Social Hierarchy in real/virtual settings
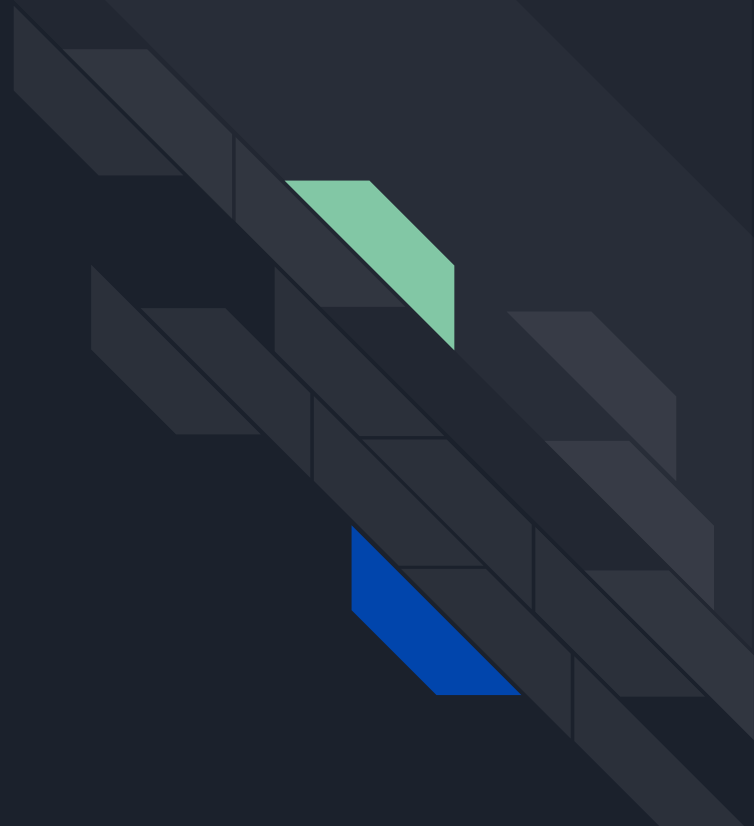
Stage-2: Interim Progress

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Survey: real world setting

(Jayant Panwar)

Work done till now after the Stage of Data Collection!

207/389 Responses analyzed!

The survey results were considered both as individual and collective (as in groups). These results when carefully considered brought out many social factors and at times even hints at the personality traits or the culture background of the person answering the question.

The popularity of a certain response was also considered as many a times a certain popular trend tends to give a better overview of social factors involved.

Analysis

There are two different stages of analysis as I have discussed already (Individual & Collective). I have implemented the collective stage already and I will be explaining it below:

Sir/Ma'am(Previous & Current seniors) -> Most common answer with an average of 69.167% despite the situation of the person addressing them. So, even if they met them outside of the workplace or when they have gained a higher position to them, they still resorted to using this term.

First name(Current juniors)-> Most common term used by the responders to address their juniors in workplace or outside.

Sir/Ma'am(Previous juniors)-> Most common term used by the responders to address their new seniors who were earlier their juniors.

Analysis(contd..)

One important conclusion we can derive from this is that the responders they generally tend to address their NEW or PREVIOUS seniors as Sir/Ma'am even if their NEW seniors were earlier their juniors. On the other hand, they like to call their current juniors by their first name both inside and outside the workplace.

The important aspect to look at here is that the responders tend to find a similar social connection with their work peers outside the workplace as well. They try to replicate the social hierarchy and try and maintain it in non-work environments as well and even when they are promoted to a senior level compared to their previous supervisor. So, maybe the time one spends in a social hierarchy conditions him to maintain it.

Analysis(contd..)

BUT! The responders only replicate this social connection as long as they are not disturbing the social hierarchy above them, even though they might be disturbing the social hierarchy below them.

For example, people found it better to address their previous senior still as Sir/Ma'am but did not want to address their new senior, previously their junior, by their first name. They went with Sir/Ma'am as well.

Thus, the factor of time that we considered doesn't matter in this case. Even if they called their previous junior by their first name for years and decades even maybe, they did not hesitate to call them by Sir/Ma'am when they were promoted to a position above them.

Observation & Challenges

There are obviously many observations and challenges involved in the process. For instance, previously we saw a general trend in the starting that because of the time and energy people spend in a social hierarchy, they tend to maintain it everytime. But then, the newly promoted seniors were given the same respect and hence, proving our hypothesis wrong.

Even though the most common answers for a question in my survey were easily above 50%, it did not guarantee that most of the people would behave in a similar way and will be affected by the same factors.

For example, only two responders so far (till R-204), Response no-139 and 159 had the same answers as the most common one.

And about 9 other responses had the most common answers except a single question.

Observation & Challenges

One person, Response no-19, did not have a single answer matching with the most common ones.

These observations do present us with a tough challenge. Can you count on the most common/popular answers to give you dependable trends, traits or social factors that go into influencing the social hierarchy setting of the place?

The answer is not very clear at this point. It might seem like a straight no but I have to tell you that there were at least more than a dozen responses that had all common answers except any 2 questions.

We can indeed conclude certain factors and aspects from such observations but we cannot generalize it to all the other people in the real world and whether they consider that factor important enough to affect the way they address their social hierarchy.

Further Work

➢ Obviously, I have to analyze the remaining responses, from R-208 to R-389

➢ Have to implement the individual analysis stage, and consider the possibility that a single different answer may also reveal a distinct social factor altogether

➢ Form a strong conclusion about the relation between social factors and how they influence the way in which people address their place's social hierarchy

➢ Can try to form a basic idea about the personalities involved from their responses (out of the scope of this project but surely makes our survey and its' findings very interesting)
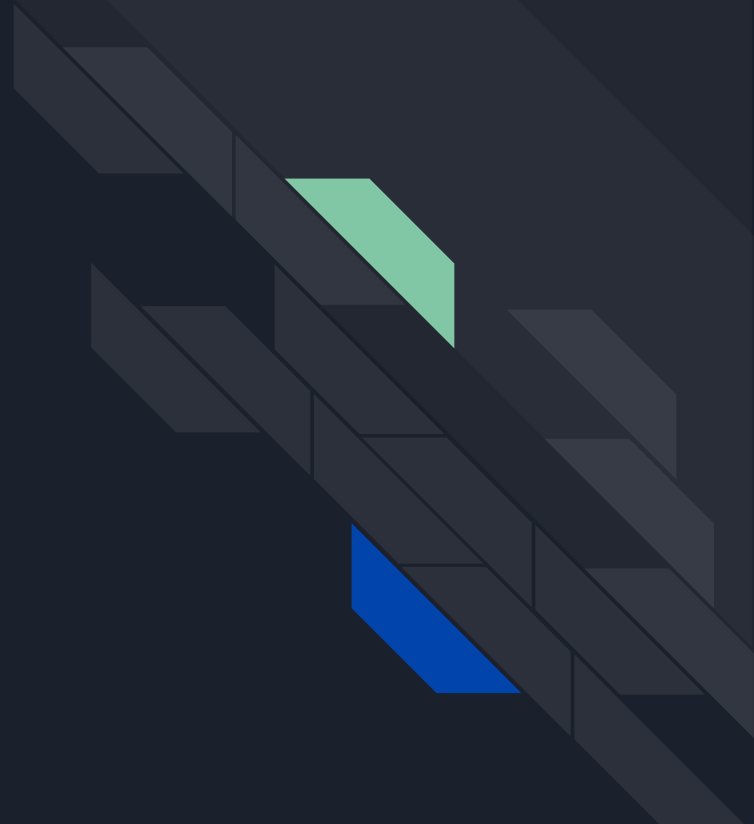
Cinema
(Akshett Rai Jindal, Nikhil Bishnoi, Aaryan Singh)

My Observations and My Plans

Akshett Rai Jindal
2019114001

Observations

1) There is social hierarchy based on the post in the station.

2) Under normal circumstances, there is a difference in the behaviour between consecutive levels at lower level and two consecutive levels at higher level.

3) While talking to a person with higher authority, we tend to be polite, respectful, try not to sound arguing. One can also try to butter them up. And the person at higher level tries to be friendly as they spend a lot of time together (more at lower levels).

Observations

4) If emotions come into play, then people can forget about the hierarchy. One can be disrespectful with the people on higher levels if they are angry. And a boss can become rude even when he has good friendly relations with his employees out of emotions.

5) Mostly, unhappy bosses use sarcasm instead of scolding employees because sarcasm is lighter than scolding and scolding a lot can go against the purpose.

6) In the web series, that I chose and also in many real life situations, bosses call the employees by their last name (specifically in North India) and employees call their bosses by Sir/Sahab.

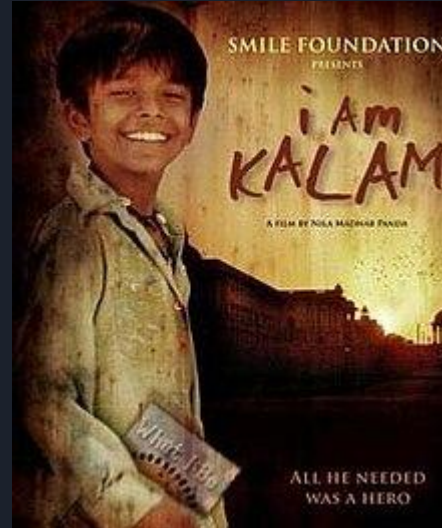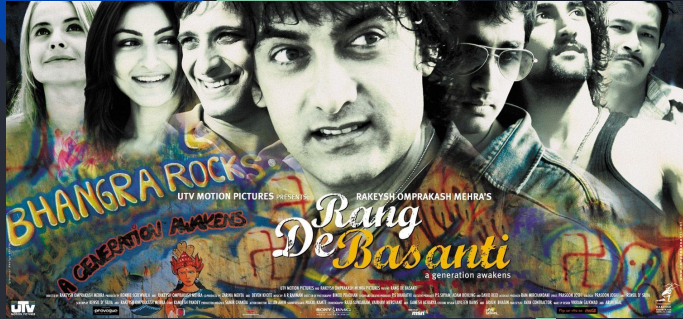7) Among the people at same level, we see the use of first names.

Further Plans

This time I used a web series to study, next I plan to use a movie for it.
Also, I will go through the already generated data to make any more observations.

Movies

(Nikhil Bishnoi)

I am Kalam
Language :-
Hindi with
some
Rajasthani

The story of six young Indians who assist an English woman to film a documentary on the freedom fighters from their past, and the events that lead them to relive the long-forgotten saga of freedom.

An impoverished boy forms an unlikely and unstable friendship with the lonely son of a nobleman.

Observation

Factors affecting the language and pronouns used:-

1. Social Hierarchy
2. Relation/ Intimateness
3. Environment - Type of interaction taking place and where
4. Emotions

Kids are exception

An ideal scenario for observing social hierarchy and language use:-

The interaction is taking place casually in an emotionless state and without getting any personal feelings involved

We can compare the interaction when the same person talk to different people (preferably of same age) in a different way, depending on their social value

One such perfect scenario can be seen in my second movie "I am Kalam"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZy4vIGf7MY

Another example can be seen in Rang de Basanti when a character call her mother by simple using "Tu" while the same character call his friend's mother by "aap"

Work Till now:-

Added more scenarios where social hierarchy is visible

Added another movie

What to do next:-

Scribe "I am Kalam",

Analyze scenarios from same

Properly Document the Observations made till now

Overview of the work done

- Data collection has been done, emphasizing on the modes of addressals, language of background music, linguistic variations from person to person, and subtle use of different pronouns.

- The film has been rewatched to better understand how extreme emotions affect the linguistic pattern of people, how the language switch happens, and how the modes of addressal are changed.

- Predominantly in the movie, the language Hindi code mixed with English is used. Usage of Hindi code-mixed with English is also looked upon thoroughly, as to whether it is really natural and necessary or the code-mixing is happening due to some other factors.

- How the linguists pattern vary according to the social class and order, how different languages are used to highlight different things, is also looked upon.

Analysis

- Social hierarchy based on the cadre at the station.

- Regional dialects are used sparingly, so as to connect to the villagers' plight and simultaneously not overdo it. Using these dialects facilitates the connection between viewers and villagers.

- The use of pronoun "*hum*" is retained in most of the scenes, irrespective of whether the speaker is literate or illiterate, the speaker just needs to hail from the village. It is more of a regional linguistic feature. All of them speak in Hindi, some code-mixing it with English when they feel.

- Sporadic use of English is also done, particularly when the protagonist is in the scene. He speaks in Hindi code-mixed with English, retains the use of pronoun "*Main*", and resorts to English for his outbursts towards his subordinate officers.

Analysis(Contd.)

- A lot about the order of social hierarchy can also be understood by the different mode of addressals to the protagonist by different people. For eg. most of his subordinates refer to him as "_Sir_" and when they have to use a pronoun, they invariably use "_Aap_". At the same time, the SP of the area calls him using his "name" and uses the pronoun "_Tum_". Whereas, most of the villagers refer to him as "_Saheb_".

- Whereas, the protagonist's mode of addressal is also telling. He mostly addresses everyone using the pronoun "Aap ". But when he gets angry, he switches to the pronoun "Tum" for addressing his subordinates, whereas the use of pronoun "Aap" is retained if he's addressing a senior official. This clearly exemplifies the order of social hierarchy.

Analysis(Contd.)

- In the movie, Hindi code-mixed with English feels natural when the protagonist or his superior officers use it. This also gets highlighted when he texts with his friend in the same language. Whereas, when his subordinate chimes in with similar language, it does not feel natural. It seems as if he is using English deliberately to make a good impression of himself.

Challenges

- Finding exactly which regional dialect is used in the opening song of the movie proved to be a very difficult task.

- Since the interactions between the protagonist and his superiors are very far and few, and rarely in a non-formal setting, recording the change in linguistic patterns again was an arduous job.

- "How much code-mixing comes naturally" was a point which has to be looked upon carefully, since almost all of them speak predominantly in Hindi code-mixed with English. Determining exactly when it begins sounding deliberate was another difficult task.

- Overwhelming amount of data, not exactly a challenge, but still required careful filtering out of the repetitive ones and the anomalies.

Further Works

- Exploring different point of views, through which the movie can be filtered further.

- Extraction of information from protagonist's interaction with his superiors.

- Linguistic patterns from his subordinates interactions with their colleagues.

- Interactions between villagers and his subordinates also needs to be looked upon, again differentiating between the influential villagers interactions and the commoners with the same subordinates.

- Analysis of speeches given by the politicians. Though, it's very limited, still we'll see what can be gained from it.

Print media

(Veeral Agarwal)

Work done after the stage of data collection

Analysed some more interviews in "print media"

I analysed 7 more interviews. I saw many social factors in that like someone can extract differences between their personality, social background, culture by their way of answering the questions of interviewer.

Their dialect(according to where they live) , occupation, income(financial background) and family background is also considered in analysis.

Analysis

There is little hard to find variety in form of language in interviews. As generally they held in formal language. But still when accent and dialect comes in picture, we can extract some different varieties and social hierarchy. Because both (accent and dialect) are generally non-standard for anyone.

That's why because of dialect, where they live, their occupation, their income, their family background, or better to say their social class , social hierarchy comes into picture.

What determines social class?   Consider 4 cards, education, income, occupation, wealth. Then some people get face cards and land in upper and middle class. Whereas others may only get low cards and be in the lowest class.

Analysis(continued)

Identifying social class :- how they look , dress, eat, what you like to do, where you live, what your house looks like , **HOW YOU TALK.**

In print media (interviews) it's hard to find all of these, but we can see or ask where they live, what they like to do, and more about how they talk.

They can be of different speech community also. The same linguistic variable is likely to have different values in different speech communities. In interview, say there is someone from UP and other from Maharashtra, then their dialect will be different. As "tum" is considered as formal(with respect) language whereas in Maharashtra it may be consider as informal language.

Observation and challenges

Language variation, the use of standard language and non-standard dialects, often reflects speakers social class. Lower class tend to speak non-standard dialects whereas upper class tend to speak standard dialects, middle class sometimes speak more standard dialects because they hope to move to a higher class.

Here it is hard to identify that because in interviews , generally people talk in formal language. But hardly we can consider their background also, because their regional dialect can be detected .

Most of the conversation done with "tum" , "aap" , "first name". Because as we know interviews are supposed to be in formal language. And also sometimes their regional dialect reflects and make some variety in data.

Further work

- I will analyze rest of the interviews.
- I will add some more interviews as data if needed.
- Have to analyse more in the personal level as their family background before what they are today. (as we know there are interviews of celebrities and they all might be from different backgrounds. That should also help me in analysing.)
- I will try to get idea about their personality and lifestyle also.