ANTH583: Sociolinguistics (Fall 2015)
Time and place: Thursday 11:15AM-1:45PM, Haury 310

Instructor: Dr. Qing Zhang
Office: Haury 306
Phone: 626-5618
Email: zhangq1@email.arizona.edu (checked regularly on weekdays from 9:00AM-4:00PM)
Office hours: Office hours: Tu 11:00AM-12:00PM, 1:00PM-2:00PM, Th 2:00PM-3:00PM, or by appointment

Course Description

This is an introductory course to the field of sociolinguistics for graduate students. Prior background in Linguistics is assumed but not required. This course surveys the kinds of issues with which sociolinguists deal, the theories and methods which they have developed, and some of their major findings about the nature of sociolinguistic variation and change. Primary emphasis is on work within the area of “socially realistic” linguistics (Hymes 1973), which brings social considerations to bear on problems of description and analysis common to phonology, syntax, historical linguistics and other “core” areas of linguistics. However, we will also survey albeit more briefly, work in the sociology of language (what Hymes refers to as “the social as well as the linguistic”) and the ethnography of speaking (what Hymes refers to as “socially constituted linguistics”). We will read classical pieces as well as studies that represent recent development in the field. Another component of the course is to provide students with some basic training in professional development. Students will be given an opportunity to find out major academic conferences and journals for research on language and cultural/social issues, conduct original research and write a research paper that can be later submitted to an academic conference and/or a journal.

Readings

Required:
Additional readings are on D2L.

Course Requirements

1. Participation and class discussion (10%)
In addition to participating in class activities, starting on September 10, each participant will present a summary of 1 or 2 chapters from the textbook (19 chapters) and 1 or 2 readings from the bibliography (25 articles) and a few questions for discussion during the semester. Two students may work together to present a long article. Please prepare a PowerPoint presentation or a handout. The summary of each article should be no more than 5 minutes.

2. Questions for discussion (20%)
Participants are required to post questions and comments for class discussion each week. East post should discuss a minimum of 2 questions or issues from the readings. These questions and comments should be posted to our D2L course web page under Discussions by 5pm the day before the class for which the readings are assigned.

3. Midterm paper (20%)
In the midterm paper, you will discuss critical reactions, inspired ideas, observations and/or original data which relate to assigned readings on one particular topic. The paper should be about 6-8 double-spaced pages. You can choose to submit your paper by either Oct. 15 or Nov. 19.
4. Report on relevant journals and conferences (10%)
Each member of the class will form a group with students from their own area of study and look for academic journals and conferences on research on language and cultural/social issues in their area of interests, e.g., sociolinguistics, linguistic anthropology, educational linguistics, foreign language education, sociology of language. Regarding information about journals, the group will produce a report with an overview of each journal’s homepage URL, scope and direction, submission guidelines, and a recent article closely related to each member’s research interests. For conferences, you will provide information on how to get announcements of Call for Papers in your field (e.g., URL for professional organizations, electronic mailing lists for professional organizations), an overview of the most recent conference in that area: scope, abstract submission guidelines, important information about its organizers and abstract review committee (if available). The reports will be presented in class on Oct. 15.

5. Final project and paper (40%)
You are expected to conduct original research for the final project. An abstract and a preliminary bibliography (10%) for your final paper is due on Oct. 22. You will present a preliminary version of your paper on Dec. 3. The final paper (30%, 12-15 double-spaces pages, including notes and references) is due on Dec. 11 in D2L Dropbox.

Students with Disabilities
If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with me. I would like us to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with Disability Resources (621-3268; drc.arizona.edu) and notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. We can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

Academic Integrity
Students are expected to maintain a high standard of individual honor in their scholastic work. See the UA Code of Academic Integrity for specific UA Policies concerning academic honesty: http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity. “Conduct prohibited by the Code consists of all forms of academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism as set out and defined in the Code of Conduct” (http://catalog.arizona.edu/policies/974/acacode.htm), i.e., “intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise.” (http://www.abor.asu.edu/1_the_regents/policymanual/chap5/chapter_v.htm#5-308). To prevent and avoid plagiarism, words or ideas that come from someplace else must be cited: “A good rule of thumb is this: Whenever you consciously borrow any important element from somebody else, any colorful phrase or original term, any plan or idea – say so, either in a footnote, in the bibliography, or parenthesis (from “Academic Honesty in the Writing of Essays and Other Papers,” Carleton College, 1990). Cheating and plagiarism in this class will result in a failing grade F. A video titled “Academic Integrity” is available on the front page of the Dean of Students Office website at: http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/. Please watch the video in the first week of class.
Schedule (subject to change)

Week 1 (Aug. 27): Introduction

Week 2 (Sept. 3): Origins and Definitions
C&J: Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5

Week 3 (Sept. 10): Early Studies on Language in Social Context and the concept of Speech Community
Fischer (1958: 47-56): Mariela
Labov (1972: 1-42): Brandon
Gumperz (1971: 114-127); Colleen Hymes (1972: 52-55)

Week 4 (Sept. 17): Language Choice and Multilingualism
C&J: Part VI Introduction, Chapters 26, 28: Yi
*Walters 2003

Week 5 (Sept. 24): Quantitative Methods and Variationist Sociolinguistics (Socioeconomic Class)
C&J: Part II Introduction, Chapters 8, 9: Jessica, Labov 1984: Jessica
C&J: Chapters 13: Tara, 14: Tara, 15: Mariela

Week 6 (Oct. 1): Variationist Sociolinguistics (Socioeconomic Class and Social Networks)
Milroy (1987: 1-22; 45-52)
Milroy and Milroy (1992: 1-26): Jin

Week 7 (Oct. 8): Qualitative Methods and Critique of Quantification
C&J: Chapters 7, 10 (Brandon), 11 (Brandon), 12
Midterm paper due

Week 8 (Oct. 15): Report on Academic Conferences and Journals

Week 9 (Oct. 22): Language and Gender
C&J: Chapter 17 (Jacob), 29 (Mariela), 32 (Alex)
Ochs 1992 (Mariela)
Cameron (1997: 47-64): Tara
Eckert and McConnell-Ginet 1992: Yi
Kiesling (1998): Yi
Final paper abstract and preliminary bibliography due.

Week 10 (Oct. 29): Style and Social Meaning
C&J: Chapter 18, 19 (Raymond), 20 (Raymond)
Coupland (2001): Stephan
Bucholtz (2011, chapter 7 (Keileigh)
Eckert (2008): Jessica
Week 11 (Nov. 5): Style and Social Meaning Continued
Zhang (2005)
Moore and Podesva (2009)
Campbell-Kibler (2011): Stephan
Eckert (2012): (Alex)
Midterm Paper due

Week 12 (Nov. 12): Language ideology
C&J: Chapters 21 (Jacob), 24 (Colleen)
Hill (1993): Stephan
Irvine and Gal (2000): Jin
Zhang (2008): Raymond

Week 13 (Nov. 19): Language and political economy
*Bourdieu (1977)
Irvine (1989: 248-266) (Jacob)

Week 14 (Nov. 26): Thanksgiving, no class

Week 15 (Dec. 3): Class presentations and course evaluation.
December 11 Final paper due in D2L dropbox.
Bibliography

*Hymes, Dell. 1972. Excerpt on speech community.


Zhang, Qing. 2008. Rhotacization and the 'Beijing Smooth Operator': The social meaning of a linguistic variable. Journal of Sociolinguistics 12, 201-222.