

# Sociolinguistics

A brief introduction to how social impacts linguistic

Linguistics D (LAH.A411), Professor Yamamoto Hirofumi

Choeng Veyseng, 23M18594

# What is Sociolinguistics?

The term “Sociolinguistics” was firstly used in **1952** by the American **Haver C. Currie** and became widespread from about the late **1960s**.

**Sociolinguistics** is the study of how **social factors** influence your use of language. It would be based on **variations** of Education, Class, Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Sexuality, and more.



# Research Threads of Sociolinguistics

## ● Historical Linguistics

How language changes over time?

Focuses on reconstructing ancient languages and understanding language change.

Example: Tracing modern Romance languages like Spanish and Italian back to Latin.

## ● Sociology

How society influences the use of language?

Examines how social factors like class, identity, and power influence language use.

Example: How language changes in formal vs. informal settings or how social class impacts dialect use.

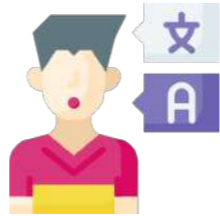
## ● Structural Linguistics

How language is formed in the formal system?

Analyzes how language elements interact to form meaning and structure.

Example: Ferdinand de Saussure's idea of langue (system) vs. parole (speech).

# Code-Switching



## What is Code-Switching?

Based on Cambridge Dictionary, It is the act of changing two or more languages, dialects, or accents when you are speaking.

## Types of Code-Switching

### Situational

Based on the context

### Metaphorical

To convey tone or meaning

### Intra-Sentential

Switching within a sentence

### Inter-Sentential

Switching between sentences

- **Historical Linguistics:** Shows how bilingual speakers adapt linguistic elements over time.
- **Sociology:** Reflects power dynamics, identity, and group membership.
- **Structural Linguistics:** Analyzes the grammar and syntax of switching.

# Why they are matter?

Learning about sociolinguistics is important because it helps us understand how language shapes and is shaped by social factors, revealing insights into identity, culture, power dynamics, and communication in diverse societies.

Understanding the three research threads—**sociology**, **historical linguistics**, and **structural linguistics**—is important because they collectively provide a comprehensive understanding of how language evolves, reflects social structures, and functions as a systematic tool for human communication.

Studying code-switching is crucial because it reveals how language reflects identity, cultural dynamics, and social relationships, while also offering insights into bilingualism, language evolution, and communication strategies.

# References

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