# LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY

Programme in which offered: -All Bachelor's Degree Programmes

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| **Course Category: Minor** | **Schedule of offering: Even Semester** |
| **Course Sub-category: Skill Development** | **Contact hours per week: 3hrs** |
| **Course Credit structure: 3** | |
| **Lecture: 3**<br>**Tutorial: 0**<br>**Practical: 0** | |
| **Course Code: LL174** | **Course Instructor: Dr. Sandhya Shankar** |
| **Course Stream: Literature and Linguistics (and Science and Society)** | |
| **Maximum Intake: 20** | |

1. **Introduction**

   *"The limits of my language mean the limits of my world. All I know is what I have words for"* – Ludwig Wittgenstein

   To what extent is this statement true? Will my language limit my understanding of the world around? Is what I know, a result of the language I use? Will changing the language also change my perception of the world?

   These are some of the questions that will be dealt with in this course. It examines why people use language differently in different social situations and how meaning making happens in such a context. It looks at how culture is interlinked to our language use. The course will also discuss what is multilingualism and its implications on language planning and policy making. It will explore how language creates social identity and examine the reasons for language change.

2. **Course Objectives**

   The course aims at providing a better understanding to the student about the relationship between language and society; how both are interrelated and influence each other.

3. **Course Outcomes**

   At the end of this course, students will be able to:
   - Understand key sociolinguistics concepts such as multilingualism, language change, code switching, language revival, standard language, dialect, register etc.
   - Develop an understanding as to how language is influenced by culture, gender, age and socio-economic class.
   - Observe the relationship between language and various social networks.
   - Learn about various sociolinguistic research methods.

- Develop the ability to think critically about questions pertaining to language shift, death, revival, planning and policy making.

## 4. Pre-requisites
No pre-requisites essential. Basic English knowledge is desirable.

## 5. Readings
- Kachru, Braj; Kachru, Yamuna; Sridhar, S.N. (2008). *Language in South Asia*. Cambridge University Press: New Delhi
- Holmes, Janet. (2013). *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics (4th Edition)*. Routledge: New York
- Yule, George. (2014). *The Study of Language (5th Edition)*. Cambridge University Press: New Delhi
- Hudson. R.A. (1996). *Sociolinguistics.* Cambridge Textbooks in Linguistics: New Delhi

## 6. Module wise topics

### Module 1: Language families and relativity (5 sessions)
- Language Varieties
- Genealogical Language Family trees
- Typological Classification of Languages
- Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis

### Module 2: Social Variation in Language (13 sessions)

- Bilingualism and Multilingualism
- Code Mixing and Code switching
- Standard Language
- Dialects and Accents
- Speech style and style shifting
- Register, Jargon and Taboo words
- Isoglosses and Language boundaries
- Pidgins and Creoles

### Module 3: Language and Identity (10 sessions)

- Language and society in Vedic Period
- Language Change
- Minority and Tribal Languages
- Kinship terms
- Gender and Language
- Politeness and Power

### Module 4: Language and Discourse (5 sessions)

- Social and Ethnic interactions
- Legal system
- Media and Advertisement
- Cinema
- Social Networks


### Module 5: Language Research, Planning and Policy (12 sessions)

- History and types of Language Planning
- Status of Sanskrit in India and its spread in rest of the World
- Spread of English
- Endangered languages
- Multilingual Policy in India
- Multilingual countries (other than India) and Language Planning
- Data Collection and Methods


7. **Pedagogy**
   The teaching methodology will mostly be lectures and discussions. Case studies would be focused on, to provide a better understanding of the subject. Presentations at the end of the discussions would also be a main component of the course.

8. **Evaluation Pattern**
   Assignments (3): 15%
   Quizzes (5): 15%
   Mid Semester Exam: 20%
   Individual Presentation: 10%
   End Semester Exam: 40%