

# Sociolinguistics

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**Course code: M-ANGka-13**

**Course type: Elective (povinne voliteľný)**

**Number of contact hours per week: 2**

## Course Description

The course in sociolinguistics is concerned with the description of relations between language and society. It focuses on the interaction and mutual influence of language users and social structures of the society, and characterizes briefly the network of relations influencing language variability from the social, situational, and geographical points of view.

### Course Activities

1. Reading and analysis of texts demonstrating those aspects of language which relate to some sociolinguistic parameters.
2. Doing exercises concerned with social, situational, and geographical causes of linguistic variation

### Aims of the Course

1. To raise the students' awareness of social, situational, and geographical aspects of language.
2. To help students improve their communicative competence with regard to different social and situational variables
3. To be able to characterize and analyse different types of texts.
4. To familiarise students with basic sociolinguistic terminology.

## Course Topics

1. Language, Society, and Communication
  2. Sociolinguistic Research
  3. Language and Social Class
  4. Language and Age
  5. Language and Gender
  6. Language and Race, Language and Ethnic Group (*in-semester test*)
  7. Language and Culture, Language and Nation
  8. Language and Medium, Language and Field
  9. Language and Genre, Language and Style
  10. Language and Role Relationship, Language and Setting
  11. Language and Geography
  12. Language and Communicative Function
- (*end-of-semester tests*)

## Assessment

In-semester practical test .....30 points

End-of-semester practical test..... 20 points

End-of-semester theoretical written test .....50 points

All tests must be taken before the beginning of the examination period, and there are no re-sits!

## Grading Scale

100 – 95 points = A

94 – 90 points = B

89 – 85 points = C

84 – 80 points = D

79 – 70 points = E

69 – 0 points = Fx

## Compulsory Literature

1. Pavlík, R. (2010). Exercises in Sociolinguistics. Bratislava: Z-F Lingua
2. Pavlík, R. (2006). Elements of Sociolinguistics. Bratislava: Univerzita Komenského.

## Recommended Literature

1. Trudgill, P. (1972/1983/1995). Sociolinguistics: an introduction. London: Penguin.
2. Holmes, J. (1992). An Introduction to Sociolinguistics. Longman.
3. Wardhaugh, R. (1992/1997). An Introduction to Sociolinguistics. Blackwell
4. Hudson, R. A. (1996). Sociolinguistics. 2nd edition. Cambridge University Press.
5. Romaine, S. (1994). Language in Society. An Introduction to Sociolinguistics. Oxford University Press.

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## Exam questions

<p>1. What are the components of communication?</p> <p>2. What types of information do you know? Describe them briefly.</p> <p>3. <i>La langue</i> can be defined as ...</p> <p>4. <i>La parole</i> can be defined as ...</p> <p>5. <i>Le langage</i> can be defined as ...</p> <p>6. What is the difference between competence and performance?</p> <p>7. What is sociolinguistics?</p> <p>8. What is linguosociology?</p> <p>9. What is the difference between micro-sociolinguistics and macro-sociolinguistics?</p> <p>10. What is the difference between theoretical and applied sociolinguistics?</p> <p>11. Define the term variety (lect).</p> <p>12. How is language different from dialect?</p> <p>13. What is dialect levelling (normalization)?</p> <p>14. Dialects can be divided into ...</p> <p>15. What is the difference between overt and covert prestige?</p> <p>16. Vernacular can be defined as ...</p> <p>17. What are the characteristic features of pidgins?</p> <p>18. Explain the terms substrate and superstrate.</p> <p>19. What is a creole language?</p> <p>20. Define speech community.</p> <p>21. What is a community of practice?</p> <p>22. Define communicative competence and name its components.</p> <p>23. What are the units of communication?</p> <p>24. Name some approaches to sociolinguistic research.</p> <p>25. What is a variable?</p> <p>26. Name at least 3 types of linguistic variables.</p> <p>27. Name at least 5 types of social variables.</p> <p>28. Name at least 5 types of situational variables.</p> <p>29. Explain the following terms: indicator, marker, stereotype.</p> <p>30. What is a hypothesis?</p> <p>31. What is sampling?</p> <p>32. What types of sampling do you know?</p> <p>33. What types of observation do you know?</p> <p>34. What is the observer's paradox?</p> <p>35. What types of elicitation do you know?</p> <p>36. The questions in a questionnaire can be of the following types:</p> <p>37. What types of interview do you know?</p> <p>38. What is a subjective reaction test?</p> <p>39. Define reliability and validity.</p> <p>40. What is social class?</p> <p>41. Social class status is determined by these three aspects:</p> <p>42. Give one phonetic/phonological, one lexical, and one grammatical example of variation caused by social class factors. (e.g. In New York speech, the higher the social class, the higher the use of [r] variant instead of the Ø variant).</p> <p>43. What is the difference between restricted code and elaborated code?</p> <p>44. We can distinguish among these age groups:</p> <p>45. Give one phonetic/phonological, one lexical, and one grammatical example of variation caused by age factors.</p> <p>46. What are the main differences between the language of men and women?</p> <p>47. Give one phonetic/phonological, one lexical, and one grammatical example of variation caused by gender factors.</p>	<p>48. The three main race categories are:</p> <p>49. Give one phonetic/phonological, one lexical, and one grammatical example of variation caused by race factors.</p> <p>50. What is an ethnic group?</p> <p>51. What is language shift and what may cause it?</p> <p>52. What is the difference between compound and co-ordinate bilingualism?</p> <p>53. Domain can be defined as ...</p> <p>54. What are the differences between diglossia and bilingualism?</p> <p>55. Give one phonetic/phonological, one lexical, and one grammatical example of variation caused by ethnic factors.</p> <p>56. The three components of non-material culture are:</p> <p>57. What are prototypes?</p> <p>58. What is the linguistic relativity theory?</p> <p>59. Give one phonetic/phonological, one lexical, and one grammatical example of variation caused by cultural factors.</p> <p>60. Standardization consists of the following stages:</p> <p>61. What is language treatment?</p> <p>62. A lingua franca is a language which ...</p> <p>63. What is register?</p> <p>64. Define medium and its variants.</p> <p>65. Give one phonetic/phonological, one lexical, and one grammatical example of variation caused by medium.</p> <p>66. Give one phonetic/phonological, one lexical, and one grammatical example of variation caused by field.</p> <p>67. What is genre?</p> <p>68. What is discourse genre?</p> <p>69. Describe some features and rules governing conversation.</p> <p>70. Define style and its components.</p> <p>71. What is accommodation? Give its types.</p> <p>72. Describe the term diglossia.</p> <p>73. What is code-switching? What types of code-switching do you know?</p> <p>74. Define code-mixing and code-crossing.</p> <p>75. Give one phonetic/phonological, one lexical, and one grammatical example of variation caused by style.</p> <p>76. What is status set and role set?</p> <p>77. Give one phonetic/phonological, one lexical, and one grammatical example of variation caused by role relationship.</p> <p>78. The setting variable consists of these four sub-variables:</p> <p>79. Give some examples of linguistic variation influenced by setting.</p> <p>80. Define regional dialect.</p> <p>81. What does the acronym NORM stand for and where is it used.</p> <p>82. What is the wave theory?</p> <p>83. What is the dialect continuum?</p> <p>84. What is an isogloss?</p> <p>85. There are four types of isoglosses:</p> <p>86. Geographically, the earth can be divided into discrete regions according to these three criteria:</p> <p>87. Give one phonetic/phonological, one lexical, and one grammatical example of variation caused geographical factors.</p> <p>88. Roman Jakobson identified these language functions:</p> <p>89. What is a locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary act?</p> <p>90. What is the difference between a direct and an indirect speech act?</p> <p>91. Define the terms <i>argot</i> and <i>slang</i>.</p>
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