

Questions

1. What is the central focus of sociolinguistics as a field of study?
2. (How does sociolinguistics differ from theoretical linguistics (e.g., Chomskyan linguistics).
3. give an example of how language can vary Explain the concept of language variation, and .
within a single community
4. What are some of the key factors that sociolinguists consider when studying the
relationship between language and society
5. What is a speech community, and what are some of the criteria that define a speech community?
6. What are some examples of social factors that can influence language use?
7. What are attitudes to language and why are they important to study within sociolinguistics?
8. What is the difference between a dialect and a language, and how do social factors play a role in distinguishing them?
9. Why does language change and give an example?
10. What ethical considerations are important for sociolinguists to keep in mind when
conducting research

Answers

1. What is the central focus of sociolinguistics as a field of study?
Sociolinguistics explores how language is used and influenced by social factors such as class, gender, context ethnicity, age, and
2. (How does sociolinguistics differ from theoretical linguistics (e.g., Chomskyan linguistics).
Theoretical linguistics (e.g., Chomskyan linguistics) focuses on the cognitive structures of language and the universal grammar that governs all languages. Sociolinguistics, on the other hand, focuses on the social uses and variations of language within specific communities
3. Explain the concept of language variation, and give an example of how language can vary within a single community.
Language variation refers to differences in language use among speakers. It can be seen in vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar, and style. Within a single community, language can vary based on social class, age, or ethnicity. For example, teenagers might use different slang or grammatical constructions than older adults
4. What are some of the key factors that sociolinguists consider when studying the relationship between language and society?
Key factors include:
 - Social class
 - Gender
 - Ethnicity
 - Age
 - Context
 - Power dynamics
 - Social networks
5. What is a speech community, and what are some of the criteria that define a speech community?
A speech community is a group of people who share a common language or dialect and a set of norms regarding language use. Key criteria that define a speech community include:
 - Shared language or dialect
 - Shared norms of language use
 - Frequent interaction among members
 - Shared attitudes towards language

What are some examples of social factors that can influence language use?

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Social class: Influences vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation *

Gender: Can affect the frequency of certain linguistic features *

Ethnicity: Associated with specific dialects and language varieties *

Age: Younger and older generations might use different slang *

Context: The formality or informality of a situation affects language choice *

What are attitudes to language and why are they important to study within sociolinguistics?

• Attitudes to languages or dialects influence how speakers are perceived and how they are perceived.

Attitudes include the value judgements that may affect the way one speaks or interprets language. They are important to study within sociolinguistics because

they can influence language use, language change, and social inequality.

What is the difference between a dialect and a language, and how do social factors play a role in distinguishing them?

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A dialect is a variety of a language distinguished by pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary.

A language is a broader system of communication that encompasses multiple dialects.

Why does language change and give an example?

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Social contact: Interaction between different language groups *

Migration: Movement of people and their languages to new areas *

Technological innovation: New words and expressions emerge to describe new technologies *

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Social pressure: Language use can be influenced by social attitudes and norms.

Example: The increasing use of "they/them" pronouns to refer to individuals who identify

as non-binary.

What ethical considerations are important for sociolinguists to keep in mind when conducting research?

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Informed consent: Obtaining voluntary agreement from participants before collecting data *

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Confidentiality: Protecting the privacy of participants and their data *

Avoiding harm: Ensuring that research does not cause any physical, psychological, or social harm to participants *

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