**MACRO LINGUISTICS**

**Sociolinguistics**: is the relationship between language and society. William Labov  in the US along with [Basil Bernstein](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basil_Bernstein) in the UK are often regarded as the founders of the study of sociolinguistics. It is the descriptive study of the effect of any and all aspects of [society](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Society), including cultural [norms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norm_(sociology)), expectations, and context, on the way [language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Language) is used, and society's effect on language. It differs from [sociology of language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sociology_of_language), which focuses on the effect of language on society.

Sociolinguistics studies how language [varieties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Variety_(linguistics)) differ between groups separated by certain social variables (e.g., [ethnicity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethnicity), [religion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion), [status](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_status), [gender](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender), level of [education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education), [age](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ageing), etc.) and how creation and adherence to these rules is used to categorize individuals in [social or socioeconomic classes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_class). As the usage of a language varies from a place to another, language usage also varies among social classes, and it is these *[sociolects](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sociolect" \o "Sociolect)* that sociolinguistics studies.

Although language development and use is a topic of inquiry in many fields, modern sociolinguistics (henceforth referred to as sociolinguistics) developed in the 20th century. Koerner ([1991](http://oxfordre.com/linguistics/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199384655.001.0001/acrefore-9780199384655-e-22#acrefore-9780199384655-e-22-bibItem-0070)) primarily situates sociolinguistics within the discipline of linguistics; *he narrates sociolinguistics as a diverse field of study that emerged out of earlier traditions in historical linguistics*, *dialect geography, and the study of bilingualism and multilingualism.*

Ferdinand de Saussure (as seen in a 1923 edition of his lectures, published posthumously) developed a theory of semiotics and structuralism that influenced the course of modern linguistic theory and modern sociolinguistic thought. He asserts the arbitrary nature of the sign that is attached to the signified as well as the significance of considering how time and geographical diversity affect linguistic change.

**Subfields and Branches of Sociolinguistics:** Some of the sub-fields of Sociolinguistics include the following:

* Historical linguistics. Linguistic anthropology. Sociocultural linguistics. Diaelctology. Language Contact Diaglosia Language Variation

**Sociolinguistic Competence**

"**Sociolinguistic** competence enables speakers to distinguish among possibilities such as the following and to understand a variety of utterances through cognition.. In addition to that, to get someone's attention in English, each of the utterances. "Every language accommodates such differences as a non-discrete scale or continuum of recognizably different [linguistic](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-linguistic-typology-1691129) 'levels' or styles, termed *registers*, and every socially mature speaker, as part of learning the language, has learned to distinguish and choose among places on the scale of register." (G. Hudson, *Essential Introductory Linguistics*. Blackwell, 2000)