

# **Sociolinguistics**

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Sociolinguistics is a term including the aspects of linguistics applied toward the connections between language and society, and the way we use it in different social situations.

It is the branch of Linguistics that studies language in social relation. It is a discipline in its own. The word sociolinguistics is derived from two words: Socio and Linguistics. Socio means sociology which refers to the science of society while linguistics refers to knowledge or science of language. Therefore, sociolinguistics studies language as used in a society. Sociolinguistics is the study of the ways in which language interacts with society. It is essentially a study of language as used in society. A study that is concerned with relationship between language and the context in which it is used.

Furthermore, it explains how people speak differently in different social context. The subject matter of the language is its different varieties. Language can vary not only from one individual but also from one sub section of speech community such as family, village, town, and region to another. People of different age, sex, social classes, occupations or cultural groups in the same community show varieties in their speech behaviours. According to sociolinguistics, language is a code and there exist varieties within it. Hence, to understand the language or its purpose, language must be seen in social context.

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