

OLLSCOIL NA H-ÉIREANN
SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS 1998

SECOND ARTS: INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSE
ID488: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLINGUISTICS
UNIT VALUE: I

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Time allowed: two hours

Answer four questions in Section A and one question in Section B.

Use a separate answer book for each section.

SECTION A

1. Define the following terms:

- (a) network (as a methodological principle)
- (b) discrete versus continuous variable
- (c) cross-over effect
- (d) acrolect

2. Define the following terms:

- a) speaker style
- b) vernacular
- c) style-shifting
- d) code-switching

3. Explain the difference between corpus planning and status planning, offering examples of each. (100 words)

4. Explain why in the nineteenth century, Czech, Polish and Romanian switched from the Cyrillic to the Roman alphabet. (100 words)

5. Define four of the following terms:

- a) convergence
- b) bioprogramme hypothesis
- c) relexification
- d) marché linguistique
- e) pidgin
- f) substratum

SECTION B

6. Linguistic style implies a sense of appropriateness or appropriacy. Choices must be made that take into account situations, occasions, subject matter and audience (listeners, readers, viewers). Discuss.
7. Write an account of the language planning imbalance in favour of Gaelic which exists in Scotland and offer some explanations for it.
8. Discuss the interplay of structural and non-structural factors which promote language interference in the Gaeltacht.
9. Language shift is a complex process. Discuss in relation to the shift from Irish to English in Ireland in the nineteenth century.
10. The following graphs discuss the social meaning of the lenition of (ch) in Spanish. Study the data in the two graphs and answer the following questions:
 - (a) Define the sociolinguistic variable
 - (b) Define the speech community with relation to the sociolinguistic variable.
 - (c) Explain the curvilinear pattern of the social distribution.
 - (d) Would you say this is an incoming change or an old change? Hint: Look at both graphs in relation to each other.

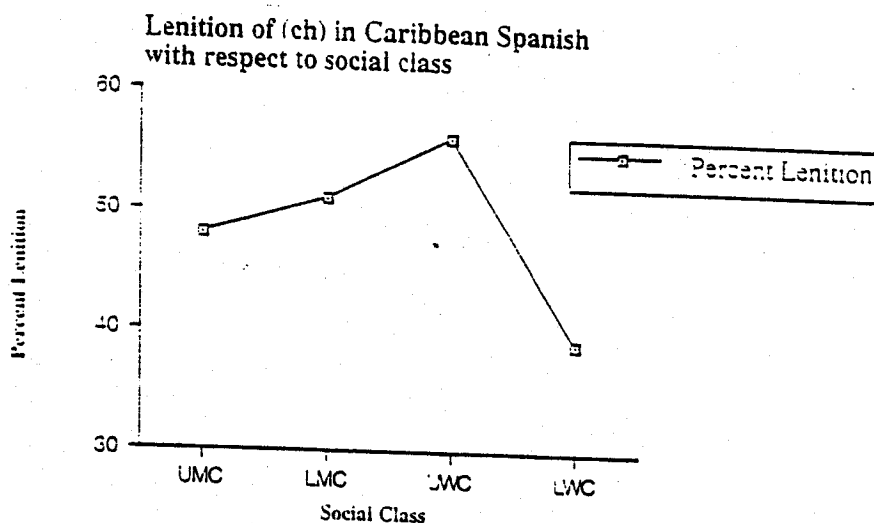


Figure 2

