



LING2219

Introduction to Sociolinguistics

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2022

Department of Linguistics

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor & Lecturer

Loy Lising

loy.lising@mq.edu.au

Co-Convenor & Lecturer

Hanna Torsh

hanna.torsh@mq.edu.au

Alice Wu

xufang.wu@mq.edu.au

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit introduces students to the field of sociolinguistics by focusing on three main areas: multilingual speech communities, inter-speaker language variation, and intra-speaker language variation. The unit draws upon research in Australia and around the world on a wide variety of languages, to develop students' understanding of the nature of variation and change in language at a global, national, local and individual level. Students take part in group and individual activities to develop an understanding of sociolinguistic research.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Define and describe sociolinguistic theories.

ULO2: Evaluate and apply different methods of sociolinguistic data collection and analysis.

ULO3: Analyse and interpret linguistic data for its sociolinguistic dimensions.

ULO4: Critically appraise and synthesise relevant academic literature.

ULO5: Explain both individually and in groups and through written and oral communication how sociolinguistic research can contribute to society.

General Assessment Information

Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the [Macquarie University Assessment Policy](#).

All final grades are determined by a grading committee, in accordance with the Macquarie University Assessment Policy, and are not the sole responsibility of the Unit Convenor.

Students will be awarded a final grade and a mark which must correspond to the grade descriptors specified in the [Assessment Procedure](#) (clause 128).

To pass this unit, you must demonstrate sufficient evidence of achievement of the learning outcomes, meet any ungraded requirements, and achieve a final mark of 50 or better.

Further details for each assessment task will be available on iLearn.

Late Submissions

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (OF THE TOTAL POSSIBLE MARK) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a grade of '0' will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical concern.

For example:

| Number of days (hours) late | Total Possible Marks | Deduction | Raw mark | Final mark |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------|----------|------------|
| 1 day (1-24 hours) | 100 | 5 | 75 | 70 |
| 2 days (24-48 hours) | 100 | 10 | 75 | 65 |
| 3 days (48-72 hours) | 100 | 15 | 75 | 60 |
| 7 days (144-168 hours) | 100 | 35 | 75 | 40 |
| >7 days (>168 hours) | 100 | - | 75 | 0 |

Late submission of time sensitive tasks, such as timetabled tests/exams, scheduled performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs, will be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application.

Special Consideration

If you are unable to complete an assessment task on or by the specified date due circumstances that are unexpected, unavoidable, significantly disruptive and beyond your control, you may apply for special consideration in accordance with the [special consideration policy](#). Applications for special consideration must be supported by appropriate evidence and submitted via ask.mq.edu.au.

Assessment Tasks

| Name | Weighting | Hurdle | Due |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| online quizzes | 40% | No | Week 3, 7, and 13 (all Quizzes close by Sunday @ 11.55pm) |
| Group Video Project | 20% | No | Week 5 (28th August @ 11.55pm) |
| Data Collection Tasks | 10% | No | Week 8 (2nd October @ 11.55pm) |
| Research Report | 30% | No | Week 12 (30th October @ 11.55pm) |

online quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Week 3, 7, and 13 (all Quizzes close by Sunday @ 11.55pm)**

Weighting: **40%**

Over the duration of the unit, you will be required to complete multiple short online quizzes comprising a set of problem-based or short answer questions that demonstrate the application of knowledge from the content of the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Define and describe sociolinguistic theories.
- Analyse and interpret linguistic data for its sociolinguistic dimensions.
- Explain both individually and in groups and through written and oral communication how sociolinguistic research can contribute to society.

Group Video Project

Assessment Type ¹: Media presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **Week 5 (28th August @ 11.55pm)**

Weighting: **20%**

In pre-allocated groups, you will work together to produce a short video that addresses a specific task on societal multilingualism, details of which will be provided on iLearn. The videos will become a resource for revision and are viewable by the whole class once submitted. Following the submission of the video, you will submit a one page written reflection of your experience in completing the task, focusing upon what you have learnt, how well you performed as a group, and what you might do differently if you did the task again.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Define and describe sociolinguistic theories.
- Critically appraise and synthesise relevant academic literature.
- Explain both individually and in groups and through written and oral communication how sociolinguistic research can contribute to society.

Data Collection Tasks

Assessment Type ¹: Field work task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **Week 8 (2nd October @ 11.55pm)**

Weighting: **10%**

You will be assigned a data collection task related to an ongoing piece of sociolinguistic research by the unit convenors, further details of which will be provided on iLearn. This task is assessed as a participation task whereby you gain experience in sociolinguistic data collection methods and the ethics of social research. The mark is based upon the successful completion of the task according to the instructions.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate and apply different methods of sociolinguistic data collection and analysis.

Research Report

Assessment Type ¹: Report

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **Week 12 (30th October @ 11.55pm)**

Weighting: **30%**

Following the guidance in the resource pack provided for tutorials, you will carry out a sociolinguistic project. Based upon this activity, you will write a report in which you present the findings of your analysis of the data, and how the trends you find connect with current theories in sociolinguistics. The report must describe your methodology, summarise the theoretical approach you are using, and present the data in a clear and concise manner. It should critically compare the results you have found with other relevant sociolinguistic research.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Define and describe sociolinguistic theories.
- Evaluate and apply different methods of sociolinguistic data collection and analysis.
- Analyse and interpret linguistic data for its sociolinguistic dimensions.
- Critically appraise and synthesise relevant academic literature.
- Explain both individually and in groups and through written and oral communication how sociolinguistic research can contribute to society.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

As a student enrolled in this unit, you will engage in a range of face-to-face and online learning activities, including lectures and tutorials, readings, and videos. Details can be found on the iLearn site for this unit.

Recommended Readings

Holmes, Janet and Nick Wilson (2022). *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. **6th Edition**. London: Routledge.

Technology Used

Active participation in the learning activities throughout the unit will require students to have access to a tablet, laptop or similar device. Students who do not own their own laptop computer may borrow one from the university library.

Unit Schedule

This unit on the *Introduction to Sociolinguistics* will cover both **macro sociolinguistics** and **micro sociolinguistics**. The schedule of weekly lecture topics will be equally divided between these two streams. The first half of the semester will be spent understanding Fishmanian sociolinguistics, while the second half of the semester will focus on Labovian sociolinguistics.

A detailed list of lecture and tutorial topics can be found on the iLearn site of this unit.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the

expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Inclusion and Diversity

Social inclusion at Macquarie University is about giving everyone who has the potential to benefit from higher education the opportunity to study at university, participate in campus life and flourish in their chosen field. The University has made significant moves to promote an equitable, diverse and exciting campus community for the benefit of staff and students. It is your responsibility to contribute towards the development of an inclusive culture and practice in the areas of learning and teaching, research, and service orientation and delivery. As a member of the Macquarie University community, you must not discriminate against or harass others based on their sex, gender, race, marital status, carers' responsibilities, disability, sexual orientation, age, political conviction or religious belief. All staff and students are expected to display appropriate behaviour that is conducive to a healthy learning environment for everyone.

Professionalism

In the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences, professionalism is a key capability embedded in all our courses.

As part of developing professionalism, students are expected to attend all small group interactive sessions including clinical, practical, laboratory, work-integrated learning (e.g., PACE placements), and team-based learning activities. Some learning activities are recorded (e.g., face-to-face lectures), however you are encouraged to avoid relying upon such material as they do not recreate the whole learning experience and technical issues can and do occur. As an adult learner, we respect your decision to choose how you engage with your learning, but we would remind you that the learning opportunities we create for you have been done so to enable your success, and that by not engaging you may impact your ability to successfully complete this unit. We equally expect that you show respect for the academic staff who have worked hard to develop meaningful activities and prioritise your learning by communicating with them in advance if you are unable to attend a small group interactive session.

Another dimension of professionalism is having respect for your peers. It is the right of every student to learn in an environment that is free of disruption and distraction. Please arrive to all learning activities on time, and if you are unavoidably detained, please join activity as quietly as possible to minimise disruption. Phones and other electronic devices that produce noise and other distractions must be turned off prior to entering class. Where your own device (e.g., laptop) is being used for class-related activities, you are asked to close down all other applications to avoid distraction to you and others. Please treat your fellow students with the utmost respect. If you are uncomfortable participating in any specific activity, please let the relevant academic know.