



How social class influence language

set by:

Prof. Dr. Hussain H. Ma'yuuf



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1. Introduction



Weinreich states that attitude is a crucial extra-linguistic factor.



Every speaker has their own interest in a language, and such an attitude may get a stereotype effect.

There are groups of people that are **not proud** to have the regional accents of the variety of the language that they speak.



Other groups **treasure their native accent** because they feel it is very important in helping them to preserve their identity. Such attitudes are expressed through the way one behaves (ibid).



2. Education



Education is one of the major factors that leads to variations in the kind of language different groups of people in the society speak.

Variations in education bring about variations in the language that people speak.

People of the high class in the society send their **children** to good school



2. Education



People of the **high class** in the society send their **children** to good school



opportunity to practice standard language

The people of **the lower** classes in the society will send their children to public schools

Poor children of the working class many not consider getting an education because they have to support their families by generating some income.





Consciousness



Labov (1972) uses reflect the theory that stylistic variation results from different degrees of attention to speech.



He argued his speakers gained more awareness of the way they spoke as the activities of the interview became more formal. In a casual style, people tend to be less attentive to the way they speak. However, if they are **in** a formal situation, they pay more attention to their





3. Consciousness



For instance, upper-class people take dialects or language that is not standard in formal situations to be an insult.

Spolsky found out that there are three factors in communication which are the topic, place, and the relationship between the people who are conversing.

As such, the middle-class people tend to use the standard language more as they are more proximal to the upper-class people and tend to be like them in a number of things.



3.1 professional



A person who speaks like they are educated has a higher chance of getting a job that is more prestigious and well-paying.

The city areas are known to provide jobs that are better.

As such, it is very common to find speech varieties in the city, and this is a good proof of the fact that language determines the social status of a person

permanent users of the standard variety of the language. This causes their subsequent generations to adopt this language.

At times, the frequent use of the standard language makes them **permanent** users of the **standard variety of** the language. In contrast, the people of the high class derive no advantages in switching or developing their languages.





People who come from different social background use different language varieties. from their conversations, Spolsky argues that it can be seen that the percentage of **their** use of certain specific features tends to **converge**.

In contrast, divergence takes place when people decide to move their modes of language use away from the other parties. People from different parts come to the city to that still hold on to the regional accents of where they come from although they have stayed in the city for a long time. This is because of the divergent attitudes of these people. Soon, people may get accustomed to the speech tendencies of those they interact with in the city. The reason several dialects exist in one area is the divergent attitude of people.





f. Crossover effects and Linguistic Insecurity



Linguistic insecurity is a common fact which causes people to produce a variant of language that is prestigious so they can present themselves in a desirable manner.

Language insecurity is more common in people of the middle class who are educated.





People of the **lower middle class** tend to use the language of the next higher class to theirs. This is called **the cross-over effect**.

People in a particular social class may use a more standard language than other people in the same class because they aspire to be in a higher class in the society. This is called **class aspiration**. According to Coupland (2007), a uniform and regular shift to a prestigious language in speech that is careful is evidence that linguistics do change in progress





Social Stratification:

The existence of different social groups (characterised by different social and linguistic practices as well as differences in status and social class) in a society. Sociolinguists distinguish between sharp stratification and gradient stratification in relation to linguistic variables. Sharply stratified variables show discontinuities across social groups, i.e. some groups use a given linguistic form or variety frequently, while other groups use the same form or variety only rarely.

Social Status:



The concept of status, or social status, was introduced by the sociologist **Max Weber** (1864-920) to describe the non-economic, cultural aspects of social stratification.

Status differentiation is based on the social honour or prestige assigned to certain groups by others and is typically determined on the basis of education, vocation or achievements (i.e. achieved status), as well as on the basis of heredity (ascribed status), for example an aristocratic title. Social status thus differs from traditional caste systems, which are defined solely in terms of heredity.).





Status differentiation is independent of social class membership, which is economically motivated, and status groups can be formed across class lines. For example, the social status of immigrant workers is usually lower than the status of indigenous workers, although both may share the same class position. Status groups may evolve into a caste and higher-status groups operate mechanisms of social closure to keep out those below (elite closure



Social Differentiation The word differentiation means classification or categorization of particular differences that fall into the same category. In other word, it is to classify society horisontally, flat, or, parallel. The working assumption is there is no higher or lower group resulting from that division, although in reality, there are some people that perceive their respective group sits above the other. For instance, racist group in South Africa considers white people are far superior to black people. This perspective is known as racism. By bearing racism in mind, people identify their own group or culture higher compare to other culture.



Social diversity is characterised by the differentiation of the following:

1. Physical Features Social differentiation occurs if there are differences in physical features such as skin colour, hair type, eyes, nose, and jaw shape. These physical features are known as quantitative phenotype characteristics.

2. Social Features This type of differentiation exists because there are occupational differences which resulting in divergent perspective and behavioural pattern in society. Distinction in roles, prestige, and power fall into this category. For example, pattern of behaviour of a soldier is different from that of a teacher.



3. Cultural Features Cultural differentiation is closely linked to society's perspective on values such as religion, familial system, tenacity, and toughness. Belief in these values can be recognised through cultural attire, language, arts, architecture, and religion (Swann et al, 2004)





Thank you for
your listening..

