What is an ethnic dialect? (continued...)

LINGUIST 159 – American Dialects

November 6, 2014

Ethnolinguistic Repertoires

- What types of factors should be considered in an analysis of ethnolinguistic repertoires?
- How do we…
  - Select groups to compare?
  - Pick variables to investigate?
  - Connect regional dialect features with other aspects of identity?
  - Ascertain social meanings associated with ethnicity?

Distinctiveness

- Languages, Dialects, Ethnolects, Styles exist only in **contrast** to others

- Social meanings can only be meaningful if they distinguish one stance/persona/group from another

- Indexicalities of a given way of speaking necessarily informed by the context, and what is *not* being indexed

A few studies of Whiteness and Language

- *White Kids: Language, Race and Styles of Youth Identity* (Bucholtz 1999, 2013)

- Stances of whiteness and hegemony in fraternity men's discourse (Kiesling 2001)

- Uses of Mock Spanish in white public spaces (Hill 1995)

Chun (2001)

- Which variable (or system of variables) is investigated?

- What is the research question?

- Where was the research conducted?

- Who were the speakers?

- How was data elicited?

- What were the findings?

Chun (2001)

- How is this reading different from regional dialect readings we've read?

- From readings on ethnicity that we've read?

- What pros and cons come along with these differences?

What is slang?

- **Sociopyschological** rather than **linguistic** constructs
- Informality
- References group outside mainstream adults
- In-group membership
- Flouting of conventional terms
- Association with localized/temporary groups
- Authentication

Chun (2001)

- Why does Chun refer to "imagined" AAVE? What does this mean?

- According to Chun, what social meanings can AAVE index? How do these meanings intersect?

Chun (2001)

- What does Chun say about the appropriation of AAVE?
  - What studies have been done on it?
  - What have scholars said about it?
  - What do you think?

Chun (2001)

- What is Jin doing when he uses AAVE slang terms?

- What does AAVE **index** for Jin?

- How do we know?

Chun (2001)

Example 1[1]
Dave (D): 1.5 generation, 18[2]
Eric (E): 2nd generation, 20
Jaehoon (JH): 1.5 generation, 20
Jin (J): 1.5 generation (nearly 2nd generation), 21

568   JH: like who are we to call like, someone ugly or **pretty**, you **know?**
                god said he made us like um
569   Dave: °shutup
570   X: (right)
571   ((laughter))
572   Jin: YOU KNOW WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE MAN.
573   JH: sorr(h)y
574   Dave: h h sorry h h ha ha ha
575   Jin: trying to be all moral and upright but inside he like a(h)w damn
                that girl's got a big boody
576   ((laughter))

Chun (2001)

Example 3

1736	J:	yeah but there's two different forms of "ji" too. "ji" and "chi."
1737	E:	i don't know *why* you'd change it to "chi."
1738	JH:	i know why - why would people like
1739	J:	well (xxx) i: too? that's, well i heard like in uh hanmwun it's like it's supposed to be like li-ul almost ((hanmwun = 'chinese character'; li-ul = 'the l Korean alphabetic character'))
1740	D:	i think that - you know like some people? they wanted to do it phonetically? exactly? and some people wanted to do it where you know //
1741	JH:	(xxx)
1742	D:	no no no
1743	J:	more whitey
1744	D:	more whitey [yeah
1745	E:	[ha ha
1746	D:	that's what it is like "kim" like you know that sounds more american like you know
1747	J:	[(xxx)
1748	D:	["lee" "lee" "lee" is more that's american name like [y'know
1749	JH:	[right yeah.
1750	D:	so that's why.
1751	JH:	to be integrated into the main [stream that's what it is.
1752	D:	[yeah yeah
1753	E:	mainstream
1754	J:	*forget conformity man. DOWN WITH WHITEY.* ((points to camera))
1755	((laughter))	

Chun (2001)

Example 4

2368	Jin:	i think white people just don't keep it real and that's why
2369	Dave:	that is = that's true man?
2370	Jin:	cause that's why they always back stabbin like my roommate who wasn't gonna pay the last month's // rent
2371	JH:	white.
2372	Jin:	he kicks us out [of
2373	Eric:	[the prototypical *whitey*.
2374	Jin:	ye:::ah ma::n?
2375	JH:	no social skills.
2376	Jin:	but that's not true for everyone i don't think.
2377	EC:	uh huh
2378	Jin:	cause all those ghetto whiteys in my neighborhood i think they're cool.

Chun (2001)

- Is Chun's study a study of **dialects?**

- What is the value of studying stylistic practices in one speaker?

- What can this tell us about dialects more generally?

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Japanese-Americans Assignment

Brainstorm/Discuss:

- What do we know about Grace and Sherman from the **content** of their interviews?

- How are they similar? Different?

Yamato Colony

- Japanese agricultural community, founded 1904
- Livingston, CA (Merced County)

Japanese-Americans Assignment

Brainstorm/Discuss:

- What kinds of identities might be relevant in this community?

- What social meanings might these speakers be indexing?

- What additional information would we need to answer these questions?

Japanese-Americans Assignment

Brainstorm/Discuss:

- What general observations did you make about their language?

- How do they sound similar? Different?

- What do you think guided the features you observed and chose to analyze?

Japanese-Americans Assignment

Brainstorm/Discuss:

- What results have we found for Grace and Shermans' speech?

- Who found a result that they were surprised by?

- How do they pattern similarly? Differently?

Japanese-Americans Assignment

Brainstorm/Discuss:

Given what we know about dialect research, these speakers/this community, and our interview observations, what **research questions** could we ask about these speakers?

Japanese-Americans Assignment

Brainstorm/Discuss:

- Pick one of the research questions.
  - What additional information do we need?
  - What additional data do we need?
  - What features would you select/how would you select features?
  - What kind of analysis would be most useful to address your research question? Why?