

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	SOCIOLINGUISTICS		
MODULE CODE	LG2103 (L5)	CREDIT VALUE	20 UK / 10 ECTS
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT		

MODULE AIMS

- Familiarise students with the basic concepts and methods of Sociolinguistics, ranging from wider macro-social phenomena to micro-level analyses of face-to-face interaction (Interactional Sociolinguistics).
- Examine the relations between language and society, following the progression of Sociolinguistics from the 'language reflects society', to the 'language constitutes society' perspective.
- Explore the types of linguistic variation within society, and the causes and effects of linguistic change.
Critically examine the development of methods of investigation within Sociolinguistics, from its initial conception to the present day.

MODULE CONTENT

Students will explore the relationship between language and society and consider a range of classic sociolinguistic concepts and frameworks. In line with the historical development of Sociolinguistics, regional and urban dialectology will be covered. The module will proceed to explore the development of Sociolinguistics, focusing on both macro and micro themes studied within the field. Specific topics will include: regional and social variation; urban variation; sociolinguistic variables and variants; classic sociolinguistics; interactional sociolinguistics; language attitudes; social networks and communities of practice; language ideology; multilingualism and code-switching; language accommodation; language planning, shift and death; language birth (pidgins and creoles) and language revival; language and gender; signed languages; queer linguistics; and research methods in sociolinguistics.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this module a student will be able to:	
1.	Show understanding of the basic themes and methods in the field of Sociolinguistics.
2.	Identify and analyse variables that can affect language use and language attitudes in a social context.
3.	Examine the orthodoxy of earlier studies and methodological tools in Sociolinguistics
4.	Demonstrate the ability to critically engage with current research and publications in the field of Sociolinguistics
5.	Produce writing of acceptable standard (as detailed in the English Language and Linguistics study skills handbook).

TEACHING METHODS

There is an expectation that students will engage interactively with the tutor and their peers during the sessions, and undertake additional reading and preparatory work outside of the lecture and seminar sessions.

In common with other English modules, this module is designed to foster an active, participatory, independent approach to learning, to develop critical faculties and to consolidate and develop written and oral communication skills. Students will obtain co-operative skills during classroom discussions, including the ability to engage in critical debate while showing respect for others. They will also develop problem-solving skills, the ability to manage time and work to deadlines and will be encouraged to adopt reflective practices. This specific module also encourages students to gain socio-cultural awareness and to identify and understand their own, and society's social and cultural prejudices.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through a Portfolio of Tasks: a Draft of critical survey of methodological issues, a Critical survey of methodological issues, a Draft of research project and a Research project (100%).