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LANGUAGES & LINGUISTICS

SLX 22

Twenty-second SociolinguistEssex Conference

Thursday 21st June 2018

Room: 4.722 (Senate room)
Time: 09:30 to 17:30

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Julie Lowry

The Sociolinguistics of Belonging and Place: the case of Bedu Identity in Jazan, Saudi Arabia

The people living in the mountain region of Jazan are often referred to as Bedu. The social category Bedu has a different meaning in Jazan than what is typically understood. This study examines the meaning of Bedu in Jazan as it is used in the everyday speech of people in Harub. Taking a constructivist approach, I propose that Bedu identity is an ideological construct that is defined by language and place.

Harub's history and social and economic context have resulted in a community that strongly connects its identity to language and place. This paper explores these factors, specifically the dynamics of centralization-peripheralization. As the language variety spoken in Harub has been devalued and stereotyped as backwards, the people have sought solidarity in their distinct behaviors and use of linguistic features.

This is a qualitative study based on 16 months of ethnographic fieldwork conducted between 2015 – 2017 in Harub. Data was obtained through participant observation and formal and informal interviews. These recorded interviews, casual conversations and field notes were analyzed for reoccurring themes in reference to the formation of Bedu identity. The results show that people in Harub draw on the semiotic resources constructed through place-making and belonging to inform their identity. Through everyday speech, the distinct landscape of the mountains has been

infused with meaning associated with a way of life revolving around subsistence farming and the raising of livestock. Symbols which represent this lifestyle are drawn on to define Bedu. Even as the way of farming and animal husbandry has changed, the symbols that have been linked with place keep this way of life alive as individuals continue to use these symbols to define themselves.

Siham Rouabah

Family and beyond: language practices in Batna

The paper addresses how changing social conditions and contact can shape linguistic practices among the Chaouias in Batna, Algeria. The community under investigation is an Amazigh ethnic minority that speaks Chaouia in a dominant Arabic speaking context.

It aims at exploring the importance of home and friendship domains. The first continues to be the most vital ground for the maintenance of minority languages through the intergenerational transfer (Fishman, 1991; Pauwels, 2004; Canagarajah, 2008), providing the early intimate societal binding for the experience of the mother tongue. Many researchers, moreover, found that strong SNs within the community help to maintain the linguistic features while loose ties facilitate change (Gal, 1979; Milroy, 1980; Wei, 1994).

To this end, quantitative and qualitative data were collected from 304 participants along with ethnographic observations and interviews among 12 families to analyse language use patterns with regards to sex, age, region and SN. Preliminary results show a slow, but progressive, shift among the young generation led by females, urbanites and individuals with weak relations in their community. This transition is triggered by a complex set of socio-economic and ideological forces.

Amanda Cole

"Only the Cockerel Sings": gender roles in the T-V system in El Salvador

Modern Spanish employs a T-V distinction between tú and usted which is reflected morphologically in the verb conjugation. However, voseo occurs when the second person singular pronoun vos is used in the place of tú. This is found in many dialects of Spanish in Latin America including In El Salvador. The limited studies which have investigated the use of vos and its corresponding verb forms in El Salvador have typically recruited Salvadorans living in the United States (e.g. Lipski, 2000; Rivera-Mills, 2011). This is problematic as their language forms may alter as a result of contact with L2 learners of English and Latinos from other nations (i.e. Hernandez, 2002).

Previous studies have shown that tú is used as an intermediate variant to signify friendship but without the level of closeness required for vos, particularly in those with higher levels of education (Lipski, 2000). Furthermore, that there is a gender difference in use, in that men show stronger tendencies towards vos when talking to a man than a woman, whilst women prefer usted when talking to both genders (Baumel-Schreffler, 1994, as cited in Lipski, 2000). Studies have also provided anecdotal evidence to suggest the mixing of vos and tú verb morphology (Lipski, 2000).

This present study analyses the use of vos tú and usted (henceforth v-t-u) in a rural, peasant community in El Salvador, Santa Marta. As well as observations of daily

interactions, 34 participants were recruited (age-stratified and balanced for gender; 18 females) and were interviewed as to their use of v-t-u. Alongside this, long and in-depth interviews on the female condition and womanhood were undertaken with nine women from Santa Marta. The results reveal firstly, that the pronoun tú was limited and not widely understood across the community, and that there is a mixing of vos and tú conjugations. Secondly, vos (and sometimes usted) can be added to the end of a phrase, whereby it is disconnected from any verb, so as to reiterate the participation of the interlocutor (as reported by Lipski, 2000). Thirdly, there were no significant differences in the use of v-t-u according to the speakers' age or gender. Nonetheless, v-t-u was employed differently if the conversational partner was male or female, reflecting the construction and interpretation of gender in the community.

Carmen Ciancia

Variation in East Anglian English: The Case of /-t,-d/ Deletion

This paper presents preliminary results for a well-studied sociolinguistic variable in three East Anglian cities, where little research on /-t,-d/ deletion has been carried out. Word final /-t;-d/ deletion has been widely investigated in many US English dialects and, despite slight difference in constraint rankings, phonetic and morphological constraints were found to be largely uniform(Guy 1980; Patrick 1999). Conversely, in England, although little research on /-t;-d/ has been conducted so far, conflicting results have been found: data from Manchester exhibit the usual "robust morphological effect" (Turton & Baranowski, 2016), with more deletion in monomorphemes (mist) than inflected forms (missed), but morphological class was not a significant factor in York (Tagliamonte & Temple, 2005).

This paper, as part of an ongoing analysis, mainly focuses on linguistic factors which play a
prominent role in this research, but do not intend to downplay the importance of independent variables. The larger study, indeed, will explore both social (age, class, gender, village) and linguistic (preceding, following and morphological) constraints.
The data were gathered in Colchester, Ipswich and Norwich by means of sociolinguistic interviews, reading passages and word lists and thus far, preliminary analysis of 10 speakers was conducted.

The tokens were coded auditorily and a mixed-effects Rbrul regression analysis was carried out.

Results match previous studies: morphological class has a significant effect, with higher deletion in negative contractions (f.w. 0.834) than in past tense verbs (f.w. 0.252) which disfavour it. However, monomorphems (f.w. 0.459) were found to disfavour deletion and preceding phonetic environment, rarely significant in the literature, has a remarkable effect as in the York data.

Uri Horesh

Balancing numbers and words in variationist sociolinguistics

This keynote address will discuss the ways in which variationist studies deal with linguistic data. It will do so by examining case studies from various sources, including but not limited to my own work and the work done by other members of our department. It will offer a critical view of the methodology used in sociolinguistics and serve as a reflection of the field as I see it practiced today.

Different scholars have differing ideas about and definitions of sociolinguistics. What unites us in our department is that for all of us, sociolinguistics is part of the broader discipline of linguistics. Some of us deal with phonological change, others with syntactic variation, and on to discourse and pragmatics — and various domains in between. Some scholars emphasize the social factors of language change, and others go further and analyze the social meaning of variable linguistic forms. In either case, the analysis revolves around language.

Those of us who have been educated in the study of variation and change know that part of the methodology we use is quantitative. We are trained, and train others, in the use of descriptive statistics, often done easily in a program like Excel, and some of us delve into more sophisticated inferential statistics, using such tools as Vabrbul, Rbrul, SPSS and the programming language R, in order to conduct multivariate analyses of variation and assist in discerning the predictors of language change.

The quantitative tools we use are just that — tools, methods. We keep saying this, but often forget it ourselves: yes, part of sociolinguistic theory is that numbers, especially those that reflect representative sampling of data in a speech community, are a vital instrument in accounting for variation. What the theory does not dictate is how exactly to do our quantitative analysis, and how much of our understanding of linguistic processes ought to rely on quantitative modeling. I will present some ideas for a framework that will maintain the rigor offered by a solid statistical analysis while assuring that our analyses are insightful and informative from a linguistic perspective.

Sara Al Shayadi

Null definite article in the dialect of Yāl Saʿad in Oman

This paper presents a distinctive feature in the dialect of the *Yāl Saʿad* tribe in northern Oman, specifically in the neighbouring coastal towns of *Al-Maṣanʿa* and *Al-Suwēq*. The region studied lies midway between Muscat and another major urban centre, *Ṣuḥār*. The definite article in this dialect is typically *l- ~ li- ~ il-*. However, some constructions with a semantically definite noun, like the noun *bēt* 'house' variably occur without the definite article (Ø-article constructions), e.g.:

(1) *nrabbīhin fi bēt*

1PL.raise.3PLF in house.SG

'We raise them [cows] in [the] house'.

cf. (2) *mā-ṭlaʿ mi-l-bēt*

NEG-1SG.go out from-DEF-house.SG

I don't go out of the house.

To the best of my knowledge, this feature has not been documented for other Arabic dialects. However, it has been found in the speech of *ʿArab* and *Baḥārna* communities in Bahrain (Holes 2017: p.c.). Holes comments that nouns with Ø-article occur mainly in the direct or indirect object of a verb of movement, more specifically, in actions involving moving towards a specific destination like 'sea', 'school', or 'village'. However, the grammatical categories and semantic fields of this construction in the dialect of *Yāl Saʿad* seem to be broader, since one finds other probably 'culturally' relevant definite nouns occurring with Ø-article, e.g. *bōš* 'camels', *gēḏ* 'summer/date harvest time', *sēḥ* 'desert/sandy

inland', *badwiyyāt* 'Bedouin women', *badu* 'Bedouins', in addition to the ones found by Holes in Bahrain. It can be found in the construct state, like *ayyāmu gēḏ̣* 'summer days', in prepositional phrases, like *nirgyaʿ ilā blād* 'we come back to town', and other types of constituents.

Some of the data in which this phenomenon occurs are toponyms. These are semantically definite, regardless of the prefixation of the definite article (Holes 2004: 172). In Oman, certain place names may have been used without the definite article in the past, and probably underwent standardisation at some point, which can be seen in road signs and other formal usages. However, other place names remained unchanged. This kind of variation is also reflected in informal usage, especially when the toponym occurs in the construct state, e.g. *mistašfi miṣinʿa* 'Maṣanʿa hospital' *vs. wilāyit l-miṣinʿa* 'the Town of Al-Maṣanʿa'.

Furthermore, Holes comments that it is not surprising that such constructions found in the speech of *Baḥārna* in Bahrain also occur in the coastal towns of Oman, considering the fact that there are many similarities between them and due to historical relations linking these populations. It is noteworthy to note that this feature is receding in the dialect under investigation, since Ø-article definite nouns occur more frequently in the speech of older speakers, and is virtually disappearing in the speech of the younger ones.

Another question that can be raised here is whether the case of Ø-article of *Yāl Saʿad* is similar to the case of English, where some common definite nouns can come without a definite article, e.g.

'I am going to school' or 'My mother is in hospital'.

Wisam Alshawi

Sociolinguistic Variation in the ʤiːm of a Southern Iraqi Dialect

Although dialect levelling is commonly investigated in research on phonological variation and change, it has rarely been dealt with in the Iraqi context. Collin (2009: 251) reported based on a few statements he collected through personal communication with Holes and Abu-Haidar that the features of northern dialects are levelling towards the mid-Mesopotamian dialects. My research investigates the levelling process in the dialect of the Mišlab tribe in Qalʿat Siker (QS), (a south-Mesopotamian dialect), where the traditional features seem to be superseded by supralocal variants of the mid-Mesopotamian norm, (i.e., the Baghdadi dialect), and considers why levelling is happening. QS is situated in An-Nasiriya along the Euphrates River, to the southeast of Baghdad and Kut.

This paper illustrates how (ʤ) varies and changes in the dialect. It has two variants: the glide [j] which is traditionally an unconditionally lenited variant, e.g., ***rajjaːl*** 'man' and the koineised supralocal mid-Mesopotamian [ʤ], e.g., ***raʤʤaːl***. The paper's primary goal is an analytical one—to give a quantitative account of levelling phenomenon of (ʤ)—and, as an important part of that, to qualitatively provide an interpretation for the results of the analysis.

Since this study is primarily sociolinguistic in nature, it was assumed that younger speakers would mostly use [ʤ], and older speakers mostly [j]; this could be indicative of an age difference in (ʤ). However, it could also be attributable to

the well-documented preceding sound effect on (ʤ), whereby front vowels favour [j]. Therefore, this study considers not only social variables (age, contact and gender) but also multiple independent linguistic factor, such as preceding sounds, stress, etc. This could mean that these variables interact, rending multivariate analysis a useful method to tease their effects apart.

Rbrul results suggest that many of the linguistic factors and all of the social factors were significant and that the dialect shows traces of levelling in the traditional feature:

• the use of [ʤ] is double that of [j], 67% [3018 tokens out of 4503 total tokens of (ʤ) from interviews with 53 speakers]. Lenited [j] has been unstable, undergone fortition, and ended up pronounced as [dʒ] by the entire high-contact young male group.

• the tribe steadily decreased its rate of /ʤ/-lenition in all contexts over time: fortition was most favoured by the young group and least favoured by the old group, with the mid-group in between.

• QS Arabic showed a bifurcated use of (ʤ): men tend towards greater usage of [ʤ] whereas women tended towards [j].

In conclusion, gender interacts with age and contact: the low-contact old females are the most conservative, 24%. On the opposite pole, the high-contact young males are the most innovative 100%, where the change becomes evident, with the others in between. This categorical use suggests that they are aware of the change and that the linguistic constrains are no longer effective as they were in the traditional dialect, thereby, the change is more socially oriented.

Majed Ageeli

Variations in Modern Standard Arabic

Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) is commonly regarded as the unifying language of the Arab world. Although written MSA could have the function of forming a linguistic union between the different parts of the Arabic-speaking world, there are several reasons that prevent MSA from being the same language across Arab countries. One of the reasons for this is that only a relatively small number of people are fluent in speaking MSA (Mazraani, 1997: 12). Secondly, there are at times considerable differences between the MSA of different regions, such as between the Maghreb and Saudi Arabia.

Holes (1995) found that the MSA usage of a country is often linked to and linguistically influenced by the colonial language that was in place in each region, such as French or English. Therefore, there are different influences with regard to regions in accordance with their colonial history. Al-Samara'i (1966: 209) and Al-Sayigh (1990:19) pointed out that the varieties of MSA used in different regions have regional linguistic features that make it possible to distinguish a text and easily tell in which country a newspaper article was written.

This research comprises a descriptive study, employing a qualitative methodology. The qualitative approach is a suitable research method to find out the reasons and underlying principles about a given phenomenon. Furthermore, the descriptive study approach is useful for

exploring questions of the type "what". In this paper, I assess four newspaper articles to look at the grammatical and lexical differences between the language use of the different countries. I have found that local news stories are the best place to find variation in lexemes and grammar, as they usually feature more local variations features than international news.

My presentation analyses the differences between the uses of MSA in different countries with a specific focus on grammatical and lexical differences in news media, also sometimes called Media Arabic. My research has shown that the different histories of the regions have led to striking differences in today's language use and that the varieties of MSA in these regions continue to develop in different directions. Furthermore, I found that measures were needed to be taken in order to regulate language use across the different regions, to improve mutual intelligibility.

Fawaz Martini

Turn-by-turn development of institutional roles and identities: A comparative study of three presidential interviews

'[The] structure of institutional talk minimally consists of the recurrent pattern of normatively oriented-to, situated identities along with the corresponding discourse identities and the conversational machinery through which the work allocated to participants assuming such identities is done.
(Zimmerman and Boden,1991: 13)

Conversation Analysis (CA) views '*talk'* as a locally managed activity within which local and institutional identities are established, realised and developed on a turn-by-turn basis. These institutional identities are transformable at any moment following any contingent change in the turn-design or the local management of the turn-taking system which constitutes the *talk* (Drew & Heritage 1992).

Social and institutional identities, roles and tasks are all realized through 'talk' (Schegloff, 1992). The interactional utterances, gestures or tokens that people produce do not only communicate meaning, they also produce actions through which people orient themselves to specific social and/or institutional roles and identities.

Within an institutionalized interaction, interlocutors try to restrict themselves to specific institutional roles and identities (micro identities) in addition to maintaining their broader social identities (macro identities). In fact, these different identities may emerge, change or disappear at any

time during an institutionalized interaction. The emergence, disappearance or the change of these roles and identities are all contingent upon how participants manage their interactional behaviour within the context of the institutionalised *talk*.

The present study explores the contingent transformation and development of such roles and identities through analysing the moment-by-moment interactive behaviour managed by interactants within three different news interviews in two different languages. News interviews are considered one of the restricted forms of institutional talk-in-interaction (Greatbatch, 1992; 1998; Heritage and Clayman, 2010).

Margherita Belia

The effects of language attrition on the production of grammatical gender in L1 Italian

The aim of the present research is to observe the effects of language attrition on the production of grammatical gender in speakers with Italian as a first language. Language attrition is the process for which use and access to the first language changes, sometimes becoming more difficult, as a result of lower exposure to this language and higher exposure to a foreign language, as in the case of migrants.

How and to what extent grammar is affected by language attrition is still a source of various debates, suggesting that further research on the topic is needed. Therefore, the object of the investigation will be the influence of language attrition on the processing of the grammatical structure of gender in speakers of Italian as a first language. Gender is a linguistic feature that Italian has but English does not. For example, in Italian, labels for objects have gender, so *scuola* (school) is feminine, while *albero* (tree) is masculine, whereas English does not make such a distinction.

This study will investigate whether and how the absence of such a grammatical structure in English influences how Italian-English bilingual speakers, with Italian as a first language, process grammatical gender in Italian. In order to do this, I will examine two psycholinguistic effects that previous research has shown with respect to gender in native speakers of a gendered language, namely, gender congruency effect and predictive use of gender.

Data will be collected from one group of native speakers of Italian immigrated in the UK and will be compared to data collected from a control group of monolingual speakers of Italian living in Italy. Two experimental procedures will be administered to participants: a Picture Naming Task and a Visual Priming Task. In addition, a number of external factors will also be investigated, through the means of a sociolinguistic personal background questionnaire, Can-Do scales and a C-test.

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