more course logistics

- If you’re already enrolled in the Psychology / Linguistics paid subject pool, then enroll for your extra credit participation through your same paid subject pool account

Last Tuesday...

- The discursive construction of sexuality
- The linguistic production of organizational categories
- The role of Imagined Communities in social structure
- The role of labels in creating structure
Today

- Indexical Meaning
- ‘Queer theory’ & Radical Feminism
- Heteronormativity & Patriarchy
- Explicit vs. Implicit Examples
- ‘Gender-Appropriate’ speech
- Intersubjectivity

Indexicality

‘pointing to’

**Direct Indexicality**

**Indirect Indexicality**

Direct Indexicality

- lexical indices
  - *I* & *you* index the speaker and the intended referent
  - *here* & *there* index the location of reference

- phonetics: indexical features are the phonetic features of a person’s voice that identify that person uniquely (e.g., Lauren, Tyler, Kyuwon...)
Indirect Indexicality

- The correlation between a linguistic feature and an identity category does not indicate that the linguistic feature means the identity category.
- The relationship between linguistic form and social meaning is usually indirect.
- The mapping between linguistic form and social meaning is elastic and negotiated (*bricolage* in Hebdige 1979).

Indirect Indexicality

- strong final /t/ release (*hat, pit*, etc.) indexes precise enunciation.
- precise enunciation in extreme is like prissiness, and prissiness is associated (among other things!) in our culture with a kind of 'gay diva' style.
- strong final /t/ release indirectly indexes 'gay diva' style (among other things!).

_Podesva 2006_

Indirect Indexicality

- (Lakoff 1972) -- hedges directly index that the speaker is insecure and lacks confidence.
- insecurity and lack of confidence are culturally associated with women (among other things!).
- hedging indirectly indexes femininity (among other things!).

(But this is only one kind of femininity, right? Note C&K page 57)
Indexicality

- Why “among other things?”
- Indirect Indexicality is not achieved through 1-to-1 correspondences
- Indirect Indexicality is achieved through an *indexical field* (like a semantic field) of multiple possible meanings
- Meaning is derived through discourse

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Indexicality

- *Research questions:*
  - How is gender or sexuality being indexed? What is being indexed that, in turn, indexes gender or sexuality?
  - How does this occur in a moment of discourse? What resources are used?

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Radical Feminism vs. Queer Theory

- The History in a Nutshell:
  - Radical Feminism
    - Heterosexuality is inherently patriarchal
  - The Queer Challenge
    - Yes, but... why are we so focused on heterosexuality?
    - Separating gender and sexuality & complicating their relationship
Heteronormativity

- Heterosexuality taken as socially normative
- Specifically, marriage of one man & one woman taken as ideal, natural, normal
- Sex roles are based on this arrangement
- Anything outside of this arrangement deviates from heteronormativity

Heterosexism

- Bias towards heterosexuality
- Inherently prejudicial? Lack of semantic transparency: [heterosex-] [-ism] vs. [hetero-] [-sexism]
- In practice, it's a small distinction
- Common use: prejudice against non-heterosexual people, behaviors, and desires

Institutional Homophobia

- Fear of or hate towards non-heterosexual people, behaviors and desires
Heteronormativity
• Heterosexuality taken as socially normative

Heterosexism
• Any bias towards heterosexuality

Institutional Homophobia
• Antipathy towards homosexuality

Patriarchy
• The predominance of men in positions of power and influence in society, with cultural values and norms being seen as favoring men

Patriarchy
• The predominance of men in positions of power and influence in society, with cultural values and norms being seen as favoring men
• Basic model of father or eldest son as head of household, decision maker, protector
• Extension to male dominance in business, medicine, higher education, government, law, etc.

Explicit vs. Implicit

Explicit instantiations
- (e.g., anti-gay) legislation
- hate crimes, harassment, death threats
- pejorative language, hate speech

Implicit instantiations
- lack of representation in public discourse
- censorship and omission of speech or writing
- sex-reassignment surgery without patient consent
Small Group Discussion

- Think of some examples of heteronormativity, heterosexism, homophobia, or patriarchy on the Stanford campus or in your hometown
- Are they explicit or implicit?
- What role does language play in producing and reproducing these social structures?

“Gender Appropriate” Speech

- Heterosexual ways of speaking
  - Women speaking in ‘feminine’ ways
  - Men speaking in ‘masculine’ ways

Radical Feminism vs. Queer Theory

- The History in a Nutshell
  
  Radical Feminism
  
  Heterosexuality is inherently patriarchal
  
  The Queer Challenge
  
  Yes, but... why are we so focused on heterosexuality?
  
  Separating gender and sexuality & complicating their relationship
Radical Feminism vs. Queer Theory

Radical Feminism

Sexuality is constituted through gender
- e.g., butch-femme lesbians perpetuate heteronormativity
- e.g., sex work and pornography perpetuate patriarchy

The Queer Challenge

Sexuality is related to, yet distinct from, gender
- e.g., butch-femme lesbians subvert and challenge patriarchy
- e.g., sex work and pornography can be agents of change

revisiting “PC”

• “Politically Correct” as a politically constructed category
  (hence, term contestation; “Politically Aware”)

• More specific to our needs in this class:
  how labels participate in constructing social structure
  (and, secondarily, how we choose to act with respect to labels)

Intersubjectivity

• Discourse is co-constructed
• Interpretation depends on both speaker and hearer
• There are limits to speaker agency
• There are constraints on the set of possible linguistic and social behaviors
• Social action is situated and negotiated
• There is no ‘set’ meaning for many terms
Intersubjectivity

- Remember: meaning is not prediscursive
- Even our intentions, which seem so personal and private, are ultimately socially constituted
- Regardless of speaker intentionality, participation in discourses furthers those discourses (by definition!)

‘hook-up’

Revisiting Explicit vs. Implicit

- What about humor?
- Consider mocking
  - mocking non-standard speech & silencing
  - consider our ‘plastic’ brain
  - symbolic (linguistic) violence
Main Point Summary

• Indexical Meaning
• ‘Queer theory’ & Radical Feminism
• Heteronormativity & Patriarchy
• Explicit vs. Implicit Examples
• ‘Gender-Appropriate’ speech
• Intersubjectivity

Next Time...

• The Organization of Speech Activities, I
• Read:
  ◦ Eckert & McConnell-Ginet, Chapter 3