LING 602. Topics in Sociolinguistics

Course Title: Sociolinguistics

Course Description:
This course is an introduction to sociolinguistics, the study of the relationship between language and society. We will survey current topics, theories, and methodologies in sociolinguistics by examining spoken and written language within a variety of contexts, including everyday interaction, literature, the media, popular culture, education, and the courtroom. Major topics include language variation at all levels of linguistic structure (from sound to discourse); the relationship between language variation and social constructs and categories (race, ethnicity, class, gender); the structures and perceptions of regional and social dialects; language contact (multilingualism, language death, codeswitching, pidgins and creoles); linguistic politeness and intercultural communication; and the relation between language and ideology. Major theoretical and methodological approaches include dialectology, language variation and change, interactional sociolinguistics, conversation analysis, language attitudes, language policy and planning, and digital sociolinguistics.