

# Accommodation

LCD 205: Sociolinguistics  
Queens College, CUNY

C.N. Serrano Madsen II  
15 July 2015

# Outline

- Individual Speech
- Questionnaires
- Accommodation
- Exam

# Individual Speech

- What article did everyone find?
  - What as it about?
- What are the topics that everyone is thinking of?

# Individual Speech

- For tomorrow:
  - Find one more article
  - Be prepared to give the citation and a 3-5 sentence summary of each of the three (3) articles
  - Draft thesis
    - One sentence about your speech with 3 main points

# **QUESTIONNAIRES**

# Using Language

- Understand Language attitudes
  - How, where, with who, and when different language varieties are used
    - “Do you speak Chinese with White people?”
    - “Do you speak Polish with you close friends?”
    - “Do you pray in Bangla?”
    - “Do you do math or count in your head in Portuguese?”
  - Directly ask:
    - “Do you think Arabic is a useful language to know?”
    - “Should Latinos speak Spanish?”

# Using Language

- Why?
  - Get a profile of language attitudes and use in multilingual NYC
  - Make a sociolinguistic survey as a group which will answer your group research question
    - Language attitudes and use of code-switching by bilingual New Yorkers
    - When and where are New Yorkers exposed to languages other than English and what is their perception of these non-English languages

# Using Language

- Making a questionnaire
  - Look for relevant questions that you can adapt in the 5 questionnaires
  - Write your own questions

# Questionnaires

- 5 Sample Questionnaires about language attitude and use
  - Duan (2004)
  - Guerini (2007)
  - Madsen Serrano (2014)
  - NYCDOE
  - Pletsch (1999)
  - Redinger (2010)
- Identify relevant questions in these questionnaires

# Questionnaires

- Monday 20 July
  - Administer the survey to at least three (3) people per person
  - Find one (1) scholarly peer-reviewed article per person
- Thursday 23 July
  - Review and present the results
  - Every member of the group must speak for at least 30 sec
  - 5:00 min  $\pm$  15 sec

**ACCOMMODATION**

# Changing the Way you Talk

- Do you ever find yourself sounding different during or after talking to someone?
- Do you think your other language sounds more “American” after people English?
- Do you think your other language sounds more “native” when you are traveling?

# Accommodation

- When native speakers of different varieties come into contact they may **accommodate** to one another's speech.
- Accommodation:
  - When one speaker makes his/her speech more like that of an interlocutor.

# Accommodation

- This is a nearly automatic process
  - When you hear some other variety (even idiolect) you change the way you speak
  - Like when you talk to someone from England and you then sound like them after
  - You likely sounds more Californian right now than you do anywhere else, and I sound more New York than I do anywhere else

# Accommodation

- Happens in the variety you are actively using
  - The language you are actively using is affected by the language of the person you are talking to
  - Your English sounds more California when talking to me
- Happens in the variety you are not actively using
  - The language you know but are not using is affected by the language of the person around you
  - Your Arabic sounds more California after talking to me in English

# Accommodation

- Works both ways
  - Converge
    - Sound more like your interlocutor
    - Signal closeness
  - Diverge
    - Sound more different than your interlocutor
    - Signal distance

# Accommodation

- Repeated individual acts of accommodation may lead to “long-term accommodation”
  - change in an individual’s linguistic system
  - Long-term immigrants L1 changes
- Such a change across a whole linguistic community may lead to a change within the language variety of that community.

# Variety Change

- A bit of terminology:
  - Koineisation
    - The process of contact induced change.
  - Koine
    - A variety that develops as a result of contact.
  - Levelling

# Variety Change

- Dialect leveling
  - “A process whereby dialects that come into regular contact with each other start to lose some features that are not widely shared with the others.” (Swann et al 2004:77)
  - Dialects lose their distinct features
- Example of levelling
  - NYC Spanish
    - Less pro-drop
  - Frontera Spanish

**EXAM**

# The Exam

- Have read chs. 1, 2, 4, & 6
  - Definitions from bold words in the chapter
    - Matching
    - Fill-in-the-blank
- Essay Question
  - 3 prompts posted online before exam
  - Pick one of three
  - May bring notes to prepare for the exam

# The Exam

- Essay Prompts:
  - Why is the notion of dialect difficult or not useful? What are some specific examples of dialect/variety distinction not being useful?
  - Non-Standard variants are often stigmatized. What are the reasons for this? Are the non-standard forms ‘wrong?’ What are some specific examples of non-standard variants which are stigmatized. Where does the notion of a ‘standard’ or ‘correct’ come from? Why is this problematic?
  - What are some examples of phonological and lexical variables that are used to distinguish different varieties of English from one another? Give some specific examples from the Harvard Dialect Survey?

# Extra Credit

- For homework you asked people to draw dialect maps of the US and also different countries/regions. What were some of the variables that lead to people identifying these different dialects. Classify these variables (e.g. lexical, phonological).
- Take a multilingual assessment over the weekend and make note of any typos