Linguistics 70
Final exam preparation

With respect to sociolinguistic variation (i.e., differences in language usage along dimensions such as ethnicity, socio-economic status, heritage language background, second language proficiency), you should be able to:

- differentiate folk linguistic and empirical observations about language usage;
- identify and discuss folk linguistic observations, reactions, and attributions;
- differentiate observations from attributions about language usage;
- apply Lippi-Green’s model of “assuming the communicative burden”;
- know and exemplify the range in availability, accuracy, detail, and control within a folk linguistic paradigm (where paradigm = system of thought and belief).

You should be familiar with the following concepts with respect to dimensions of sociolinguistic variation:

- folk linguistics;
- word rage;
- accent, sentence structure, word choice, grammar;
- linguistic variation and the social meaning of variation.
- perceptual dialectology; salient and unsalient features; Shibboleth;
- highlighting and erasure in stereotyping;

You should understand the relevance of the following concepts to the study of ethnic varieties:

- folk linguistic beliefs about African American Vernacular English and Chicano English;
- equivocation and confusion about the term Ebonics;
- grammar and grammatical rules in non-standard varieties;
- hypotheses about the historical origins of non-standard ethnic varieties.

You should understand aspects on the study of second-language and non-native speakers:

- limited versus full English proficiency;
- folk linguistic beliefs about non-native speakers;
- types of bilingual education programs;
- beliefs, expectations, and facts about the rate of assimilation to mainstream Anglo-American culture;
- confusion and equivocation about terminology such as bilingual and immersion;
- issues in evaluating success of (and public support for) various ESL instructional styles;

You should understand the relevance of the following concepts to the study of heritage language communities:

- Folk linguistic stereotypes about American Indian languages and American Indian English;
- Institutional and sociological causes of language shift and language loss;
- Language usage among the Lumbee of North Carolina;
- Arguments for endangered language maintenance and revitalization

You should understand the relevance of the following concepts regarding language, thought, and culture:

- linguistic relativism and linguistic determinism;
- lexical profusion and lexical gaps;
- folk linguistic beliefs applying determinism to lexical gaps and profusion;
- the fabrication of data on gaps and profusion;
- the problem of testability for determinism.

You should understand the relevance of the following concepts to the politics of language:

- inclusive and exclusive notions of official language
- arguments for and against naming an official language
- language as a political tool (e.g., “grammar gotcha” and appropriation)