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What Is Sociolinguistics?



Synopsis

What is Sociolinguistics? is a tour through the major issues that define the field, such as region, status, gender, time, language attitudes, interaction, and style, while also exploring the sociolinguistics of multilingualism, culture and ethnicity, language contact, and education, all introduced with excitement, humor, and deep knowledge. Explores the sociolinguistics of multilingualism, culture and ethnicity, language contact, and education Provides useful and clear learning features including numerous innovative exercises and project ideas, spotlighted research readings, glossary terms, chapter summaries, and text boxes The Companion Website for Instructors (www.wiley.com/go/vanherkprofs) has PowerPoint slides for each chapter with suggestions for framing class discussions and exercises, further examples on concepts discussed in the book, tips on additional readings to bring in, and ready-to-go slides for class presentation. The Companion Website for Students (www.wiley.com/go/vanherk) includes links for every chapter from standard sociolinguistic tools to links designed to spark discussion relevant to each chapter, including video clips, oral histories, articles, and more.

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“This is a delightfully engaging introduction to the passionate purpose of sociolinguistics. Van Herk is a masterful guide who personally escorts students on an informative, entertaining tour of the field. Students experience sociolinguistics through the perfect blend of substance, interaction, and autobiographical perspective.”
—Walt Wolfram, North Carolina State University
“What is Sociolinguistics offers a refreshingly different take on many of the standard, key concepts in the

field. It is funny, clear, and distinctly personal, providing essential information about sociolinguistics and referring students to a host of other works that can take them deeper if they wish. ? ? John Rickford, Stanford University

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This was a required textbook for a class. For a textbook, it was great. Good examples. great questions and activities and the end. Would have liked a little more "meat." It gave a great overview of Sociolinguistics, but didn't go very deep into some areas.

Really good book with great examples. Very easy to understand.

This book was required for a grad level class. I have not read it in it's entirety yet. It seems to be a well organized text. The author seems very practical and the text seems approachable. I'm hoping that the professor is as approachable as this text!!

Very readable and informative (:

This book is so easy to read! The author really goes out of his way to make his topic enjoyable and interesting. It's probably my favorite text book this semester.

Fast read and super interesting!

A professor loaned this to me for the paper I was writing in sociolinguistics in a grad class. This book was invaluable in a subject I had no background in--it was not in depth enough to write the paper I needed, but it defined terms and gave me a base to work with that other texts just assumed I

would know. I could not have jumped into Wolfram, Labov, etc., without this book. It is a great reference/starting book, and each chapter gives you a list of books and articles for further research on the topic of that chapter since the chapters are admittedly brief. For example, the chapter on sociolinguistics and education was right up my alley, and Van Herk's suggested further readings were extremely useful and led me to all kinds of great info. Sociolinguistics is an excellent branch of studies for Language Arts teachers. I think this is a good starting place for you if you're coming to this from that point of view. Students who struggle in language will continue to do so without correct interventions and Van Herk points in the direction to all kinds of research that has been done to help students who speak in a variety of ways (and why they might speak that way, how that could be approached); the research is there to try in the classrooms.

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