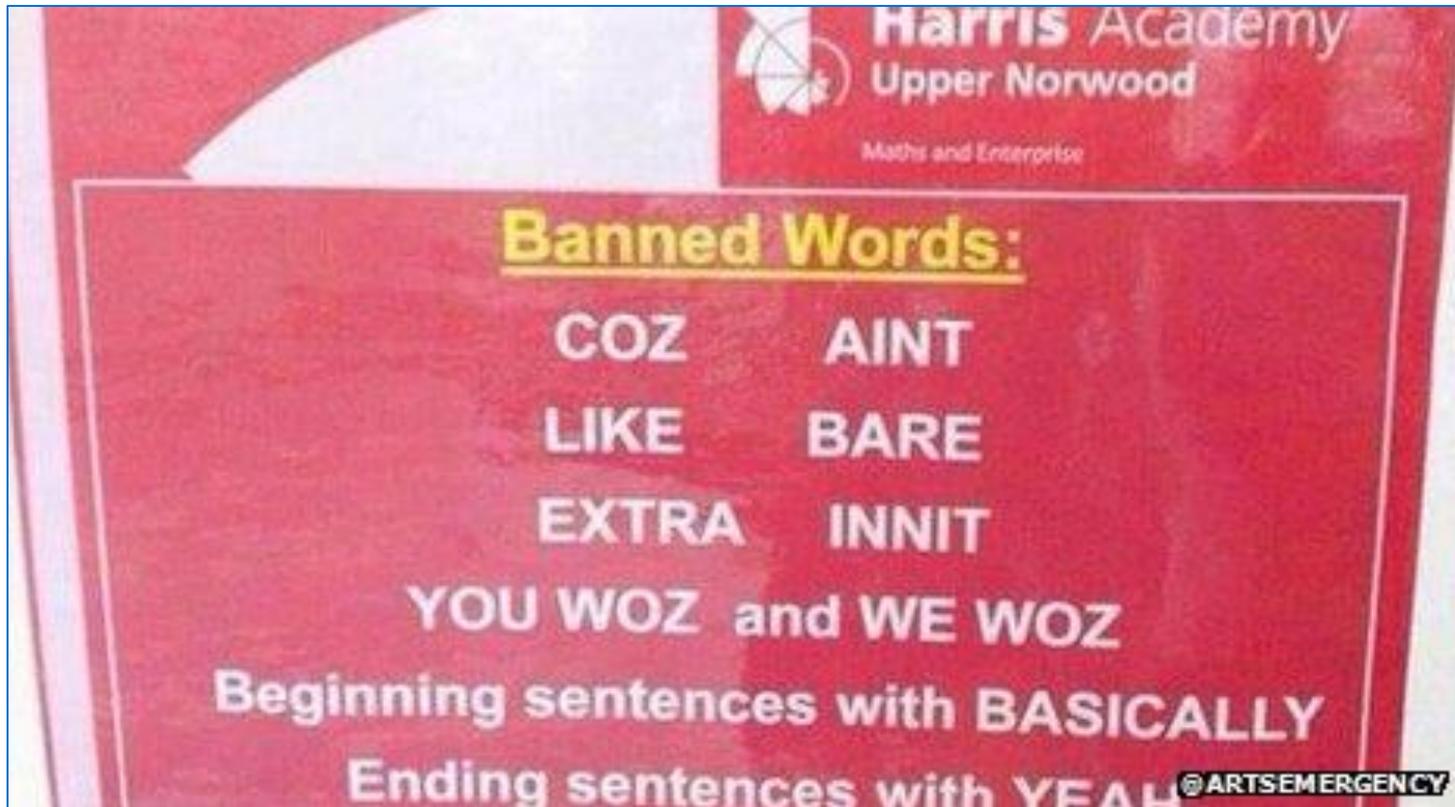


Dialectology and Sociolinguistics

Lecture 1: Introduction

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People getting weirdly angry about sociolinguistics



Greek, Latin or neither?



Which are in Greek?

1. ti-mo-ku-po-ro-se o-ti-mo-ke-re-te-o-se
e-pe-se-ta-se ki-li-ka-wi to-i ka-si-ke-ne-
to-i

GREEK: Cypriot
dialect (= Τιμόκυπρος
ὁ Τιμοκρητοῦς
ἐπέστησε Κλικαι τῶι
κασιγνητῶι)

2. εβολασετυ αδριονα καταστας[αι ισαγε]ραι
ε ηικαι μηιαλετι και εφιεωοται

GREEK: Pamphylian
Dialect, Asia Minor

3. ιος τα μανκαι κακουν αδδακετ, τι
ετιπ[τ]ετικμενος ειτου

NOT GREEK:
Phrygian inscription,
Asia Minor

4. τας ταγας κοινενειντουν τεν παντα χρονεν

GREEK: Thessalian
Dialect, northern
Greece

Which are in Greek?

5. ματρεβο γλανεικαβο
βρατουδεκαντεν

NOT GREEK: Gaulish

6. Τί λέγι; Γοργόνος πέρι τὸ
γραμματέο σὺ τῆ κεπαλή;

GREEK? Scythian
archer in Aristophanes.

7. σκριψι μη ακκηπισσε α Τιτω [...]
δηναριους σεσκεντους βιγεντι

LATIN

Which are in Latin?

8. *quisquis ama valia peria qui nosci amare*

LATIN: Graffito from Pompeii (=quisquis amat valeat, pereat qui nescit amare.)

9. *íním. lígatúís. abellan[úís]
íním. lígatúís. núvlanúís pús.
senateís. tanginúd suveís.*

NOT LATIN: Oscan

10. *in hoce loucarid stircus ne
quis fundatid neue cadauer
proiectad neue parentatid*

LATIN: Dialectal inscription from Luceria

Which are in Latin?

11. *topper citi ad aedis
venimus Circai*

LATIN: from Plautus, second century BC (= “quickly the fast men came to the temple of Circe”)

12. *foied. uino. pipafo. cra.
carefo*

NOT LATIN: Faliscan (=“today I will drink wine; tomorrow I won't have any”)

13. *duenos med feced en
manom einom duenoi ne
med malos tatod*

LATIN: sixth century BC

Languages of the ancient world



Language vs Dialect

What makes something a “language”?

What makes something a “dialect”?



If I have two people in front of me speaking similarly but not identically, how do I decide if they speak the same language?

Max Weinreich's dictum

אַ שפּראַך איז אַ דיאַלעקט מיט אַן אַרמיי און אַ פּלאָט

a shprakh iz a dialekt mit an armey un flot

“A language is a dialect with an army and a navy.”

Ancient Greek Dialects



Greek Terminology

- γλῶσσα / γλῶττα = ‘language, dialect, foreign language’
- φωνή = ‘speech, dialect, accent, language, foreign language’
- διάλεκτος = ‘discourse, language, dialect’
- βαρβαρίζω = to speak a different language
- ξενίζω = speak a different dialect (Demosthenes 57.18)
- ἑλληνίζειν = ‘to speak Greek’ (Thucydides 2.68)
- Ἑλλὰς γλῶσσα = ‘the Greek language’ (Herodotus 6.98)

Latin Terminology

- *lingua* = 'language, dialect'
- *uox* = 'voice, language, dialect'
- *oratio* = 'speech, language, dialect'
- *lingua Latina* = 'Latin'

Idiolects

An idiolect is the language of one individual.



All idiolects are internally heterogeneous – ie, no one speaks the same way all the time. **Why not?**

Idiolects: Register variation

- Dr McDonald regrets that the Part IA Lecture on Sociolinguistics due to take place at midday on Monday 10th November is cancelled.
- Dr McDonald's lecture will not take place next Monday.
- I'm sorry I can't give the lecture next Mon.
- Sorry - lecture's off

Idiolects: Interaction with the standard language

- Would you say, “I literally want to rip your head off?”
- Would you say, “I really want to rip your head off?”
- Do you say “CONtroversy” or “conTROversy”? Or both?

Age variation

THE BEST PART OF GETTING
OLDER IS GONNA BE
INTENTIONALLY MISUSING SLANG
AROUND TEENAGERS JUST
TO WATCH THEM SQUIRM.

OH MAN, THAT SONG
IS SO PWNED!



Age variation

- Did/does your grandmother know the word “selfie”?
- Do your parents/grandparents say CONtroversy or conTROversy?
- Do your parents find it annoying if you use “like” to mark a quotation?

Age variation and change over time

- The fact that older people speak differently to younger people shows that language is changing over time.
- This is how Latin became French, Italian, Spanish, etc.
- But taken as a snapshot, **change** looks like **variation**.



Ancient attitudes to variation

Εὐρυτᾶσιν, ὅπερ μέγιστον μέρος ἐστὶ τῶν Αἰτωλῶν, ἀγνωστότατοι δὲ γλῶσσαν καὶ ὠμοφάγοι εἰσίν, ὡς λέγονται.

‘Eurytians, who form the largest tribe of the Aetolians, and are (they say) **the most unintelligible in language** and eaters of raw-flesh.’ (Thucydides 3.94).



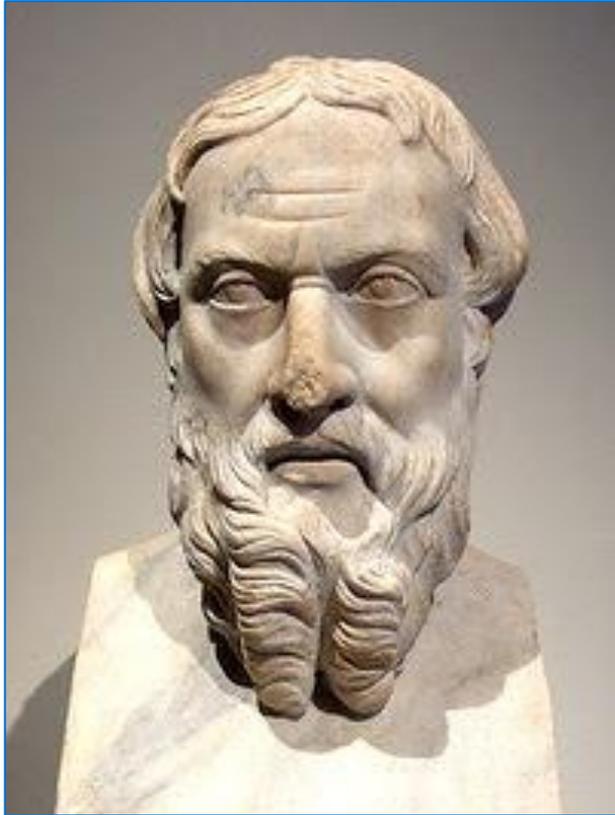
Ancient attitudes to variation

ὥσπερ οὖν ἄν, εἰ τῷ ὄντι ξένος ἐτύγχανον ὢν,
συνεγινώσκετε δήπου ἄν μοι εἰ ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ **φωνῇ** τε καὶ τῷ
τρόπῳ ἔλεγον ἐν οἷσπερ ἔτεθράμμην

[Socrates begs forgiveness for his ignorance of the correct expressions to be used in a law-court, and hopes he will be forgiven.]

‘Just as you would, of course, forgive me if I were really a stranger, and I spoke in that **accent** and **manner** in which I was brought up.’ (Plato *Apology* 17d)

Greekness



αὗτις δὲ τὸ Ἑλληνικὸν ἔον ὄμαιμόν τε
καὶ ὁμόγλωσσον καὶ θεῶν ἰδρύματά
τε κοινὰ καὶ θυσίαι ἤθεά τε
ὁμότροπα.

‘*Greekness* is common descent and
language, and the shared worship of
the gods and sacrifices and customs
being made in the same way...’
(Herodotus 8.144)

Next time

Next time: Dialects and Regional Variation

