

LING 200 HW #4 (Sociolinguistics)
Due: Wednesday, 11 July, 2007

Name: _____

For this assignment, you are to interview 5 people who are not in this class. Try to get a variety of subjects based on different ages, ethnic backgrounds, both genders, etc. Please follow the instructions in A, B, and C below.

- A. **Elicitation:** You should make or print a separate copy of the questionnaire for each speaker and do the following:
1. Record the speaker's 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. 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!). Attempt to transcribe all responses, and to do so as accurately as possible.
- B. **Summary:** Summarise the data you've collected by copying it into the attached chart. *Please turn in both the questionnaire sheets **and** the chart.*
- C. **Discussion:** Looking at the chart for insight, choose 4 of the questions and write about the following points for each one. (The questions given are to get you on the right track—you need not answer all of them, as long as your discussion relates to the issue asked about it.)
1. **Identification of variation / lack thereof.** Were all of your subjects' responses the same or was there variation? If there was variation, describe it—identify the type of variation (phonological, syntactic, lexical, morphological, etc) and make some statement about differences between the responses.
 2. **Personal reaction.** What is your reaction to the responses? Do you have a particular feeling about one or more of the subject's responses?
 3. **Expectations.** Were the responses what you expected? If you found variation in the subjects' responses, was it what you expected? If there was no variation, did you expect there to be any?
 4. **Generalisations.** If the responses varied, are there any patterns in how they varied? Did it vary based on something like age, gender, or geography? Also consider socio-economic class, profession, native language, and other details not requested here but that you might also know about your subject (anything really, including such things as musical preference). If there was no variation and you expected it, what of these variables would you have expected it to vary based on? If you didn't expect variation, do you think changing one of these variables would help find variation?

Chart to summarise data

	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5
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					

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?

- i. Your friend asks if you are going to go with him/her (to the movies). You might say:
"Yes, I'm _____."
- ii. (Spell out the word "nuclear" and ask the speaker how they pronounce it.)
- iii. (Spell out the word "often" and ask the speaker how they pronounce it. Pay attention to the vowels and whether they produce the word with a /t/.)
- iv. You just saw a movie you loved, and you describe it to your friend:
"That movie was _____."
- v. A friend of yours has a serious crush on someone else. You might say about your friend:
"(S)he is so _____."
- vi. Your friend is getting very upset about something. How would you tell them to relax?
- vii. Suppose you're very unhappy about a situation. You might say:
"This _____."
- viii. (Show the following picture to the speaker and ask them what they might call it.)



- ix. 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?"
- x. 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 _____."
- xi. You are talking to someone about something that you once were able to do a long time ago.
You might say: "I _____ do that."
- xii. You're describing how you saw someone dive into a pool the previous day. You might say:
"(S)he _____ into the pool."