

ANTH 1020E
Key Terms and Concepts for
Linguistic Anthropology
with Dr. Pennesi

You should be able to give definitions or explanations, along with examples, of the following key terms and concepts. Explanations of these terms are found in the textbook, other assigned readings and in lecture. At the end of this document, there are four “big ideas” from this brief introduction to linguistic anthropology, which we looked at in various ways over the six weeks. It is my hope that you will remember these as you go through life, long after you've forgotten the other details.

What is linguistic anthropology?

Salzmann, Stanlaw and Adachi: Chapter 1

- linguistic anthropology vs. linguistics
- holistic
- anthropology's four subfields

Lecture

- methods of data collection used by linguistic anthropologists
- evolutionary features related to the development of language

What is unique about human language?

Dubinsky and Holcomb, Chapter 1: Introduction

- pun
- homonym
- ambiguity

Dubinsky and Holcomb, Chapter 2: Human and Animal Communication

- communication vs. language
- properties of communication systems
- interchangeability
- iconic
- arbitrary

Dubinsky and Holcomb, Chapter 8: Children Acquiring Language

- idiomatic meaning vs. literal meaning
- innate ability
- Lenneberg's critical period hypothesis
- phonology and phonemes
- babbling
- mondegreens
- overextension
- underextension

- syntax
- grammar
- caregiver speech

Lecture

- design features of language (spoken or signed)
 - vocal-auditory channel
 - duality of patterning
 - productivity
 - displacement
 - reflexiveness
 - interchangeability
 - recursion
- two types of nonverbal communication (variable/learned and universal/unlearned)
- gestures
- posture
- facial expressions
- paralanguage
- Washoe (purpose of study? What do results suggest about human language?)
- Genie (what does this case suggest about language acquisition?)
- multilingual (active/passive)
- language contact
- code-mixing and code-switching
- pidgin
- creole
- lingua franca
- diglossia (high and low language)

How does language work?

Dubinsky and Holcomb, Chapter 3: The Sounds of Language

- phonetics
- phonology
- phoneme
- IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet): what it is and what it is used for
- spoonerism
- malapropism
- mondegreen

Dubinsky and Holcomb, Chapter 4: Word structure and meaning

- prefix
- suffix
- idiom
- homonym

- polyseme/polysemous

Dubinsky and Holcomb, Chapter 5: Phrase structure and meaning

- syntax
- grammar
- ambiguity: structural, associative, semantic
- elision/eliding

Lecture

- voiced/voiceless sounds
- consonant
- vowel
- language variation
- language change
- language variety
- morphology
- semantic shift
- semantic domain
- borrowing (words)
- discourse
- language family
- language type

How is language used to accomplish social goals?

Dubinsky and Holcomb Ch.6: Indirect Speech and Conversational Principles

- indirect speech
- conversational maxims
- co-operative principle
- deixis (personal, spatial, temporal, discourse)
 - deictic expressions have variable interpretations; the ambiguity is resolved because they are anchored to something in the present context (speaker, location of speaker, time of speech)
- speech acts
- performatives
- presupposition
- flouting/violating conversational maxims

Dubinsky and Holcomb Ch.7: The Structure of Discourse

- repetition
- pronouns
- structural devices of discourse
- adjacency pair
- context
- audience design

- setting
- channels of discourse (speech, text, speech/text)
- genre

Lecture

- linguistic resources
- social goals
- verbal art
- performance
- communicative competence
- speech community
- honorifics
- terms of address
- terms of reference
- diminutive form

How do we use language to unite and divide people?

Dubinsky and Holcomb Ch.9: Language variation

- language variety
- dialect
- standard variety/standard language
- style-shifting
- linguistic variation

Dubinsky and Holcomb Ch.11: Prescriptivism and Standardization

- soft enforcement
- hard enforcement
- standardization
- rules of grammar vs. rules of style

Kiesling (2005) article

- indexicality
 - the association between a social group and a linguistic feature; the association holds a particular value which is based on a social group norm
- stance
 - a person's expression of their relationship to their talk and to the people they are talking to
- cultural model
 - a social group's shared understanding, story or explanation of how things work
 - ex. 2 cultural models of success: the CEO model and the Rocky model
 - CEO model: success comes from growing up in a successful family, getting a good education and gaining expertise
 - Rocky model: success for working-class people comes from hard work, physical power, determination, stamina

- norm
 - behaviour that is usually done and that is expected; learned through interaction and repeated associations between social groups and ways of speaking
 - don't worry about all the distinctions the author makes about types of norms
- style-shifting

Lecture

- official language
- style
- stylistic borrowing
- language ideology
- identity
 - a process of repeated performance, not a state of being
- indexicality/index
- the role of indexicality in the creation of stereotypes
- non-standard language

How does language affect the way we think?

Dubinsky and Holcomb Ch.10: Language and Culture

- This chapter considers how language affects our interpretations of other people's speech; the lecture focuses more on our own experience of the world through cognitive processes
- culture (p. 154)
- connotation
- framing
- uptalk: the authors say it conveys uncertainty and can be a strategy for control in a conversation (p. 160) but it has also been shown to mark new information that the listener is not expected to know yet. The phrases marked with rising intonation may occur in a sequence to keep the listener following along and then a final phrase with falling intonation indicates the end of the turn or the conclusion of the thought.
 - For example:
 - Amy: *So I went to the mall* (rising intonation)
 - And I tried on these really cute shoes* (rising intonation)
 - But they didn't fit* (falling intonation)
 - Gina: *That sucks*
 - Amy: *Yeah*

Lecture

- cognition
- categorization
- linguistic determinism
- linguistic relativity
- Sapir-Whorf hypothesis

- grammatical classifications
 - noun classes
 - grammatical gender
 - directionals

How can we apply linguistic anthropology?

Lecture

- language planning
- language revitalization
- endangered language
- language shift
- language death
- intercultural communication

The big ideas from linguistic anthropology:

1. Language is an essential part of what makes us human
2. People use language to accomplish both practical and social goals
3. All living languages are always changing
4. What is appropriate ("good" or "bad") language depends on culture and context