

I. Variation

- Geographical/areal: continua; discrete borders; isoglosses; transition zones; recessive vs. progressive features. Focal areas; communications networks; disruption of spatial continua.
- Social: independent (non-linguistic) variables (class, age, gender, ethnic group, caste, profession, etc.; social networks (family, peer groups, professional, etc.). Continua vs. discrete categories.
- Stylistic: formal vs. informal (monitored vs. unmonitored) as a sociolinguistic concept. Register, field, tenor; written vs. oral, etc.

Related concepts: contact, accommodation, convergence; feature transference/interference; bidialectalism, bilingualism. Dialect/language mixing, levelling, restructuring. Pidgins and creoles. Lack of contact: separation/divergence.

Linguistic levels affected: phonology, morphology, lexis, semantics, syntax.

Discourse level affected: style, genre, text-types.

II. Varieties: Accents, dialects, languages. The pragmatics of category-making/classification : social, political, territorial, linguistic, perceptual factors.

III. Analysis of dialects/languages according to their societal functions:

- Institutional: government, administration, law courts, education system etc.
- Media
- Private/public non-institutional intercourse
- Micro uses (signs, adverts, shop names, in-group words/phrases, etc.)
- Frequency of use
- Who speaks what dialect or language to whom, when, why, where

Related concepts: diglossia, code-switching, bi-/multi-lingualism/dialectalism

IV. Classification by speaker/societal usage: Native vs. non-native. Inner, outer and expanding circles

V. Standard : Non-standard Varieties

- Expanded functions : reduced functions (especially written channel functions)
- Prestige : loss of prestige (often stigmatisation)
- Normativisation : non-normativisation (eg. Grammar and spelling) via handbooks, grammar books, dictionaries etc. Usually involves reduction of internal 'free' variation.
- Institutionalisation : non-institutional
- Norm-giving (endonormative) : exonormative

[Prendergast 2002, Variation, varieties and other concepts]