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❖ WHAT IS SOCIOLINGUISTICS?

Sociolinguistics refers to the science that combines between Sociology and Linguistics. It is interested in studying the connection between language and society. In other words, it studies the effect of society on language and the way we use this latter in different social situations. Also, it is concerned with how a language or a given variety can often describe the age, gender (male, female), and social class of the speaker. It codes then, the social function of language.

❖ Concepts related to Sociolinguistics

Standard Arabic

- It refers to the variety which forms the basis of printed Arabic in newspapers and books, which is used in the mass media, taught in schools, and takes place in second language class.

Accent & Dialect

- The term accent is restricted to the description of aspects of pronunciation which identify where an individual speaker is from, regionally or socially.
- The term dialect describes features of grammar and vocabulary, as well as aspects of pronunciation.

Isogloss

- A geographic boundary line delimiting the area in which a given linguistic feature occurs e.g. the pronunciation of a [vowel](#), the meaning of a word, or use of some syntactic features.

Diglossia

- A sociolinguistic phenomenon that refers to a situation where, in a given society, there are two (often) closely-related languages, one of high prestige, which is generally used by the government and in formal texts, and one of low prestige, which is usually the spoken language.

Sociolect

- It is the combination of the words "social" and "dialect". It refers to the language spoken by a [social group](#), [social class](#).. However, a given variant may be considered simultaneously a dialect and a sociolect. For example, standard [Italian](#) is considered also as a dialect.

Idiolect

- Every individual has an idiolect that is: a [variety](#) of a [language](#) unique to an individual in which patterns of word selection and [grammar](#), or words, phrases, or pronunciations are actually unique to that individual.