

SOCIOLINGUISTIC PATTERNS: AN ANALYSIS OF LABOV'S FINDINGS

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Abstract: *William Labov's researches 1963 and 1972 in sociolinguistic way have been analyzed in this article, this helps to identify academically difference between language and society. The main ideas of Labov's research convey important scientific researches, such as social class, age, gender and birth place features, direct influence for language, its analysis. Furthermore, there are similarities and differences which were analyzed comparatively, it shows the fundamental effect for sociolinguistic course. In this article, there are important practical and theoretical analysis of sociolinguistic research that serve to comprehend.*

Key words: *phonetic process, social identity, language system, phonological variable*

Introduction

Sociolinguistic course is considered as a main part of comprehension between language and society. Specifically, there are modern linguistic researches in which are influenced by social factors, language changes or language variables. Therefore, William Labov's scientific thoughts and researches play an important role for development of sociolinguistics.

Moreover, William Labov is the first person who explored language variables based on empirical data, explained in real life situations. This means that language is not static process, but it is thought as changeable process in his research. In Labov's research. There are not unexpected occasions, such as phonetic, lexical and grammatical differences, however, this is directly connected to social factor, age group and communicative situation.

Labov's research was done in two different years (1963 and 1972). This article progressively explains in this research. Initially, Labov's research in 1963 identifies not only linguistic or phonetic process but also covers social influence. Therefore, he researches changes or development of language because of influence in social contexts. As he considered, language changes were created by social pressure or social identity. In contrast,



Labov's research in 1972 which included in more information about discrimination in society and its influence for language system. The difference in social class in language changes was clearly researched in this book.

Discussion

Language process is related to social factors as important as individual speech influence. In this research, social context is mainly analysed with comprehension of language change.

Similarly, both Labov's research is directly based on social impact for language change. It can help to understand system of the language in social contexts. Besides, phonetic changes as sound, pronunciation is the important side of both books. However, each book covers different phonetic sound /ai/, /au/ (1963) and /r/ (1972) researches of Labov. Apart from this, empirical evidence is very similar in both research. This is a very good connection between 1963 and 1972 researches of Labov.

In 1963 research, the research was done in Vineyard island. According to his ideas “Not all changes are highly structured, and no change takes place in a social vacuum”.

The amount of inhabitants who were interviewed and analyzed by Labov. 69 local people participated the interview, especially fishermen, so the difference between them was stronger for diphthongs. Furthermore, the various age groups also influence for this change of language system. He mainly focused on one of the most important language change causes that was social identity. Some tourists and other island people impact with pressure as local people tried to maintain their identity.

In 1972 research, New York city was the main research area for Labov. He explained “These preliminary studies led to the definition of the major phonological variables which were to be studied, including (r): the presence or absence of consonantal [r] in postvocalic position in car, card, awr, fourth, etc”. The participants in this research were observed anomalously because the research was based on real-life communication or events. Social classes were mainly focused on in this research with examples of different stores. The phonetic differences were also selected formal and informal ways in this research. “The character of (r) as a prestige feature within the linguistic system can only be gauged within the network of stylistic and social inequalities” (Mesthrie, 2009).



Conclusion

There are two basic researches which serve as important parts of sociolinguistics. Both studies and its results by Labov explain us to understand social factors effect and language changes in which happened exact language systematic pattern.

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