Sociolinguistics in the Spanish-Speaking World: Variationist Methods (SPN 6827)

Spring 2013, University of Florida
W Matherly 9-11

The purpose of this course is to learn to use the basic tools for the empirical, quantitative study of naturalistic data. With a focus on linguistic variation and diversity in the Spanish-speaking world, the main topics will include: 1) linguistic patterns found in different social groups, 2) carrying out a sociolinguistic interview, 3) transcription, 4) coding of data for quantitative analysis, 5) statistical analysis of the data using GoldVarb, and 6) interpretation of the results. Each student will carry out a sociolinguistic interview with a native Spanish or English speaker in Gainesville. Both English and Spanish will be welcome in written work; this course will be taught primarily in English.

Texts:
2. Articles on Sakai

Evaluation
Participation 10%
Transcription (10 min.): 15%
Presentation: 10%
Coding: 15%
HW: 25%
Final paper (12-20 pp.)/colloquium: 25%
Schedule (subject to change)
HW = Homework due the day listed

1: Jan. 9 Introduction
   Introduction: sociolinguistics and variationist methods

2: Jan. 16 Introduction
   TAG, Preface, Ch. 1 “Introduction”, ix-x, 1-16
   JW, Cap. 2 “Variation and variables”, 5-15
   HW: T=TAG Ex. 1, p. 15

3: Jan. 23 Data Collection
   TAG, Ch. 2, “Data collection”, 17-36, Ch. 3, 37-49
   Johnstone 2000
   Ana & Parodi 1998
   Activity: Discussion of results of random sample study
   HW: Ex. 2, 35-36
   Design and carry out a random sample study. Bring the results to class on Jan. 30.

4: Jan. 30 Transcription
   TAG, Ch. 4
   Jefferson 1996
   Wertheim 2006
   Activity: Design preliminary interview schedule

5: Feb. 6 Defining the variable
   TAG, Ch. 5
   Rissel 1989
   HW: Turn in interview schedule

6: Feb. 13
   Pollán 2001
   Walker, Ch. 6, “Variation in grammatical systems,” 65-92
   HW: Turn in description of interview participant and reflection on methods
   Activity: Discussion of methodology for interview
   Demonstration of corpora use and review of library resources

7: Feb. 20
   Walker, Ch. 7, “Language change,” p. 93-112
   Walker, Ch. 8, “Language contact,” 114-130
   Silva-Corvalán 1994
   HW: Turn in recording and transcription

8: Feb. 27 Coding
   TAG, Cap. 6, 99-127
   HW: Ex. 5, p. 98
   HW: Turn in bibliographical information for article you wish to present
   HW: Turn in bibliography for final project
   Activity: Demonstration on coding in Excel

9: Mar. 6 SPRING BREAK

10: Mar. 13
    HW: Turn in coding sheet
11: Mar. 20
   Article presentations
   Activity: GoldVarb presentation

12: Mar. 27
   Analysis
   TAG, Ch. 7, 128-157
   HW: Turn in coded data
   HW: Ex. 6, p. 126-127
   HW: Ex. 7, p. 157

13: Apr. 3
   TAG, Ch. 8
   HW: Ex. 8.1, p. 189
   Activity: Discussion of homework results

14: Apr. 10
   TAG, Ch. 9, Ch. 10
   Aaron 2010
   HW: Ex. 8.2, p. 189-190
   HW: Turn in abstract
   Activity: Prepare for colloquium, offer feedback on abstracts

15: Apr. 17
   TAG, Ch. 11
   HW: Ex. 9, 215-216
   Activity: Prepare for the colloquium

16: Apr. 24
   COLLOQUIUM (Final presentation of papers)

Readings on Sakai

Academic Integrity

All students are required to abide by the Academic Honesty Guidelines which have been accepted by the University. The UF Honor Code reads:

   We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” For more information please refer to http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide.

Accommodations

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. For more information see http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc.

Counseling and Wellness

A variety of counseling, mental health and psychiatric services are available through the UF Counseling and Wellness Center, whose goal is to help students be maximally effective in their academic pursuits by reducing or eliminating emotional, psychological, and interpersonal problems that interfere with academic functioning. The Center can be found online at http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc or reached by phone at 392-1575.

Grade Scale

The final grade scale is as follows:

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NOTE: A grade of C- will not be a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule or Basic Distribution Credit courses. For further information regarding passing grades and grade point equivalents, please refer to the Undergraduate Catalog at (http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html).