

Methods in Sociolinguistics – Experimentation and quantification

Monday March 15, 2010

1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

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Sociolinguistics may be said to be a cover term for several separate approaches to the study of language and human communication. These approaches may differ quite considerably as to their theoretical assumptions and interests as well as to their methods. Basically, however, they all share the conviction that linguistic research should be based on empirical data, i.e. data that are obtained through some kind of collection (and not introspection).

In the Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning sessions, we will look at how the two main research interests within sociolinguistics – *how and why does language vary and change* vs. *how is language variation used in social group and identity construction?* – typically draw on different methods for data collection and data analysis. While drawing on sociolinguistic research in order to exemplify, both sessions will focus on the central aspects on the general aspects of *quantitative and experimental approaches* (Monday afternoon) vs. *qualitative and ethnographical approaches* (Tuesday morning).