dégun?
Wrap-up
What is sociolinguistics about?

According to Wikipedia:

• **Linguistics**: The scientific study of language
• **Sociolinguistics**: The study of how language is shaped by social factors.
• **Linguistic Anthropology**: The study of how language influences social life.

Is there a problem here?
What is a sociolinguistic variable?

• An alternation of form becomes a variable when the alternation displays a pattern.
• It becomes a sociolinguistic variable when social context is part of that pattern.
• At that point, the variable takes on meaning, becoming a sign.
Social meaning

• It’s in the content of what we say.
• It’s in the way we say it.
• So where do we draw the line between sociolinguistics and semantics?
Unlike semantics, which examines meaning that is conventional or "coded" in a given language, pragmatics studies how the transmission of meaning depends not only on structural and linguistic knowledge (e.g., grammar, lexicon, etc.) of the speaker and listener, but also on the context of the utterance, any pre-existing knowledge about those involved, the inferred intent of the speaker, and other factors.
What’s the difference?

(1) a. Americans need to pay off their debts.
    b. The Americans need to pay off their debts.

(2) a. Americans drink fluoridated water.
    b. The Americans drink fluoridated water.

Donald Trump tells people to 'ask the gays' about how great he is. 'The gays' respond—and it is EPIC

“Americans are cravin’ that straight talk.”

(42) [...] it was John McCain who pushed so hard with the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac reform measures. He sounded that warning bell.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interviews</th>
<th>this</th>
<th>that</th>
<th>these</th>
<th>those</th>
<th>All (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Original 32</td>
<td>4.04</td>
<td>2.42</td>
<td>1.08</td>
<td>1.34</td>
<td>8.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 female</td>
<td>3.77</td>
<td>2.48</td>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>1.47</td>
<td>8.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palin</td>
<td>5.34</td>
<td>4.08</td>
<td>2.52</td>
<td>2.99</td>
<td>14.93</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
“Different ways of saying the same thing”

Referential identity  >  Functional equivalence

• Unmarked uses
  • Bounded scales: totally full, totally bald

• Attitudinal uses
  • Unbounded scales: totally tall, totally sick
  • With extreme adjectives: totally awesome
  • With nouns, predicates...: I’m totally going to the party.

Common Ground: shared presupposition

In a simple exchange of information, people say things to get other people to know things that they didn't know before. They utter certain noises with the expectation that someone hearing them will thereby acquire particular information.

Under what circumstances would one say:

• “I’m working class.”
• ”I’m thirty-five.”
• ”I’m female.”
• “I’m sad.”
• “I’m not interested in what you’re saying.”
• “I belong.”
• “I’m cool.”
• ”I’m kind.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tokens of <em>um</em></th>
<th>Tokens of <em>uh</em></th>
<th>Combined</th>
<th><em>um/uh</em> ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women</strong></td>
<td>2,674</td>
<td>1,171</td>
<td>3,845</td>
<td>2.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Men</strong></td>
<td>1,122</td>
<td>1,577</td>
<td>2,699</td>
<td>0.71</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: Speed Dating Corpus: *Um* v. *uh* by speaker gender, native English speakers only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tokens of <em>um</em></th>
<th>Tokens of <em>uh</em></th>
<th>Combined</th>
<th><em>um/uh</em> ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women</strong></td>
<td>12,400</td>
<td>24,247</td>
<td>36,647</td>
<td>0.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Men</strong></td>
<td>8,734</td>
<td>45,402</td>
<td>54,136</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5: Switchboard Corpus: *Um* v. *uh* by speaker gender.

A construction

We used to **uh** | put on **like these skits for the cla-**
**uh** | me and her we won first prize in this talent contest cuz
**we uh** | dressed up as sardines, you know.

We we got arrested before
**For uh** | possession of alcohol

And **uh** | me and Jill we went in the john you
know we had our first our first cigarette
Is *uh* a filler?

4/19 occurrences of *um/uah* precede pauses of over a second.

• 2 occurrences of *um*.
• 2 occurrences of *uh* with no creak.
  • before syntactic restart
  • before long pause
Blue Rags

They say “come on come on”
* Ah – I don’t want to kick your ugly ass okay so * bye ho’s” and I was screaming like this.

You ho’s

You like – I like like getting in fights I know. I’m all “you got a problem with me?” Then I’m all “Step up punks, bitches, ho’s” and all that.

I do that.

I just lo:ve I love fighting man. I like punching on the face you know...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distribution</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utterance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Initial            |       | 219| 70%
| Turn               | 133   | 86 | -  |
| Internal           | -     | 53 | -  |
| Final              | -     | 7  | 18 |
| Entire Utterance   | -     | -  | 17 |
| Total              | N     | 133| 42%
|                    | %     | 146| 47%
|                    |       | 18 | 6%
|                    |       | 17 | 5%
|                    |       | 314| 100%

P: I'm not, come on we've been through this before you [wanted] to know what Val said too.
S1: *

P (to S2): Yeah, so what are you gonna do this summer?
S1: Go to El Salvador.
S2: * Ay! Stu-pid! ((laughs))
S1: You!
S2: Oh, I thought you were talking to her. I’m all- ((laughs)) Yeah, I might, if I get good grades.
P: Oh, they’re your friends?
S2: Yeah.
S1: I thought you guys weren’t friends, cuz like.
S2: I wasn’t fighting, * Laura was.

S1: I don’t know, huh, it was in my pocket and I don’t know what happened to it. ((exhales))
P: Oh dear.
S1: I think it fell out... *
Lenition

He’s a jackass and everything

Cuz we kinda got other people to dance cuz then you know - it doesn't matter if you dance stupid

Cuz they said it was fucked up it wasn’t really fucked up she didn’t even fight back I don’t even know if she beat me up or nothing I think she did kick me I don’t know I didn’t feel it though you know
Iconicity – particularly sound symbolism

• Phonesthemes. Quasi-productive pairings of sound and meaning.
  • glow, glitter, glisten, gleam, glare, glint, glance
  • twist, twine, twiddle, tweeze ... twerp, twaddle...

• Ideophones.
  • Clip-clop, tick-tock, hippety-hop, ding-dong,

• Exclamatives. (including response cries)
  • Wow! Phew! Oops.

• Onomatopoeia.
  • Bang! Swoosh!

• Synesthetic Sound Symbolism
Frequency Code

Association of high frequencies in f0, f2, and in consonant turbulence with smallness; low frequencies with largeness.


- instability, unreliability, uncoordinated movement, diversity, excessive energy, noisiness, lack of elegance, cheapness

- intimate; dear vs. distant; off-putting
- desirable vs. to-be-shunned
- personal vs impersonal
- pleasing; satisfying vs. gross; disgusting
Affect and Iconicity

I wanna be nice and sweet like other teachers.

I felt like I wanna cry


Conventionalization of the frequency code

- Front Vowels - young, innocent, happy
- Backing - wise, sad, angry
Affect and Coolness

“Sweet Colette”

One that I really know is Josh and he - we give him rides after school

“Attitude-y Colette”

We got in this mad because of Josh or something and um the next day cuz she was spending the night I’m all “wait a minute why should we get mad over a stupid boy”

Performativity

“… discursive practice that enacts or produces that which it names”


Indexicality, performativity, reference
When is change?

• Change as an infinitessimal series of infinitessimally small events.

• Consider change in light of course themes:
  • Reproduction
  • Categories
  • Indexicality
  • Stylistic Practice
  • Authenticity
  • Pejoration
  • Appropriation
A sign is ...
Something that stands for something, to someone in some capacity (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy)
Something that stands for something, to someone in some capacity.
Moving On

Black Metal Cats @evilmetalcats · May 17
I float with the cold diabolical massacre winds on the bestial wings of evil. pic.twitter.com/5AaSaw4bfj