

About the final project

Final project: Choose one topic

(1) *Language variation*. Come up with an hypothesis about language variation (region, age, gender, register, audience, etc.) and confirm it with your own data.

(2) *Word in discourse*. Discuss the role of a linguistic item (such as “uh”, “well”, “you know”, “んー”, “やっぱ”, “-じゃん”) in discourse with your own data.

Attitudes towards dialects in Japan

When dialects were a shame

In May 1964, a 19-year-old man from Akita Prefecture was arrested in Tokyo from fatal assault. Newspapers reported that his accent was being laughed at.

When dialects were a shame

A passage from Shiro Hattori (1960), a renowned Japanese linguist

方言が絶滅して了うのが理想であることはい
うまでもない [Needless to say, our ideal is
that dialects go extinct.]

“Dialect card”

You have to carry this if you
use a dialect in school. When
you find someone else uses a
dialect, you can pass it to
him/her.

This was not forced by the
central government; it was an
effort of local people to catch
up.

From “dialect complex” to “dialect prestige”

As almost everyone became able to
communicate in Standard Japanese, people
came to realize the value of dialects as a symbol
of their identity and solidarity.

Dialects are now actively used as tourist
resources too.

“Dialect cosplay”

Each dialect has its impression

The same person might use multiple dialects to
obtain particular effects

Tohoku: rustic, warm, ..

Kyoto: cute, feminine, ..

Osaka: funny, stingy, ..

Kyushu: masculine, ..

Language variation in
social class, ethnicity,
and age

Social dialects

Dialects are most often defined by geographical areas, but dialects can also be defined by:

- *Social class*
- *Ethnicity*

Language can also vary across *age*.

We will discuss *gender* later this semester.

Social class

Labov's experiment

"Where are the women's shoes?"

"Fourth floor."

"What did you say?"

"FOURTH FLOOR."

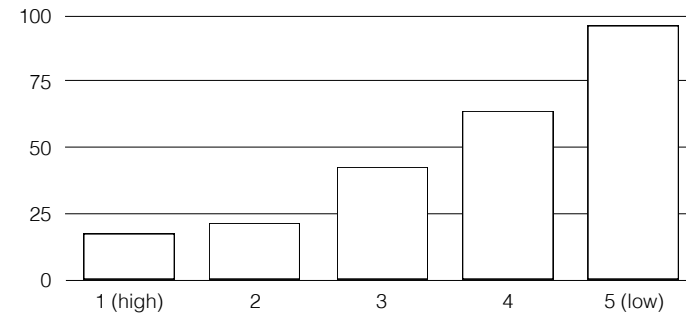
(At the fourth floor) "Excuse me, what floor is this?"

"Fourth floor."

Labov's experiment

He collected data from 264 people in three department stores in NYC (Saks, Macy's, and S. Klein)

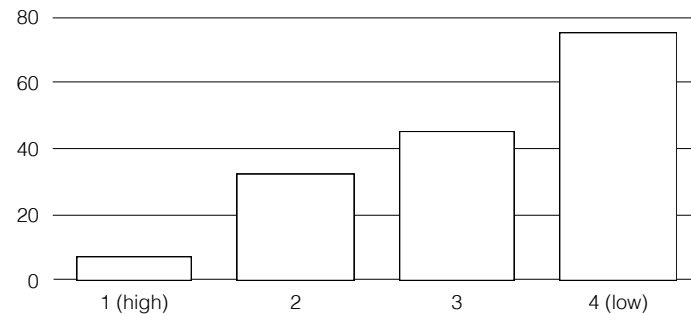
Silent /h/ in West Yorkshire, England



Petyt (1985) *Dialect and Accent in Industrial West Yorkshire*.
Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

(based on Petyt 1985)

-ing and *-in'* in NYC



Labov (1972) *Sociolinguistic Patterns*.
Philadelphia: University of
Pennsylvania Press.

(based on Labov 1972)

Hypercorrection

Hypercorrection

Hypercorrection occurs when someone tries to use a standard or prestigious form and go too far.

“I really likes..” by a speaker by AAVE

カイベツ in Hokkaido

Hypercorrection

Hypercorrection also occurs when people try to use borrowed words.

デビュー (debut)、ディアゴスティーニ
(deAgostini)、バン格拉ディッシュ
(Bangladesh)、マシーン (machine) etc.

Ethnicity

African American Vernacular English (AAVE)

*It's a girl name Shirley Jones live in Washington.
'most everybody on her street like her, 'cause
she a nice girl. Shirley like a boy name Charles.
But she keep away from him and Charles don't
hardly say nothing to her neither.*

Characteristics of AAVE

Phonology

dis 'this', *mouf* 'mouth', *bik* 'big'

tes 'test'

Ca'ol 'Carol', *inte'ested* 'interested'

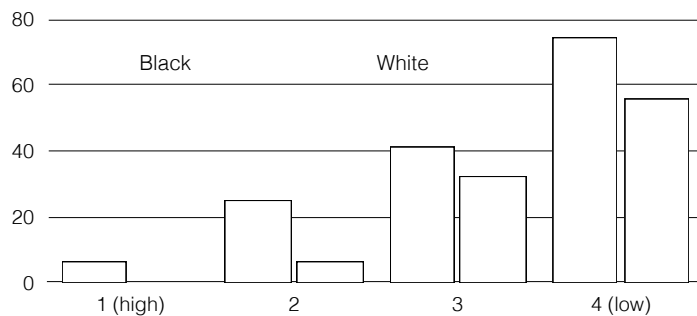
Multiple negation

He didn't give me no food. - "He didn't give me (any) food." or "He gave me no food."

Is multiple negation illogical?

cf. *It ain nobody I can't trust.* - "There is nobody I can't trust." (i.e. "I can trust everyone.")

Multiple negation



Shuy, Wolfram and Riley (1967)
Linguistic Correlates of Social
Stratification in Detroit Speech.
East Lansing, MI: Michigan State
University.

(Based on Shuy, Wolfram & Riley 1967)

AAVE *be*

He sick today.

The coffee cold.

She be late every day.

I see her when I bees on my way to school.

They usually be tired when they come home.

**They be tired right now.*

What does *be/bees* mean in AAVE?

Age

Age and vernacular speech

Adolescents more often use non-standard, vernacular speech, probably because they have peer pressure *not* to conform to society's norms.

Middle-aged people are more responsible in the society, and they use fewer vernacular speech.

Retired people use vernacular forms again.

Standard vs. vernacular

Yesterday, I went to the store. I couldn't find what I wanted. I was frustrated.

Dude, yesterday I went to this store and, man, I couldn't find the shit I wanted anywhere, man, it sucked!

Reaction paper

Can you think of newest slang words in your language? Give an example and explain what it means.

ガン見, スルー, とりま, 激おこ, パない, リア充, 普通に, 変くね? etc.