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Group 4

1st Term Exam in Sociolinguistics

Task 1: Select the appropriate option(s) for each question or statement

(7.5pts)

1. What is "the principle of accountability" in variationist sociolinguistic research?

- a) The obligation of individuals and organizations to account for their actions, accept responsibility, and disclose results in a transparent manner. It is essential in governance management, and ethical practices.
- b) Often collocated with responsibility or credibility; it is to judge a certain action through the lens of ethics or culture to hold the person up to those standards.
- c) It dictates that in addition to examining the linguistic variant targeted for investigation e.g. [ɪn], the analyst must equally consider all the other potential variants within the relative system to include in the analysis e.g. [ɪn], [ɪŋ] ... The idea is that the analyst cannot gain access to how a variant functions in the grammatical or phonological system without considering it in the context of the subsystem of which it is a part.
- d) It indicates that the variant must be studied in relation to the variants it competes with within one variable, e.g. th vs. f: think vs. fink. Then, the variant of interest can be reported as a proportion of the total number of relevant constructions, i.e. the total number of times the function (i.e. the same meaning) occurred in the data (Wolfram 1993: 206) ... which "places the paradigmatic relationship of the variable at the heart of the variationist enterprise" (Campbell-Kibler, 2011).
- e) Labov (1972: 94) explains: "Any variable form (a member of a set of alternative ways of saying the same thing) should be reported with the proportion of cases in which the form did occur in the relevant environment, compared to the total number of cases in which it might have occurred".

2. Which of the following statements best explains Labov's "structured heterogeneity" in sociolinguistics

- a) It is when multiple different ethnic groups from different cultures live together without feeling the need to homogenize their culture or language.
- b) It is studying how structured variation occurs to better understand the mechanisms of language evolution and its spread through community.
- c) It means that language variation, e.g. individuals' different phonetic realizations, is systematic and non-random and thus can be explained by social differentiation within speech communities.
- d) It suggests that since variation is inherent to language, it could and should be represented as part of the structure of a language, not extraneous to it. That is, because the varied (heterogeneous) forms occurring in natural language are regularly distributed across speakers, so variability must also be one of the things that speakers "know" when we say that they know a language.

3. What does the term "superposed variety" of language suggest?

- a) Variant of language that is specific to a particular region.
- b) Variety of language imposed from above over the range of regional dialects.
- c) Standard form of language used for communication among speakers of different dialects (universally accepted).

4. What is the lexifier in the context of creole formation?

- a) Simplified version of a complex language.
- b) Dialect that has diverged significantly from its parent language.
- c) Language that provides most of the vocabulary for a creole.

5. Which of the following statements about "mixed languages" are true?

- a) Are rare category of contact language showing considerable diversity in structure, social function, and historical origins.
- b) Require prolonged contact between two languages and are less complex than their source languages.
- b) Often emerge in situations of bilingualism and instead of serving a communicative function are often markers of in-group identity.

6. "Language convergence" describes a phenomenon in the context of language contact which implies:

- a) The borrowing of vocabulary from one language to another without affecting structure.
- b) The distinct separation of languages within multilingual communities.
- c) The process wherein languages develop similar grammatical structures.

7. Which of the following statements best illustrates the concept of "focusing" in language norms?

- a) A culture that values oral traditions over written forms.
- b) A group that uses mixture of languages in daily conversation.
- c) A society that adheres strictly to grammar rules and standard usage.

8. Antonio de Nebrija is significant in the history of language because he:

- a) Created a universal language for the Spanish.
- b) Established the concept of dialects.
- c) Developed the 1st grammar of the Spanish language.

9. What is a key characteristic of societies with "diffused" linguistic forms?

- a) A high degree of literacy and formal education.
- b) A focus on communicative efficiency over correctness.
- c) Codification of language in dictionaries and grammars.

10. Speech accommodation in sociolinguistics implies in a broad sense speaker's adjustment of their communicative behavior based on that of their interlocuter to not only emphasize similarity but also make differences salient.

- a) True
- b) False

(6pts)

- [illegible]

[illegible]