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Session 11: Language in society, variation and change

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Human languages have developed as tools for and are constantly shaped by social interaction. Diversity among language users as well as across situations, purposes and modes of language use entails variation in linguistic systems and prevents stagnation. The papers of this session investigate selected aspects of these general insights in detail, offering illustrations from various parts of the world.

Words in society

How words change their meaning, how they are used to label new concepts, but also how their use shapes concepts and ideologies can be observed already over short periods, especially in times of conflicts and crises [177, 770, 547]. Vocabulary is the part of language that is most easily changed deliberately, as speakers have more control over their choice of words than over pronunciation or grammar, and members of a linguistic community often have strong attitudes towards the use of certain words or categories such as loanwords [455].

Writing in society

While spontaneous speech is the primary mode of language, the invention and cultural tradition of writing has created additional ways of using language and expressing identity. Writing in public space, be it urban cityscapes or the virtual environments of social media, shows hierarchization of languages and varieties in society and peoples' attitudes towards them [726, 78, 468]. In history, literacy was often restricted to a small, educated elite. A challenge of modern egalitarian societies is to make written texts accessible to all speakers, including groups with special needs [529].

Discourse in changing societies

Changes and trends in society are *reflected* in the ways languages are used in social interaction, which includes expressing ideologies and establishing identities and roles of interlocutors. The analysis of linguistic expression means and trends in their use is therefore an important tool for understanding what is going on in society, in institutions and groups [361, 425]. On the other hand, language is the main tool for *reflecting* one's experience and making sense of it. The analysis of oral narratives reveals this created sense and the self-perception of individuals and groups in society [762, 660].

Interaction across borders

Human interaction is not confined to members of one speech community. Speakers of different languages meet in border regions [229], through migration into new territories [440], temporary stays abroad [214], and for many other reasons. Patterns of interaction in multilingual settings are studied by linguists from various angles [229, 214]. Successful interaction involves acquiring adequate expression means in the languages in question, and language teaching needs to make learners aware of differences [93]. Mastering the language of a host community inevitably includes mastering more than one variety of this language, which may be a challenge for adult immigrants [440].

Accepted papers

Words in society

- [770] Anastasiia Carisio: Cognitive definition of vojna 'war' in Russian: What prompted the emergence of special'naja voennaja operacija 'special military operation' in the realm of current Russian political discourse?
- [177] Svitlana Matvieieva: Colours of the War: coloronyms in the political-military discourse
- [547] Ieda Maria Alves and Beatriz Curti-Contessoto: Medical terminology and variation in Brazilian Portuguese: the case of terms related to COVID-19 treatments in Brazil
- [455] Hasan Berkcan Simsek: Echoes of a purist language reform: multifaceted attitudes towards Arabic and Persian loanwords in Turkish

Writing in society

- [726] Adeola Babayode-Lawal: Language diversity in the linguistic landscape of three Lagos State communities
- [78] Abraham Kwesi Bisilki: Linguistic landscaping and indigenous languages in multilingual Ghana
- [468] Tatsiana Nazaranka: The apple of discord: Belarus(ian)
- [529] Marta Wrzeźniewska-Pietrzak and Karolina Ruta-Korytowska: Easy to read standard in special education – opportunities and challenges

Discourse in changing societies

- [762] Joanna Pawelczyk: "I know males that kind of do the same thing and they never get any comments for it": Discourse analysis of U.S. military women's perception of their professional performance in the context of the interview
- [669] Roberta Piazza and Justyna Robinson: Oppositions in the narrative accounts of migrants in the UK during Covid-19.
- [425] Mana Kitazawa: New ideology emerging in public discourse: A systemic functional approach to two decades of corporate profiles
- [361, poster presentation] Kazuko Tanabe: Changes in address terms for family members in the Japanese language

Interaction across borders

- [229] Barbara A. Jańczak: Border spaces and hybridity: 'Linguistic Borderscape' – language contact in the German-Polish border region
- [214] Michał B. Paradowski, Piotr Bródka and Michał Czuba: Second language learning and peer interaction trajectories during study abroad: Insights from longitudinal social network analysis
- [440] Chloe Castle, Kamil Malarski, Helene Ruud Jensberg, Marta Velnić, Isabel Nadine Jensen and Magdalena Wrembel: *Can Norwegian dialect features be acquired by L3 speakers? The case of Poles in Tromsø.*
- [93] Levente Borsos, Tamas Kruzslicz, Mojca Nidorfer and Chikako Shigemori Bucar: *Linguistic tools for interpersonal relationships: Hungarian, Slovene and Japanese*