

LT2203: LANGUAGE IN SOCIETY

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Language in Society

Subject Code

LT - Linguistics and Translation

Course Number

2203

Academic Unit

Linguistics and Translation (LT)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

CTL2203 Language in Society

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the key sociolinguistic theories and concepts. Students will learn to discover, identify and analyse the sociolinguistic issues in different societies.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Describe and analyse functions of and differences between a standard language and its dialects.		x	x	
2	Analyse the influence of sociolinguistic variables on language use.		x	x	
3	Analyse the functions of languages in bilingual or multilingual speech communities.		x	x	
4	Discover and describe attitudes to languages or varieties of language in speech communities.		x	x	x
5	Discover and describe and analyse language planning issues and practices in different countries.		x	x	x
6	Identify the relationship between language, culture and cognition.		x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Reading	Students will engage in reading book chapters and articles.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
2	Lecture	Students will learn a range of theories and concepts. They will also learn through models, get clear explanations, view illustrations, and synthesize information from their readings.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	

3	Peer discussion	Students will participate in discussions with their classmates to collaboratively complete exercises and activities during class sessions.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	In-class quiz (es): Students will apply knowledge acquired to analyse data, solve problems, and discuss sociolinguistic issues.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	30	-	No

2	Group project: Students will work in groups to introduce key issues or major topics in sociolinguistics. Their work must involve collecting and analyzing empirical language data. They are allowed to choose a format to present their work or findings, e.g. a short video or a podcast generated and refined by their own prompts, in addition to a written report. They may use any AI tools to assist them to complete this part of the task. The whole task will enhance their research and teamwork skills, AI literacy, as well as the clarity and conciseness of their communication. A written report is required to present their analysis of the sociolinguistic findings. Detailed instructions will be provided and explained in class.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	30	Students can use GenAI tools to brainstorm, gather information, solve problems, format references, and edit visual and motion features as well as language. Students should give proper acknowledgment to all the content from GenAI tools that they incorporated into the assignment and keep a journal of their GenAI conversations. Except for fulfillment of components in assessment tasks, students should not present texts generated or translated by GenAI tools as their own original work.	Yes
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Continuous Assessment (%)

60

Examination (%)

40

Examination Duration (Hours)

2

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

1. In-class quiz(es)

Criterion

Accuracy and clarity in analysis, organization and fluency in writing

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

1. Demonstration of excellent command of subject matter taught in the course related to the area of sociolinguistics.
2. Excellent application of concepts and theories taught in class.
3. Excellent analyses of speech data provided.
4. Demonstration of excellent analytical, problem solving and evaluative abilities.

Good (B+, B, B-)

1. Demonstration of good command of subject matter taught in the course related to the area of sociolinguistics.
2. Good application of concepts and theories taught in class.
3. Good analyses of speech data provided.
4. Demonstration of good analytical, problem solving and evaluative abilities.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

1. Demonstration of adequate command of subject matter taught in the course related to the area of sociolinguistics.
2. Adequate application of concepts and theories taught in class.
3. Adequate analyses of speech data provided.
4. Demonstration of Adequate analytical, problem solving and evaluative abilities.

Marginal (D)

1. Demonstration of marginal command of subject matter taught in the course related to the area of sociolinguistics.
2. Marginal application of concepts and theories taught in class.
3. Marginal analyses of speech data provided.
4. Demonstration of marginal analytical, problem solving and evaluative abilities.

Failure (F)

Fail to meet most or all the criteria.

Assessment Task

2. Semester-end project

Criterion

Originality, relevance, accuracy and clarity, fluency in writing and speaking

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

1. Demonstration of excellent command of subject matter taught in the course related to the area of sociolinguistics.
2. Excellent application of concepts and theories taught in class.
3. Excellent analyses of speech data collected or provided.
4. Demonstration of excellent analytical, problem solving and evaluative abilities and creativity.
5. Excellent content, presentation, organisation and style in writing.

Good (B+, B, B-)

1. Demonstration of good command of subject matter taught in the course related to the area of sociolinguistics.
2. Good application of concepts and theories taught in class.
3. Good analyses of speech data collected or provided.
4. Demonstration of good analytical, problem solving and evaluative abilities and creativity.
5. Good content, presentation, organisation and style in writing.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

1. Demonstration of adequate command of subject matter taught in the course related to the area of sociolinguistics.

2. Adequate application of concepts and theories taught in class.
3. Adequate analyses of speech data collected or provided.
4. Demonstration of Adequate analytical, problem solving and evaluative abilities and creativity.
5. Adequate content, presentation, organisation and style in writing.

Marginal (D)

1. Demonstration of marginal command of subject matter taught in the course related to the area of sociolinguistics.
2. Marginal application of concepts and theories taught in class.
3. Marginal analyses of speech data collected or provided.
4. Demonstration of marginal analytical, problem solving and evaluative abilities and creativity.
5. Marginal content, presentation, organisation and style in writing.

Failure (F)

Fail to meet most or all the criterion.

Assessment Task

3. Examination

Criterion

Accuracy and clarity in analysis, organization and fluency in writing

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

1. Demonstration of excellent command of subject matter taught in the course related to the area of sociolinguistics.
2. Excellent application of concepts and theories taught in class.
3. Excellent analyses of speech data provided.
4. Demonstration of excellent analytical, problem solving and evaluative abilities.

Good (B+, B, B-)

1. Demonstration of good command of subject matter taught in the course related to the area of sociolinguistics.
2. Good application of concepts and theories taught in class.
3. Good analyses of speech data provided.
4. Demonstration of good analytical, problem solving and evaluative abilities.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

1. Demonstration of adequate command of subject matter taught in the course related to the area of sociolinguistics.
2. Adequate application of concepts and theories taught in class.
3. Adequate analyses of speech data provided.
4. Demonstration of Adequate analytical, problem solving and evaluative abilities.

Marginal (D)

1. Demonstration of marginal command of subject matter taught in the course related to the area of sociolinguistics.
2. Marginal application of concepts and theories taught in class.
3. Marginal analyses of speech data provided.
4. Demonstration of marginal analytical, problem solving and evaluative abilities.

Failure (F)

Fail to meet most or all the criteria.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Language varieties, standard language, dialects, world Englishes, language choice in multilingual communities, code-switching, code-mixing, diglossia, language, culture and cognition, language attitude, language policy, language planning.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Holmes, J. & Wilson, N. (2017) An Introduction to Sociolinguistics. 5th edition. N.Y. : Routledge.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Swann, J, Deumert, A, Lillis, T. & Mesthrie, R. (2004) A Dictionary of Sociolinguistics. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
2	Labov, W. (1972) Sociolinguistic Patterns. Philadelphia: U. of Pennsylvania Press.
3	Trudgill, P. (1974) Sociolinguistics. Harmondsworth: Penguin.
4	Wardhaugh, R. (2010) An Introduction to Sociolinguistics. Chichester, West Sussex: Malden.