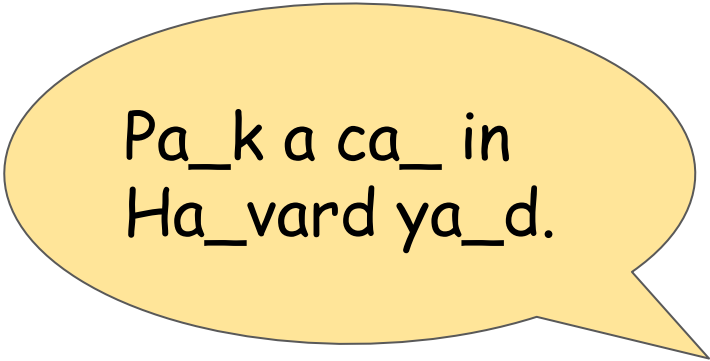


Language, Power, and Macro-Societal Issues


Deckert and Vickers Ch.7

Language is **indexical**

What do these language forms **index**? In other words, what social categories are reflected in these forms?



Pa_k a ca_ in
Ha_vard ya_d.



Nah we
straight



cawffees

Language is **indexical**



Referents

**I like to teach
here.**

Social categories

Cawfee

Membership in
speech communities

It's gnarly dude!

OJ Simpson Trial - the testimony of a key witness

- Robert Heidstra testified that he was walking his dogs on the night of the Nicole Brown Simpson and Rod Goldman murders when he heard “the very angry screaming of an older man *who sounded black*.”
- The defense lawyer Cochran strongly objected to the question. “I resent that statement. You can’t tell by someone’s voice when they’re black. I don’t know who’s made that statement. That’s racist... I think it’s totally improper in America...just to hear this and endure this.”
- Apparently allowing himself to be silenced by the charge of racism, the black prosecutor Christopher Darden moved on to other matters, ended what could well have been a breakthrough line of inquiry in a trial that polarized the nation along racial lines.



Bourdieu (1977) - Language as symbolic and social capital

Cited in Deckert and Vickers, 2011, p.154

According to Bourdieu, social understandings of prestige varieties provide greater access to social and economic resources for those who use these prestige varieties of language. This differential access to social capital contributes to the formation of a dominant and dominating class.

OJ Simpson Trial - the testimony of a key witness

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Language and nationality - Gal (1987)

- Romania in the communist era: Romanian vs. German
- Which language had more symbolic capital and why?

Hierarchical distinctions between languages

What are examples we discussed in class?

California

What are examples that illustrate a hierarchical relationship between English and Spanish?

Language policies?

Street names and signs?

Classification of English Language Learners?

The racialized “other”

- Positioning a particular group the “other” as normative and subordinate group
- NYT An Open Letter to the Woman
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/11/family-to-go-back-to-china.html>

Well dressed woman on Upper East Side, annoyed by our stroller, yells: "Go back to China...go back to your f---ing country." #thisis2016

— Michael Luo (@michaelluo) Oct. 9, 2016

I've been shouted this many times, even in supposedly "post-racial" Hawai'i. <https://t.co/VhSk1mICif>

— Gene Park (@GenePark) Oct. 9, 2016

The last couple years - even in this "multi-cultural" NYC - I've felt less and less welcome. I was born in Korea, but I grew up in the US. <https://t.co/nEAo8yWYf3>

— David Kim (@davidmkim) Oct. 9, 2016

Linguistic landscapes



Definition of Linguistic Landscape

- “The language of public road signs, advertising billboards, street names, place names, commercial shop signs, and public signs on government buildings combines to form the linguistic landscape of a given territory, region, or urban agglomeration.” Landry and Bourhis (1997: 25)
- Two types of linguistic landscape: Top down and bottom up. “Top-down” refers to official signs placed by the government or related institution. “Bottom-up” refers to signs created by commercial enterprises, private organizations or persons.

Linguistic landscapes in NYC





WARNING

**IN ANY WAR BETWEEN THE CIVILIZED MAN AND THE SAVAGE,
SUPPORT THE CIVILIZED MAN.**

**☆ SUPPORT ISRAEL ☆
DEFEAT JINAD**

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Language and Politics

Trump's Tweets

https://voxpopulisphere.files.wordpress.com/2017/03/17022000_1446140382094574_3031220881113348069_n.jpg?w=930&h=1194

Language and politics

Political language is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give the appearance of solidity to pure wind.

- George Orwell, Politics and the English Language (1947)

All official institutions of language are repeating machines: school, sports, advertising, popular songs, news, all continually repeat the same structure, the same meaning, often the same words: the stereotype is a political fact, the major figure of ideology.

- Roland Barthes, The Pleasure of the Text (1975)

Discourse and Manipulation (Van Dijk, 2004, p.373)

- Overall interaction strategies
 - Positive self-presentation
 - Negative other-presentation
- Macro speech act implying Our 'good' acts and Their 'bad' acts, e.g. accusation, defence
- Semantic macrostructures: topic selection
 - (De-)emphasize negative/positive topics about Us/Them
- Local speech acts implementing and sustaining the global ones, e.g. statements that prove accusations.
- Local meanings Our/Their positive/negative actions
 - Give many/few details
 - Be general/specific
 - Be vague/precise
 - Be explicit/implicit
 - Etc.

- Lexicon: Select positive words for Us, negative words for Them
- Local syntax
 - Active vs passive sentences, nominalizations: (de)emphasize Our/Their positive/negative agency, responsibility
- Rhetorical figures
 - Hyperboles vs euphemisms for positive/negative meanings
 - Metonymies and metaphors emphasizing Our/Their positive/negative properties
- Expressions: sounds and visuals
 - Emphasize (loud, etc.; large, bold, etc.) positive/negative meanings
 - Order (first, last; top, bottom, etc.) positive/negative meanings

Proposition 187

[The people of California] have suffered and are suffering economic hardship caused by the presence of illegal aliens in this state. That they have suffered and are suffering personal injury and damage caused by the presence of illegal aliens in this state.

How are “us” and “them” constructed?

How Trump talks about Mexico (June 16, 2015)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxZkg0rOWI4>

“When Mexico sends its people, they’re not sending their best. They’re not sending you. They’re not sending you. They’re sending people that have lots of problems, and they’re bringing those problems with us. They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.”

“The border is wide open for cartels & terrorists. Secure our border now. Build a massive wall & deduct the costs from Mexican foreign aid!”

Trump's Speech to the Arab Islamic American Summit (May 21, 2017)

"This is not a battle between different faiths, different sects or different civilizations. "This is a battle between barbaric criminals who seek to obliterate human life and decent people, all in the name of religion."

"Drive them out," he said. "Drive them out of your places of worship. Drive them out of your communities. Drive them out of your holy land. And drive them out of this earth."

Bush post 9/11 statements (Leudar et al, 2004)

(8) Bush statement 12/9/01

7 The American people need to know that we're facing a different enemy
8 than we have ever faced. This enemy hides in shadows, and has no regard
9 for human life. This is an enemy who preys on innocent and unsuspecting
10 people, then runs for cover. But it won't be able to run for cover forever.
11 This is an enemy that tries to hide. But it won't be able to hide forever. This is an
12 enemy that thinks its harbors are safe. But they won't be safe forever.

(9) Bush statement – 12/9/01

13 This enemy attacked not just our people, but all freedom-loving people
14 everywhere in the world. The United States of America will use all our
15 resources to conquer this enemy. We will rally the world. We will be patient, we
16 will be focused, and we will be steadfast in our determination.
17 This battle will take time and resolve. But make no mistake about it: we will win.

(10) Bush statement – 12/9/01

29 The freedom-loving nations of the world stand by our side.
30 This will be a monumental struggle of good versus evil. But good will prevail.
31 Thank you very much.

Tony Blair's statements:

(11) Hansard, 14/9/2001: Column 604. International Terrorism and Attacks in the USA (9.37 a.m.)

1 The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair): I am grateful, Mr. Speaker, that you agreed to the
2 recall of Parliament to debate the hideous and foul events in New York, Washington
3 and Pennsylvania that took place on Tuesday 11 September.
4 I thought it particularly important in view of the fact that these attacks were not just
5 attacks upon people and buildings; nor even merely upon the United States of America;
6 these were attacks on the basic democratic values in which we all believe so
7 passionately and on the civilized world. It is therefore right that Parliament, the fount of
8 our own democracy, makes its democratic voice heard.

There is continuity between how Bush and Blair present the events. The attacks are again not just physical attacks, located in the USA. They are attacks on democracy. People who embrace democratic values are also victims of the attacks.

Bin Laden's statement

(25) Bin Laden, Al Jazeera, 7/10/01

15 What the United States tastes today is a very small thing compared to what we have
16 tasted for tens of years.
17 Our nation has been tasting this humiliation and contempt for more than 80 years.
18 Its sons are being killed, its blood is being shed, its holy places are being attacked,
19 and it is not being ruled according to what God has decreed.
20 Despite this, nobody cares.

(21) Bin Laden, Al Jazeera, 25/9/01

11 It is not surprising for the Islamic nation to rise up in Pakistan in defence of Islam.
12 Pakistan is considered to be the first line of the defence of Islam in the region as was
13 the case with Afghanistan in defending itself and Pakistan against the Russian
14 invasion more than 20 years ago. And
15 we would hope that these brothers will be among the first martyrs in the battle of
16 Islam in this era against the new Jewish crusader campaign that is led by the chief
17 crusader Bush under the banner of the cross.
18 This battle is considered one of the glorious Islamic battles.

(27) Bin Laden, Al Jazeera, 7/10/01

35 But if the sword falls on the United States after 80 years, hypocrisy raises its head
36 lamenting the deaths of these killers who tampered with the blood, honour, and holy
37 places of the Muslims.
38 The least that one can describe these people is that they are morally depraved.
39 They champion falsehood, support the butcher against the victim, the oppressor
40 against the innocent child.
41 May God mete them the punishment they deserve.
42 I say that the matter is clear and explicit.

Critical perspective on language in the public sphere

Tony Blair's address to the British people regarding the war in Iraq

Van Dijk (2006)

Discourse and manipulation

Example 7.1

1 The country and the Parliament reflect each other. This is a
2 debate that, as time has gone on, has become less bitter but no
3 less grave. So why does it matter so much? Because the
4 outcome of this issue will now determine more than the fate of
5 the Iraqi regime and more than the future of the Iraqi people who
6 have been brutalized by Saddam for so long, important though
7 those issues are. It will determine the way in which Britain and
8 the world confront the central security threat of the 21st century,
9 the development of the United Nations, the relationship between
10 Europe and the United States, the relations within the
11 European Union and the way in which the United States
12 engages with the rest of the world. So it could hardly be more
13 important. It will determine the pattern of international politics
14 for the next generation.

“Collateral Murders”

5th April 2010 10:44 EST WikiLeaks has released a classified US military video depicting the indiscriminate slaying of over a dozen people in the Iraqi suburb of New Baghdad -- including two Reuters news staff.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rXPrfnU3G0>

2:50-6:44, 8:00, 9:10

Pay attention to the pilots' conversation. How is the act of killing justified?

Language and Media

Three Little Pigs (1948)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7PHUtDZ0V0>



Important Quotes

- This chapter is about the sociolinguistic aspects of the systematic construction of dominance and subordination in animated films aimed at children. (p. 80)
- Is this a part of how children learn to assign values on the basis of variation in language linked to race, ethnicity, and homeland? (p. 80)
- In traditions passed down over hundreds of years from the stage and theater, film uses language variation and accent to draw character quickly, building on established preconceived notions associated with specific regional loyalties, ethnic, racial, or economic alliances. (p. 81)
- Actors attempt to manipulate language as a tool in the construction of character, whether or not they are successful. (p. 83)

Methodology

In order to study how accent is employed to develop characters in animated films, Lippi-Green (1997) systematically viewed a total of **24** films multiple times and analyzed a total of **371** characters for a variety of language and characterization variables.

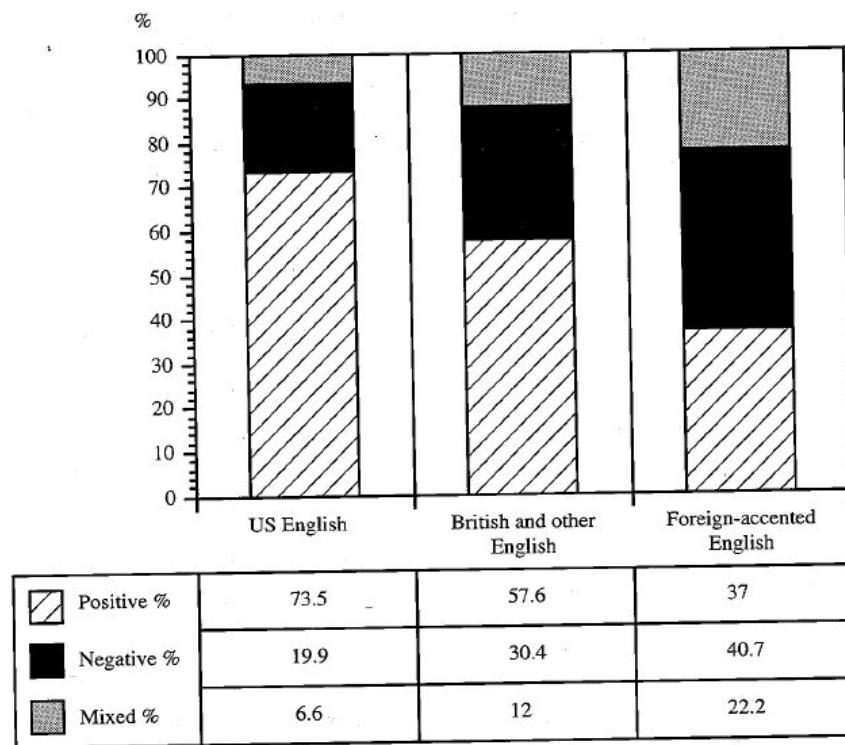


Figure 5.8 285 Disney animated characters of positive, negative, or mixed motivations and actions, by major language group

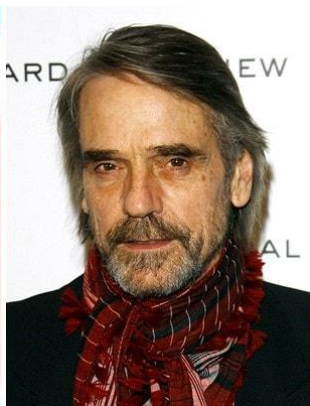
Table 5.3 Disney animated characters who use AAVE part or all of the time

Name	Actor (where credits available)	Humanoid Film or animal		Role evaluation	Typical language of setting
Dandy	Cliff Edwards	crow	<i>Dumbo</i>	Mixed	English
Fat	Jim Carmichael	crow		Mixed	English
Glasses	Hall Johnson Choir	crow		Mixed	English
Preacher		crow		Mixed	English
Straw Hat		crow		Mixed	English
King Louie	Louis Pima	primate	<i>Jungle Book</i>	Mixed	Hindi*
Big Mama	Pearl Bailey	owl	<i>Fox and Hound</i>	Positive	English
Scat	Scatman Crothers	cat	<i>Aristocats</i>	Mixed	French
Shenzi	Whoopi Goldberg	hyena	<i>Lion King</i>	Negative	Swahili*

*The category "typical language" is based on the country in which the story is set. Most of the movies are set in the US, thus the typical language is English. *The Jungle Book* is set in India, and *The Lion King* in Africa. The typical languages of these stories could be any one of many native languages spoken in those places; I have chosen one of the many possible languages in such cases.

Lippi-Green (1997)

- Bad characters in animated movies usually speak with an accent. Accents are used in the media in order to create an effect. (Think of indexicals.)
- What accents do you hear from the following Lion King clips?
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-8wgXRNYcPM>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xXrqBP4BkY0>



Representation of Indian Americans

Listen to the lyrics of the song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3oEWA7UglB4>

What do you think about the representation of the Indian Americans?

Term Paper #1 Feedback

1. Originality
2. Examples
3. Works Cited (MLA) / References (APA)
 - a. One subgrade penalty for missing works cited/references

Conclusion

Characters with strongly positive actions and motivations are overwhelmingly speakers of socially mainstream varieties of English. Conversely, characters with strongly negative actions and motivations often speak varieties of English linked to specific geographical regions and marginalized social groups...Even when stereotyping is not overly negative, it is confining and misleading. (p. 103)

Van Dijk (2004) Discourse and Manipulation

- Language is manipulated so that dominant groups can reproduce their power. These groups influence the knowledge, beliefs, and (indirectly) the actions of the recipients.
- Manipulation is illegitimate in a democratic society because it (re)produces, or may reproduce, inequality: it is in the best interests of powerful groups and speakers, and hurts the interest of less powerful groups and speakers.

(p.363-364)

BUTCHERED BY THE BRITISH

Dinechtas report finds damning evidence of collusion between UK security forces and loyalist terrorists in string of atrocities

By Arnold White
 A report by the Dinechtas Commission, which was set up to investigate the collusion between British security forces and loyalist terrorists, has found that British soldiers and police officers were involved in the killing of at least 100 people in the 1970s and 1980s. The report also found that British security forces were involved in the covering up of the bodies of the victims.



Top Russian politician poisoned in Ireland say family

SEE PAGE FIVE

BABY STOLEN AT HOSPITAL

Quiz F... of Slain Boy

Fake 'Nurse' Takes Child from Mother
 NO HOSTILITY TO BUSINESS

"Mistakes were made."

by whom?
 by you?
 by us?!

"The baby was carried from the burning house."

by whom?

Class work 7.3 Doing Sociolinguistics: Thought Exploration (p. 163)

Tony Trew (1979)'s famous study based on some events in 1975 in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe): Who is defined as (a) being responsible for the act? (b) being affected? And (c) how the circumstances are defined.

- *The Times*

RIOTING BLACKS SHOT DEAD BY POLICE AS ANC LEADERS MEET.

Eleven Africans were shot dead and 15 wounded when Rhodesian police opened fire on a rioting crowd of about 2000 in the African Highfield township of Salisbury this afternoon.

- *The Guardian*

POLICE SHOOT 11 DEAD IN SALISBURY RIOT

Riot police shot and killed 11 African demonstrators and wounded 15 others here today in the Highfield African township on the outskirts of Salisbury. The number of casualties was confirmed by the police. Disturbances had broken out soon after the executive committee of the African National Congress (ANC) met in the township.....

- RIOTING BLACKS SHOT DEAD BY POLICE AS ANC LEADERS MEET

Affected

Process

Agent

circumstance

- The focus is on those affected, who are described as “rioting”, which suggests they are responsible for what has happened.*

- POLICE SHOOT DEAD 11 IN SALISBURY RIOT

Agent

Process

Affected

circumstance

- The police are the agent in an active construction*

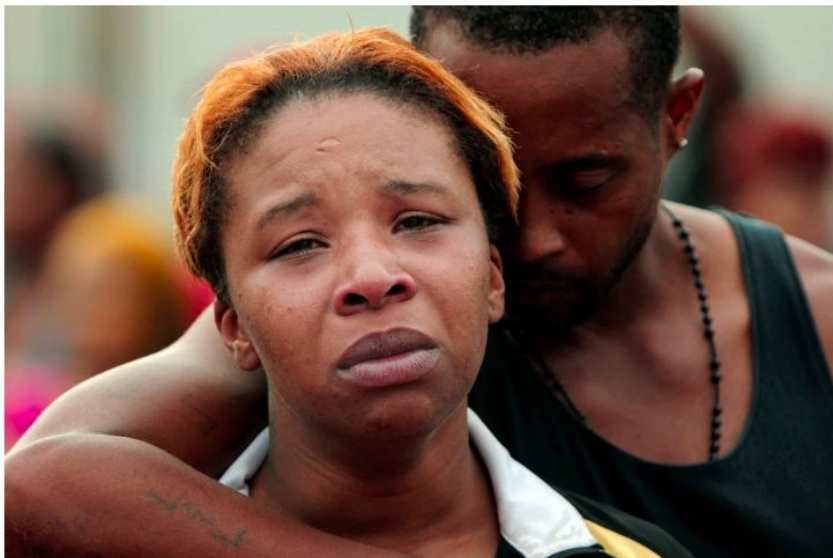
U.S. NYT NOW

Grief and Protests Follow Shooting of a Teenager

Police Say Mike Brown Was Killed After Struggle for Gun in St. Louis Suburb

By

Grief and Protests Follow Shooting of a Teenager



Lesley McSpadden and her husband, Louis Head, mourning for her son, Michael Brown, who died in the street on Saturday. Huy Mach/St. Louis Post-Dispatch, via Associated Press

Missouri

Michael Brown shooting: 'They killed another young black man in America'

African American teenager's killing by police puts Missouri city on edge after another night of protests



▲ Police confront protesters in Ferguson, St. Louis, after the shooting by police of an unarmed black teenager, Michael Brown. Photograph: Scott Olson/Getty Images



Defense: Four oh five, oh one.

We see a blow being delivered =
=Is that correct.

Expert: That's correct.

The- force has been again escalated (0.3)
to the level it had been previously, (0.4)
and the de-escalation has ceased.

...

Defense: And at-
At this point which is,
for the record four thirteen twenty nine, (0.4)

We see a blow being struck
and thus the end of the period of, de-escalation?
Is that correct Captain.

Expert: That's correct.

Force has now been elevated to the previous level, (0.6)
after this period of de-escalation.

Figure 24.2 Violence described through neutral language drawn from the social sciences.

Term Paper #2

Sample Paper

Gunman Kills at Least 26 in Attack on Rural Texas Church



Devin Patrick Kelley, 26, opened fire in a church in rural Texas on Sunday, killing at least 26 people. He was pursued by residents and found dead in his car.

Nov. 6, 2017 · Todd Heisler/The New York Times

Texas shooting: at least 26 killed at Baptist church in Sutherland Springs

Gunman dead after worst mass shooting in modern Texas history devastates tiny, close knit-community of a few hundred residents

● 'This isn't a guns situation,' says Trump after Texas church shooting



▲ Prayers and vigils after church mass shooting in Texas - video report