep outsiders in the dark e.g. references to drugs such as “get snotty” “lemonade” (poor quality drugs).
- Generally informal, usually spoken and involves mainly vocab.
- Well-known for its playfulness: startling, amusing and shocking.
- SHORT-LIVED: ephemeral (lasting for a short time).
- Indicates membership within particular group and social distance from mainstream (prevents bystanders and eavesdroppers from understanding).

Difference between slang and jargon:

- Both identify actions and entities that have come routine for those involved.
- Both have an important function of creating rapport.
- Slang is more colloquial and more transient/ can usually be replaced with more standard expressions.
- Jargon fulfil a NEED.
- Both contribute to English lexicon and both have an important role to play in establishing individual and group identity.

SOCIAL EXPECTATIONS AND COMMUNITY ATTITUDES

- Linguistic prejudice: forming opinions based on the social signals we find in people's speech.
- Speakers of high-status speech styles are stereotypes in terms of competence and SES background whereas low-status may be favoured for human attributes (social attractiveness/ integrity/ friendliness).
- Determine non-linguistic info from speech e.g. honesty, reliability, toughness, intelligence etc.
- SAE: overt prestige because power, education, wealth thus highly valued.
 - Can break social convention is used in inappropriate contexts (too posh).
 - Encourage in schools to avoid prejudice.
- Covert norms: a socially stigmatised feature may have covert prestige in another.
- Working-class speech sounds more masculine than middle-class speech.

GENDER AND LANGUAGE

Women's Language

Lexical and Semantic Variation:

- Differentiate colours more than men.
- Excessive use of hyperbole e.g. "horridly" "excessively".
- Discourse.
- Research shows men talk more than women in formal contexts (women's silence in public institutions) but women speak more in informal contexts.
- But private talk is less so about asserting status and power but more so developing and supporting social relationships.
- Carmen Fought Pitzer College California: "Young women take linguistic dealers and use them as power tools for building relationships".
- Use more interrogatives.
- More politeness and hedging and discourse markers.
- More paralinguistic features.
- Work harder to initiate and maintain conversation than men.

Phonological and Grammar:

- Shifted to more prestige patterns in their formal styles.
- Men commonly use broad Australian accent and taboo language to appear as desirable macho markers of gender identity.
- Women's Language.
- Hedging.
- Politeness markers.
- Tag questions and interrogatives.
- Emotional emphasis.
- Empty adjectives.
- Correct grammar and pronunciation and extended vocab.
- Lack of humour and avoiding taboo language.
- More inclusive and second-plural pronoun such as "what time will we leave?" more submissive rather than authoritative.
 - To create/ maintain relationships of closeness and equality.
 - Criticise other in acceptable and indirect ways.
 - Interpret accurately and sensitively the speech of other females.

Men's Language

- Brief and declarative sentence types.
- Use more slang and swear more often.
- Using intensifiers and adjectives.
- Taboo language.
- e.g. The internet isn't working as opposed to "I guess the internet isn't working" which protects image and attributed/ affirmed that it's of external factors rather than internal factors (I guess).
 - Assert dominance.
 - Attract/ maintain audience.
 - Assert one's self when another person has the floor.

SOCIAL ASPECTS OF GENDER LANGUAGE

- Robin Lakoff 1970s (famous linguist regarding gender):
 - People in court for the first time (women tended use typically female language fears).
 - Expert female witnesses didn't use typical female language and use non-typical female language.
 - Inexperienced witnesses of both genders used typically female language traits.
 - Men more successful in moving conversation to what they want to talk about (dominant).
- Deborah Cameron 1997:
 - Men speech based off college speak in males.
 - Talk about people, not things.
 - Main point is to adder solidarity, not to exchange info.
 - Topics: clothing/ bodily appearance.
 - Overlapping and latching and simultaneous speech.
 - Doesn't reflect being feminine but rather marker of masculinity but using language features traditionally associated to being feminine.
 - Men concerned to show that they are not female and o distinguish their talk from women.
- Other:
 - Men and women socialised at birth to talk like woman or man.
 - Studies of young children showed this phenomen.
 - Not seen as a negative thing that you speak like women.
 - Language, gender and identity is very complex.
 - Not just distinct men and women language.
 - Dependent on circumstance of use, **social purpose** and power status of users in relation to one another and to other relevant to conversation.
- The andocentric rule: "Men will be seen to behave linguistically in a way that fits the writer's view of what is desirable and admirable; women not he other hand will be blamed for any linguistic state or development which is regarded by the writer as negative or reprehensible" 1993 Jennifer Coates sociolinguist.
- Youthspeak.

- Lexemes are constantly changing and evolving.
- HRT in young teenage girls.
- Post-sentential negation e.g. “you’re a terrific person- not”.
- Discourse markers indicate solidarity “the way things seem rather than what they are e.g. kinda”.

BOSS/ EMPLOYEE SPEECH

Boss to Employee:

- Display authority/ leadership.
- Imperatives.
- Instructional.
- Disciplinary.
- More informal/ direct.
- Simple sentences.
- Interrogatives.
- Initiate conversation.
- Front focus.

Employee to Boss:

- Attend to positive and negative face needs.
- Politeness markers.
- More standard language.
- Complex/ compound sentences.
- More formal language.
- Hedging expressions.
- Possible honorifics.
- Declaratives.
- Show that team player rather than take control/ show deference (opposite of authority).
- Dependent on social purpose/ place in hierarchy.