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## **LANGUAGE VARIATIONS AND DIALECTS IN MODERN ENGLISH**

Our common usage of the term "language" encompasses various aspects related to different types of communication intentions. Sociolinguistics, as a field studying the relationship between language and society, aims to differentiate between various levels of language usage within a society. This distinction bears resemblance to Saussure's concepts of "langue" and "parole," which can be compared to Chomsky's "competence" and "performance."

In every human society, interactions occur among individuals with diverse linguistic backgrounds, cultures, and ideologies, primarily facilitated by language. Language, being the medium through which humans communicate and engage with one another, has existed for as long as humanity itself. It is an established fact that we must recognise that language is not just an abstract object of study; it is also something that people use in their bid to pass messages from one person or group to the other.[2]

Linguists from different disciplines have approached the study of language from various perspectives, leading to a range of definitions. According to Sapir, "Language is purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of a system of voluntarily produced symbols which are auditory and produced by the organs of speech"[1]. This definition specifically limits language to the form of communication developed by humans.

One perspective aims to analyze the range of language variation by considering the common core and its variations. This approach doesn't distinctly separate languages from their dialectal variations, especially when these languages share historical and linguistic connections in their evolution. In this context, Hudson defines language variety as "a collection of linguistic elements with comparable distribution"[3]. This definition enables us to categorize various forms such as English, French, Latin, London English, American English, and others as language varieties.

Sociolinguistically, languages seem to be given different categorisations based on very many parameters. This is where a language, which has been adulterated in many aspects, which has resulted in it taking a different form away from the original form (the so-called standard variety), begins to be looked upon as a dialect of the same language. Then again, even within a dialect of a language there are other variations that tend to develop due to some factors. It is, of course, these other internal variations in a language that most sociolinguists ascribe as dialects or varieties of the same language. Deep down again, some sociolinguists,

such as the ones cited in the first phase of the source of language origin from where other languages sprang up.[2] However, dialect has been defined as a regional or socially distinctive variety of a language identified by a particular set of words and grammatical structures. Spoken dialects are also believed to be associated with a distinctive pronunciation or accent. In fact, any language with a reasonably large number of speakers will develop dialects, especially if there are geographical barriers separating groups of individuals speaking the same language, or if there are divisions of social class. It is, however, important to note that there is hardly a clear-cut distinction between dialect and variety.

These are just but sociolinguistic terms used in varying occasions; one could be used for another in many situations. What the researcher has actually noticed in their usages is that dialect is most often mentioned when the treatment involved is more of pronunciation on regional basis, while variety is preferred for general variation treatment.

In conclusion, the study of language within sociolinguistics encompasses a complex web of concepts and classifications. Language is not merely a tool for communication but a dynamic system that evolves through various levels of usage, including standard forms, dialects, and varieties. The distinctions between these terms can sometimes blur, with dialects often associated with regional pronunciation and varieties addressing broader variations within a language.

Overall, the exploration of language variety, dialectal variation, and linguistic evolution offers valuable insights into the interconnectedness of language and society, shedding light on the complexities of human interaction and expression through language.

#### *Литература*

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