BBL 7033 Research in the Speech Community

Note: This syllabus is provided for informational purposes regarding the anticipated course content and schedule of this course. It is based upon the most recent information available on the date of its issuance and is as accurate and complete as possible. We reserve the right to make any changes deemed necessary and/or appropriate. We will make our best efforts to communicate any changes in the syllabus in a timely manner. Students are responsible for being aware of these changes.

Course Description

Sociolinguistic field research methods in linguistically diverse communities, with attention to qualitative approaches. Emphasis on analysis of language data. Special attention to procedures and analytic techniques commonly used to examine language data from minority speech communities. Consideration of ethical issues in research in minority communities.

Objectives

- Students will become familiar with research on language in its social context, examining a variety of ways of conceptualizing context as well as a variety of ways of analyzing discourse. In terms of context, we will review traditional constructs (the speech community and social networks), and examine in more depth the more recent construct of the community of practice. In terms of discourse analysis, examine a range of discourse and narrative analytic frameworks.
- Students will have practice transcribing and analyzing discourse data related to issues of identity in multilingual contexts, from a number of different perspectives.
- Students will learn to design and carry out small-scale studies that analyze language (discourse) in social context.

Required Texts


Course Requirements

1) Discourse analysis assignments (individual): 25%

You will be provided with, or in consultation with the professor you will provide, several sets of recorded oral language data for transcription and analysis employing different analytic approaches.

Due: TBA

2) Oral presentation critically reviewing a selection of the literature (individual): 10%

Review at least 3 articles on a course topic. In your presentation, discuss the assumptions, hypotheses, methods and conclusions of the authors, comparing and contrasting among the articles as far as possible. Presentations should be accompanied by a handout and/or powerpoint.

Due: Varied, dependent on topic.

3) Method of Analysis presentation (individual or group): 20%

Drawing on the methods reviewed in the syllabus, students will choose one particular approach to study in more depth and present a synthesis of the approach, its advantages for particular research questions, and a summary of research published in that framework.

Due: Varied, dependent on topic.

4) Research report (individual): 35%

Students will prepare a final written report of a research project with a particular focus on the analysis of how discourse plays a role in multilingual contexts. The report should be approximately 3500-4000 words long (14-16 pages, double-spaced), excluding references and tables. Students will present these papers in conference format and plan to submit for presentation at a conference.

Presentation Due: TBA

Final Paper Due: TBA

5) Participation: 10%

Participation is based on attendance, preparation, contribution in class and overall performance. In addition, as you develop a focus for your own paper, begin to develop an annotated bibliography of references related to your interests. Focus on both topic and discourse analytic approach. Be prepared to bring these additional readings to the general classroom discussion each week.