

Language and Society

Following is a list of project that you can choose from for a practical study of social aspects of language use. You can form teams to work on the project. However, a team should not have more than two members. in a team of two members (not more). More than one team (not more than two though) can choose the same project. In case more than two teams choose the same project, teams beyond two would be moved to some other project. Hence, you are advised to give more than one project in your preference list.

You can always come up with your own project idea and not select one from the list below. However, you are advised to discuss your idea before we accept it.

You have time to finalise your project till March 10th. Feel free to discuss the projects with your TA or with me for deciding on your project. Once you choose the project, you will be assigned a mentor who will guide you about what to read and how to design your experiments etc.

The last date for project submission is April 15, 2018.

List of Projects

1. Compare language data from the three Telugu varieties - Rayalaseema, Telangana and Andhra. List out the differences that you note between them. For the study you must take at least 500 sentences from each of the varieties. Study them carefully and identify the linguistic variants that you would like to look at more systematically. Report your findings in detail describing the process you followed and the basis for your conclusions.
2. The same as above except change the language to Hindi and take its varieties.
3. Ray and Kempton conducted a study to test Whorfian hypothesis taking colour terms in two languages. Repeat the experiment taking any two languages spoken around you (eg, English-Hindi, English-Telugu, Telugu-Hindi etc)
4. Language and gender : Choose a language that you are comfortable in (you can also take more than one language if you want). See if there are any expressions that are used more by one gender than the other. Follow a systematic procedure for your study.
5. Code-mixing : Identify at least three linguistic groups (three to five members each group). Each group must be trilingual (English, Hindi/XIL and one more language (Indian or foreign) wherein the three languages are shared within the group. Collect speech data from these speakers (with their consent) and study if they do any code mixing, if yes then what are the patterns of code mixing.
6. Convergence : Collect some data from Dakkini Hindi/Urdu (variety spoken in Hyderabad). Study carefully and identify the grammatical structures which are more Dravidian than Indo-Aryan.