The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages
Second Term, 2022-23

Course Title: LING2301 Sociolinguistics

Description:
This course introduces to students some of the core issues of language and society in recent years. The course investigates the possible relations between human language and the social world in contexts where language is used and interpreted. Topics to be covered include language and dialects, bilingualism and multilingualism, language in contact, language variations caused by geographical and social factors, relationship between language variations and language change, language in education, language planning, as well as language and identity. Particular focus will be given to how these sociolinguistic concepts are applied in the contexts of Chinese-speaking communities in Hong Kong, mainland China and Tai Wan.

Content, highlighting fundamental concepts

Topics	Concepts
Language, Dialects and Varieties	language vs dialect, standard language, regional dialects, social dialects, ethnic dialects, styles, registers and genres
Languages in Contact: Multilingual Societies in the world and in Hong Kong	multilingualism, diglossia, code-switching, language maintenance and revitalization
Contact Languages	lingua francas, pidgin and creole formation, linguistic characteristics of pidgins and creoles
Language Variation	regional variation, linguistic variables, social variation, gender variation
Language, Gender and Sexuality	sexist language, gender and sexuality identities
Language Variation and Change	synchronic variation and diachronic change, changes in progress, process of change
Sociolinguistics and Education	language ideologies in education setting, social identity, legitimation of minority languages and dialects, access to English as a global language
Language Attitudes and identity	Language attitudes and effects on identity; how identities are expressed through variations of language.
Language Policy and Planning	the goals of language policies, the role of government and language users, the roles of ethnic and national identities

Learning outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be able to:
- Understand that language behaviors are regulated systematically not only by abstract linguistic principles but also social factors.
- Identify the key issues in sociolinguistics and discuss these issues in sociolinguistic-specific terminologies.
- Identify and appreciate relevant sociolinguistic phenomena in daily communication settings.
- Analyze sociolinguistic phenomena with concepts learnt in the course.
- Obtain a brief overview of the sociolinguistic situations in Hong Kong, mainland China and Tai Wan.

Learning activities

Lecture (hr) in /out class		Interactive tutorial (hr) in /out class		Lab (hr) in /out class		Discussion of case (hr) in /out class		Field-trip (hr) in /out class		Projects (hr) in /out class		Web-based teaching (hr) in /out class		Other (hr) in /out class	
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M;~~O~~ ;~~NA~~	M;O ; NA	M;~~O~~ ;~~NA~~	M;O ; NA	M;O ; NA	M;O ; NA	M;O ; NA	M;O ; NA	M;O ; NA	M;O ; NA	M;O ; NA	M;O ; NA	M;O ; NA	M;O ; NA	M;O ; NA	M;O ; NA

M: Mandatory activity in the course
O: Optional activity
NA: Not applicable

Assessment scheme

Task nature	Description	Weight
Individual Presentation	Choose a sociolinguistic topic and compare your home country/city with another place on this particular topic (*e.g. Hong Kong vs London on local accents*). Present interesting findings of these comparisons. Presentation should be no longer than 10 minutes.	**20%**
Group Project - Group presentation	Choose a sociolinguistic topic which students observe in their daily life or covered in the course. Comment the topic using the sociolinguistic knowledge students learn in the class. Conduct a literature review on this topic, and briefly introduce the project plan.	**30%** *(10% presentation + 20% project paper)*
- project paper	A mini-research paper of the chosen sociolinguistic topic (2000-2500 words, normal margin, Times New Roman, font 12, single spacing).	
Mid-term Quiz	Multiple Choice, T/F and Short answers	**30%**
Class & Tutorial participation	Class, tutorial participation and discussion. 2 points will be deducted from the final score for each unexcused absence in lectures/tutorials.	**20%**

Learning resources for students

Course textbooks:
Wardhaugh, Ronald & Janet Fuller. 2015. *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. Wiley Blackwell. (7th edition) (CUHK Library online access available)

Other supplementary readings covered in lectures:
Holmes, Janet & Wilson, Nick. 2017. An introduction to Sociolinguistics. Routledge. (5th Edition). (CUHK Library online access available)

Meyerhoff, Miriam. 2011. *Introducing Sociolinguistics.* Routledge. (CUHK Library online access)

Nguyen, D., Dogruöz,A., Rosé, C. and de Jong, F. (2016) *Computational Sociolinguistics: A Survey.* Computational Linguistics. 42 (3), 537 – 593.

Feedback for evaluation

Students are encouraged to give feedback or comments on course contents and teaching materials throughout the course, in addition to the midterm and final course evaluation. Students can contact either the lecturer or tutor directly. See contact details below.

Grade Descriptors

Grade	Overall Course
A	Recognize almost all the basic concepts about language and society covered in the course; describe with great depth a wide range of factors influencing language use in the society; excellent in analyzing and evaluating linguistic phenomena in real-life situations with a lot of critical insights.
A-	Recognize most basic concepts about language and society covered in the course; describe with great depth a wide range of factors influencing language use in the society; good in analyzing and evaluating linguistic phenomena in real-life situations with some critical insights.
B	Recognize some basic concepts about language and society covered in the course; describe with some depth some factors influencing language use in the society; satisfactory in analyzing and evaluating linguistic phenomena in real-life situations.
C	Recognize relatively few basic concepts about language and society covered in the course; describe rather superficially some factors influencing language use in the society; weak in analyzing and evaluating linguistic phenomena in real-life situations.
D	Recognize very few basic concepts about language and society covered in the course; describe superficially a very limited number of factors influencing language use in the society; very weak in analyzing and evaluating linguistic phenomena in real-life situations.
F	Recognize almost no basic concepts about language and society covered in the course; describe almost no factors influencing language use in the society; extremely weak in analyzing and evaluating linguistic phenomena in real-life situations.

Course schedule

Class/ week	Date	Topic	Requirements
Week 1	9 Jan	Language, Dialects and Varieties	W & F Chapter 1, 2
Week 2	16 Jan	Languages in Contact: Multilingual Societies (1)	W & F Chapter 3, 4
Week 3	23 Jan	*Public holiday*	
Week 4	30 Jan	Languages in Contact: Multilingual Societies (2)	W & F Chapter 3, 4

Week 5	6 Feb	Contact Languages: Lingua francas and Pidgins	W & F Chapter 5
Week 6	13 Feb	Language Variation (1)	W & F Chapter 6, 7 Meyerhoff (2011) Chapter 2
Week 7	20 Feb	Language Variation (2)	W & F Chapter 6, 7 Meyerhoff (2011) Chapter 2
Week 8	27 Feb	Language Change	W & F Chapter 8 Meyerhoff (2011) Chapter 7
Week 9	6 March	Language, Gender and Sexuality	W & F Chapter 12
Week 10	13 March	*Mid-term Quiz*	
Week 11	20 March	Politeness, Taboo and Euphemisms	W & F Chapter 11
Week 12	27 March	Language Policy and Planning	W & F Chapter 14
Week 13	3 April	Computational Sociolinguistics	Nguyen, Dogruöz, Rosé and de Jong (2016)
Week 14	10 April	*Public Holiday*	
Week 15	17 April	*Group presentation*	

Teachers' or TA's contact details

Professor/Lecturer/Instructor:	
Name:	Dr. Grace Wenling Cao
Office Location:	Fung King Hey 221
Telephone:	
Email:	gracecao@cuhk.edu.hk
Teaching Venue:	YIA LT4
Teaching Time:	Lecture: Wednesday 18:30 – 20:30/ Tutorial: 20:30 – 21:15

Teaching Assistant/Tutor:	
Name:	
Office Location:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

Teaching Venue:	

A facility for posting course announcements

A Blackboard account has been set up for students to access information of the course.

Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/. With each assignment, students will be required to submit a statement that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.

You have to submit a soft copy to VeriGuide (i.e. CUPIDE, the Chinese University Plagiarism Identification Engine System) on or before the date of the deadline via http://veriguide1.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/portal/page/index.jsp. The VeriGuide system will issue a receipt which also contains a declaration of honesty. Sign the receipt and stapled to the hard copy of the assignments. Assignments without the VeriGuide receipt will NOT be graded.

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