Variation in Linguistic Systems

James A. Walker

Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group
NEW YORK AND LONDON

Contents

Figures x
Tables xii
Linguistic Corpora and Abbreviations xvi
Acknowledgments xvii

1 Introduction 1

1.0 Introduction 1
1.1 About the Book 2
1.2 Structure of the Book 3
1.3 Further Reading 4

2 Variation and Variables 5

2.0 Introduction 5
2.1 What is "Variation"? 5
2.2 Variables 9
2.3 The Variable Context 12
2.4 Conclusion 15
2.5 Further Reading 15

3 The Analysis of Linguistic Variation 16

3.0 Introduction 16
3.1 Variable Rules 17
3.2 Modeling Relations Between Variants 18
3.3 Calculating Frequencies 21
3.4 Testing Hypotheses 23
3.5 Examining Distributions 26
3.6 Testing for Statistical Significance 27
3.7 Conclusion 29
3.8 Further Reading 30

4 Multivariate Analysis with GoldVarb 31

4.0 Introduction 31
4.1 Token Files 32
4.2 Calculating Frequencies 35
4.3 Multivariate Analysis 37
4.4 Identifying and Overcoming Interaction 41
4.5 Conclusion 43
4.6 Further Reading 44

5 Variation in Sound Systems 45

5.0 Introduction 45
5.1 Types of Phonic Variable 46
5.2 Conditioning of Phonic Variation 53
5.3 Conclusion 62
5.4 Further Reading 64

6 Variation in Grammatical Systems 65

6.0 Introduction 65
6.1 Types of Grammatical Variable 66
6.2 Conditioning of Grammatical Variation 77
6.3 Conclusion 91
6.4 Further Reading 92

7 Language Change 93

7.0 Introduction 93
7.1 Variation and Change 94
7.2 Apparent Time and Real Time 95
7.3 Testing Models of Language Change 97
7.4 Conclusion 111
7.5 Further Reading 112

8 Language Contact 114

8.0 Introduction 114
8.1 Second Language Acquisition 116
8.2 Convergence 118
8.3 Pidgins and Creoles 122
8.4 Conclusion 128
8.5 Further Reading 130

9 Conclusion 131

9.0 Introduction 131
9.1 Variation and Linguistic Theory 131
9.2 Conclusion 141
9.3 Further Reading 141

Notes 142
References 144
Index 153