

Name: _____

TA: _____

Section: _____

LING 200 Homework #7 (Sociolinguistics)

Due: 27 February, 2007

For this assignment, you are to interview 4 native speakers of English. Two of them should be over 40 (the older the better), and two should be traditional college-age speakers (around 20). Please follow the instructions in A, B, and C below.

A. **Elicitation:** For each speaker, you should:

1. Record their age, gender, and place of birth / where they grew up (both if they're different). Some people might not like to give their exact age; within 5 or 10 years is fine.
2. Ask the speaker the survey questions on the next page. Each speaker should be interviewed individually, not collectively (in a group).
3. Write down their responses to the questions yourself on the questionnaire (this is not a sheet for them to fill in!). You should make or print a copy for each speaker.

B. **Summary:** Summarize the data you've collected by copying it into the following chart.

	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4
Age & Gender				
Places				
Question 1				
Question 2				
Question 3				
Question 4				
Question 5				
Question 6				
Question 7				
Question 8				
Question 9				
Question 10				
Question 11				
Question 12				

C. **Discussion:** Discuss your results: For example, do you find any trends or patterns in the data you've collected? What are they? For which questions do the answers vary and for which do they not? What factors (e.g., age, gender, region, of the speaker, etc.) might have influenced the answers the speakers gave? How so? Be sure to use terms and concepts from the lectures and readings in your discussion.

Questionnaire

Speaker code (e.g., Speaker1...): _____ Age: _____ (Male / Female)

Birth place: _____ Grew up in: _____

Ask your speaker to assume that they're talking to someone around their own age in a casual way. How would they complete the following sentences or describe the following situations?

Phonological Differences: (the responses *should be transcribed* to reflect pronunciation)

1. You ask a friend if you can borrow the equivalent of 2 quarters. You might ask:
"Can I have/borrow _____?"
2. Your friend asks if you are going to go with him/her (to the movies). You might say:
"Yes, I'm _____."
3. (Spell out the word "nuclear" and ask the speaker how they pronounce it.)

4. (Spell out the word "umbrella" and ask the speaker how they pronounce it—be sure to mark which syllable or vowel is the strongest or has the most stress.)

Lexical Differences: (these don't have to be transcribed)

5. You just saw a movie you loved, and you describe it to your friend:
"That movie was _____."
6. A friend of yours has a serious crush on someone else. You might say about your friend:
"(S)he is so _____."
7. Your friend is getting very upset about something. How would you tell them to relax?
"_____."
8. Suppose you're very unhappy about a situation. You might say:
"This _____."

Syntactic Differences: (these don't have to be transcribed either)

9. You answer the phone at your parents'/an older friend's house. It is an adult asking for your parent/your friend using "Mr. or Mrs. ...". To find out who is on the phone, you ask:
"_____ is calling?"
10. You want to tell your friend that the news you told him/her is just between the two of you.
You say: "Let's keep this just between you and _____."
11. You are talking to someone about something that you once were able to do a long time ago.
You might say: "I _____ do that."
12. You're describing how you saw someone dive into a pool the previous day. You might say:
"(S)he _____ into the pool."