

Interlanguage in Context

Interlanguage in Context

- Communication Strategies
- Interlanguage Variation
- Interlanguage Pragmatics

Langue and Parole

- “*Langue* is a well-defined object in the heterogeneous mass of facts of *parole*. ... It is the social side of language, outside the individual who can never create nor modify it by himself; it exists only by virtue of a sort of contract signed by members of a community.”
- — Ferdinand de Saussure

Langue and Parole

- “What part does *parole* play in the same community? It is the sum of what people say and includes (a) individual combinations that depend on the will of speakers, and (b) equally willful phonational acts that are necessary for the execution of these combinations. *Parole* is thus not a collective instrument; its manifestations are individual and momentary.”
- — Ferdinand de Saussure

Competence and Performance

- “Linguistic theory is concerned primarily with an ideal speaker-listener, in a perfectly homogeneous speech-community, who knows its language perfectly and is unaffected by such grammatically irrelevant conditions as memory limitations, distractions, shifts of attention and interest, and errors (random or characteristic) in applying his knowledge of the language in actual performance.”
- — Noam Chomsky

Competence and Performance

- “The fact that important and significant linguistic behavior can be non-systematic, not predictable by rule and without regular norms, makes it all the more important to look for empirical evidence of a system ... The use of a form of language for communication does not make it automatic that it forms a system ... the degree of systematicity is an empirical matter.”
- — William Labov

Variation in English

- Geographical variation in the lexicon:
 - Schlep and hush puppy
 - Variation vs. variability
 - See-saw vs. teeter totter
- What variation have you noticed ...
 - In the lexicon?
 - In pronunciation?
 - In grammar?

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Variation in English

- New Yorkers vary in their pronunciation of postvocalic (r)
 - New York [nu: jo:k] or [nu: jork]
 - Fourth Floor [fo:θ flo:] or [forθ flor]
- New Yorkers' variation in (r) is systematic

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Variation in Interlanguage Morphology

- *Mary:* The store is . a . just sells all the books for Christian.
- ...
- *Mary:* All Chinese . all the book is have to ship from Taiwan . because they didn't have the store.

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Variation in Interlanguage Morphology

- *Jennifer:* ... I think because my brother . a . hate girls when he was a
- *Yun-yun:* Really?
- *Jennifer:* Mm . was terrib- . he she . he's very strange I mean he . you know he was in the high school he wouldn't talk to girl you know ...

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Variation in Interlanguage Morphology

- *Eva:* And second problem . Many Catholics was . dissident.
- *Richard:* Dissidents.
- *Eva:* Dissidents.

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Explaining Interlanguage Variation

- Errors in production of plural (s) represent "a slip on the part of the learner, whose knowledge of the correct form is obvious from the fact that he does not omit the plural ending consistently but only in some instances."
- Libuse Dušková (1984)

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Explaining Interlanguage Variation

- Interlanguage co-varies with linguistic context.
- Interlanguage variation is an indication of learners' stage of acquisition.
- Learners style shift in the L2 in the same way they style shift in the L1.
- Interlanguage co-varies with the task that learners are performing.
- There are multiple factors that influence interlanguage variation.

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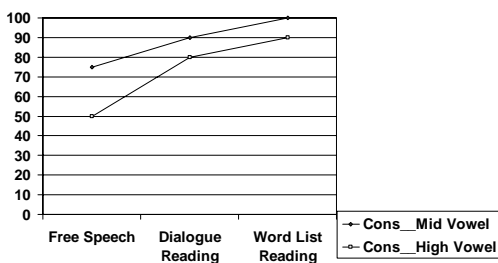
Interlanguage co-varies with linguistic context

- Lonna Dickerson
- 'The learner's interlanguage as a system of variable rules'
- *TESOL Quarterly*, 9, 401-407, 1975.



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Japanese learners' pronunciation of (r) varies with linguistic context



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IL variation is an indication of learners' stage of acquisition

- Elizabeth Gatbonton
- 'Patterned phonetic variability in second language speech: A gradual diffusion model'
- *Canadian Modern Language Review*, 34, 335-347, 1978.

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French Canadians' pronunciation of English (th)

The Acquisition Phase

Stage	Environment ₁	Environment ₂	Environment ₃
A	∅	∅	∅
B	(V)	∅	∅
C	(V)	(V)	∅
D	(V)	(V)	(V)

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French Canadians' pronunciation of English (th)

The Replacement Phase

Stage	Environment ₁	Environment ₂	Environment ₃
E	1	(V)	(V)
F	1	1	(V)
G	1	1	1

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Learners style shift in the L2 in the same way they style shift in the L1

- Leslie Beebe
- 'Sociolinguistic variation and style shifting in second language acquisition'
- *Language Learning*, 30, 433-448, 1980.



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Thai learners' pronunciation of (r) in English

	Speech Style	
	Conversation	Listing
Initial (r)	48%	9%

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Thai learners' pronunciation of (r) in English

	Speech Style	
	Conversation	Listing
Initial (r)	48%	9%
Final (r)	35%	72%

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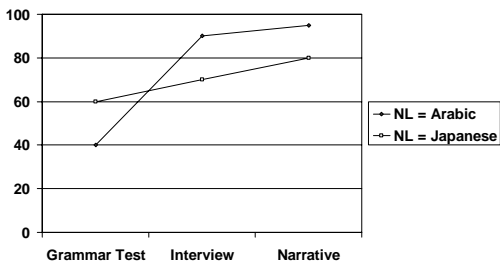
Interlanguage co-varies with the task that learners are performing

- Elaine Tarone
- 'Variability in interlanguage use: A study of style-shifting in morphology and syntax'
- *Language Learning*, 35, 373-404, 1985.



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Interlanguage co-varies with the task that learners are performing



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Explaining Interlanguage Variation

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Explaining Interlanguage Variation

- Every time a speaker makes a choice of a word, a phrase, a structure, a pronunciation it influences or even determines other choices. When we add to these purely linguistic considerations the interactions between language and context, the complexity becomes very great. To work out the influences on some particular choice, we must do ... multivariate analysis.

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