

---

---

# Contents

Preface x

Author's acknowledgements xii

Publisher's acknowledgements xiii

**1 What do sociolinguists study? 1**

What is a sociolinguist? 1

Why do we say the same thing in different ways? 3

What are the different ways we say things? 6

Social factors, dimensions and explanations 11

**Section I: Multilingual Speech Communities 19**

**2 Language choice in multilingual communities 21**

Choosing your variety or code 21

Diglossia 32

Code-switching or code-mixing 40

**3 Language maintenance and shift 55**

Language shift in different communities 55

Language death and language loss 61

Factors contributing to language shift 65

How can a minority language be maintained? 71

Language revival 74

**4 Linguistic varieties and multilingual nations 79**

Vernacular languages 80

Standard languages 82

Lingua francas 86

Pidgins and creoles 89

**5 National languages and language planning 103**

National and official languages 105

Planning for a national official language 112

Developing a standard variety in Norway 118

The linguist's role in language planning 121

**Section II: Language Variation: reflecting its users 131**

- 6 Regional and social dialects 133**
  - Regional variation 134
  - Social variation 142
  - Social dialects 144
  
- 7 Sex and age 164**
  - Sex-exclusive speech differences 164
  - Sex-preferential speech features 167
  - Sex and social class 168
  - Explanations of women's linguistic behaviour 171
  - Age-graded features of speech 181
  - Age and social dialect data 184
  
- 8 Ethnicity and social networks 190**
  - Ethnicity 190
  - Social networks 202
  
- 9 Language change 210**
  - Variation and change 211
  - How do changes spread? 218
  - How do we study language change? 225
  - Reasons for language change 229

**Section III: Language Variation: reflecting its uses 243**

- 10 Style, context and register 245**
  - Addressee as an influence on style 246
  - Accommodation theory 255
  - Context, style and class 260
  - Style in non-Western societies 271
  - Register 276
  
- 11 Speech functions, politeness and cross-cultural communication 285**
  - The functions of speech 286
  - Politeness and address forms 296
  - Linguistic politeness in different cultures 304
  
- 12 Sex, politeness and stereotypes 312**
  - Women's language and confidence 312
  - Interaction 324
  - Gossip 330
  - Sexist language 336

<b>13</b>	<b>Attitudes and applications</b>	<b>344</b>
	Attitudes to language	344
	Sociolinguistics and education	357
<b>14</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>369</b>
	√ Sociolinguistic competence	370
	Dimensions of sociolinguistic analysis	376
	Sociolinguistic universals	381

References 386

Appendix: phonetic symbols 402

Glossary 404

Index 407