

SOCIAL CLASS VARIATION IN LANGUAGE USE



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Abstract

This study is a sociolinguistic investigation of how social class affects language use and the major differences which occur in language due to difference in social classes. It focuses the lexical and grammatical differences and different patterns of code-switching which are adopted by different social classes. It also aims at the practice of code-switching in formal and informal settings. The data is selected through recordings and a large-scale questionnaire from undergraduate students at a public sector university. The findings revealed variation in language of students coming from middle class and working class in their vocabulary, syntax, lexical items and code-switching. The results are stated after analyzing their recordings and questionnaires.

Key words: social class, setting, language, code-switching, syntax, lexicon, etc.

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