SOCIOLINGUISTICS: BASIC TERMS

Sociolinguistics
- Meta-research
- Society, language, variety

Knowledge of a language
- Code, grammar
- Competence and performance; communicative competence
- Language in use
- Linguistic variation

   TASK: Variation in greetings:
   How do you greet your friends, your family, your colleagues, your professors, people you don't know?
   Does the situation matter?
   Do the ways of greeting you use / you don't use index a membership in particular groups?
   Are there ways of greetings you find inappropriate?

The social construction of identities
- Identity
- Social identity
- How language constructs speaker's identity

   TASK: Describe your idiolect from the point of view of your individual and social identity (consider different situations).

The relationship between language and culture (directions of the influence)

1. The social structure determines the linguistic structure
2. The linguistic structure and behavior may influence the social structure or view Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis (Linguistic Determinism)

   TASK: Translatability: can you find certain words, phrases or structures in a foreign language which are difficult or impossible to translate? Do they only mean things which are not part of your original culture or are they concepts that are not found in your language?

3. Correlation between the linguistic structure and the social structure, but it is not deterministic, causal.
4. Fill in ☺

VARIETIES, LANGUAGES AND DIALECTS

TASK: how do you call different languages / dialects you speak? What assumptions you think others might make about you based on the way you speak?

- Vernacular language

Standardization: Concepts of power and solidarity
- „A language is a dialect with an army and a navy."
- The standard-dialect hierarchy
- The criterion of the mutual intelligibility under question
- Standard language ideology
- Codification; items connected with codification
- Standard language myth; the standard and language change

Dialects
- Regional dialects
- Social dialects
- Ethnic dialects

Style

TASK Do you feel uncertainty about the style you should choose in some situations? (I.e. you have to set the situation as formal or informal)

Register
- Construction of the identity

Genre

Power vs. solidarity
- Connected with the social identity

SOCIAL GROUPS
- Often a source of a stereotypical classification!
- Sociolinguistics: *speech community*
  - But: it is difficult to discern two languages or dialects
  - Regional criterion (English all over the world)
- Sharing communicative norms
- Social identities
- Beliefs about language and social groups; language ideologies