

Jarash University

Faculty of Arts Department of English Literature and Translation

Psycho-sociolinguistics Course Plan

Instructor: Dr Areej Al-Hawamdeh **Academic Year:** 2020-2021

Course Description:

The course aims at gaining an understanding of how language is required and processed, what language disorders may take place, why people choose to speak the way they do, and how people contextualize their choices (e.g. of utterances, varieties, languages) in order to communicate. This awakens the students' awareness of language as a dynamic communication system and provides them with insights to be effective language learners and would be language teachers.

Psycho-sociolinguistics represents a two-part course, which is concerned with psychological and social aspects of language. Psycholinguistics (the first part) is the use of language as a window to the nature and structure of the human mind. It includes topics such as speech production and comprehension, language acquisition, and language and the brain. Sociolinguistics (the second part) is the study of ways in which groups of people use language. It covers topics like language variation, language and gender, and language and culture. We will also consider some of the educational, political, and social repercussions of these sociolinguistic facts.

Course Objectives

At the end of this module, students should have an enhanced understanding of the way language is used to create and define social context, and this will lead to a greater appreciation of issues of linguistic discrimination, and they should be able to demonstrate:

1. Knowledge and critical understanding of basic sociolinguistic terms and concepts, include accent, dialect, variety, and standardization.
2. Knowledge and critical understanding of the notions of speech events, communicative competence, and speech community.
3. An awareness of how language variation and the related phenomenon of language choice signal the social identity of speakers and their social relationships, and how power relationships are reflected in language use. This course covers research that asks: What motivates speakers to make in different linguistic choices? And what communicative and social functions are served by those choices?
4. An awareness of the links between language variation, language choice, and social context.
5. Familiarity with the main methods of sociolinguistic research.

Course Outline:

Week	Subject
1	Introduction to sociolinguistics, what is sociolinguistics concerned about?
2	Introduction to Psycholinguistics and what is it about?
3	The social study of language: variation and variability.
4	The ethnography of speaking and the structure of conversation.
5	Locating variation in speech: Styles, gender, and social class.
6	Brain and language/Speech perception.
7	Word and meaning/sentence processing.
8	Word and meaning/sentence processing.
9	Second language learning/teaching methods.
10	Standard languages.
11	Bilingualism.
12	Proposal Writing.
13	Research Writing.

Textbook(s):

- 1. The handbook of language variation and change. Edited by: Chambers, Trudgill, and Schilling Estes.**
2. An Introduction to Sociolinguistics. Janet Holmes.
3. Sociolinguistics. Bernard Spolsky.
3. An Introduction to Psycholinguistics. Denny D. Steinberg and Natalia V. Sciarini.

Supporting Textbooks and References

Books & periodicals available in the library

1. Coates, J. (ed)(1997) Language and Gender: A Reader. Oxford, Blackwell.
2. Edwards, A.D. (1976) Language in Culture and Class. London, Heinemann.

3. Fishman, Joshua A. (1991) *Reversing Language Shift*. Clevedon, Avon: Multilingual Matters.
4. Gumperz, John J. (ed)(1983) *Language and Social Identity*.
5. Holmes, Janet (1998) "Paying Compliments: a sex-preferential positive politeness strategy." *Journal of Pragmatics*. 12,3:445-65
6. Labov, William (1990) "The intersection of sex and social class in the course of linguistic change." *Language Variation and Change*. 2,3:205-54
7. Romaine, Suzan (2000) *Language in Society: An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. 2nd edition. Oxford University Press.
8. Suleiman, Yasir. (ed) (1994) *Arabic Sociolinguistics: Issues and Perspectives*.
9. Tannen, Deborah (ed.) (1993) *Gender and Conversational Interaction*.
10. Trudgill, Peter (1996) *Sociolinguistics: An Introduction to Language and Society*.
11. Wardhaugh, Ronald (1997) *Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. Blackwell

Teaching Methods

The class is a led by the lecturer; however, **class discussions and group work occupy the greater part of the lecture**. Time is also given to students to write and reflect on the material read and presented.