

SOCIOLINGUISTICS

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Annotation. This article explores the essence, subject, and scope of sociolinguistics. It analyzes the interaction between language and society, the influence of social factors on language development, and the social stratification of language. The practical significance of sociolinguistic research is also discussed, including its role in language policy, bilingualism, dialectology, and speech culture. The paper highlights modern approaches in sociolinguistics, focusing on language contact and language change in the context of globalization. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the relationship between language and society and provide a theoretical basis for shaping national language policy.

Key words: Sociolinguistics, language and society, language variation, dialects, accents, sociolects, social interaction, cultural identity, power dynamics, language change.

Sociolinguistics is the study of how language and society are interconnected, examining how social factors like age, gender, class, and ethnicity influence language use, and how language, in turn, reflects and shapes social identity, attitudes, and relationships. It explores the social nature of language, its social functions, and the impact of society on language and vice versa. Language and society: Sociolinguistics investigates the relationship between language and its social context, including how language varies across different social, cultural, and geographic groups. Social factors: It studies how social characteristics affect how people speak and are perceived, such as the differences in speech based on gender, age, or social class. Language variation: The field explores how language changes and varies depending on the social environment, including the development of different dialects and forms of speech. Social function of language: It examines the role language plays in social life, including its use in forming identity. Sociology (from Latin *socius* – society, and Greek *λόγος* – knowledge, teaching, concept) is a science about society as an integral system, as well as about certain social structures, processes, social groups, and the relationship between the individual and society.

Sociology, relying on empirical (experience-based) data obtained through scientific methods, can draw generalized conclusions. Therefore, it provides scientifically grounded models of social development.

- Both fields deal with the interaction between society and language.
- The boundaries between these two areas are sometimes not clearly defined.

In conclusion, both Sociolinguistics and the Sociology of Language are closely related disciplines that study the interaction between language and society.

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