

INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO LANGUAGE AND ITS USE II.

Variationist sociolinguistics: Basic principles

Jan Chromý

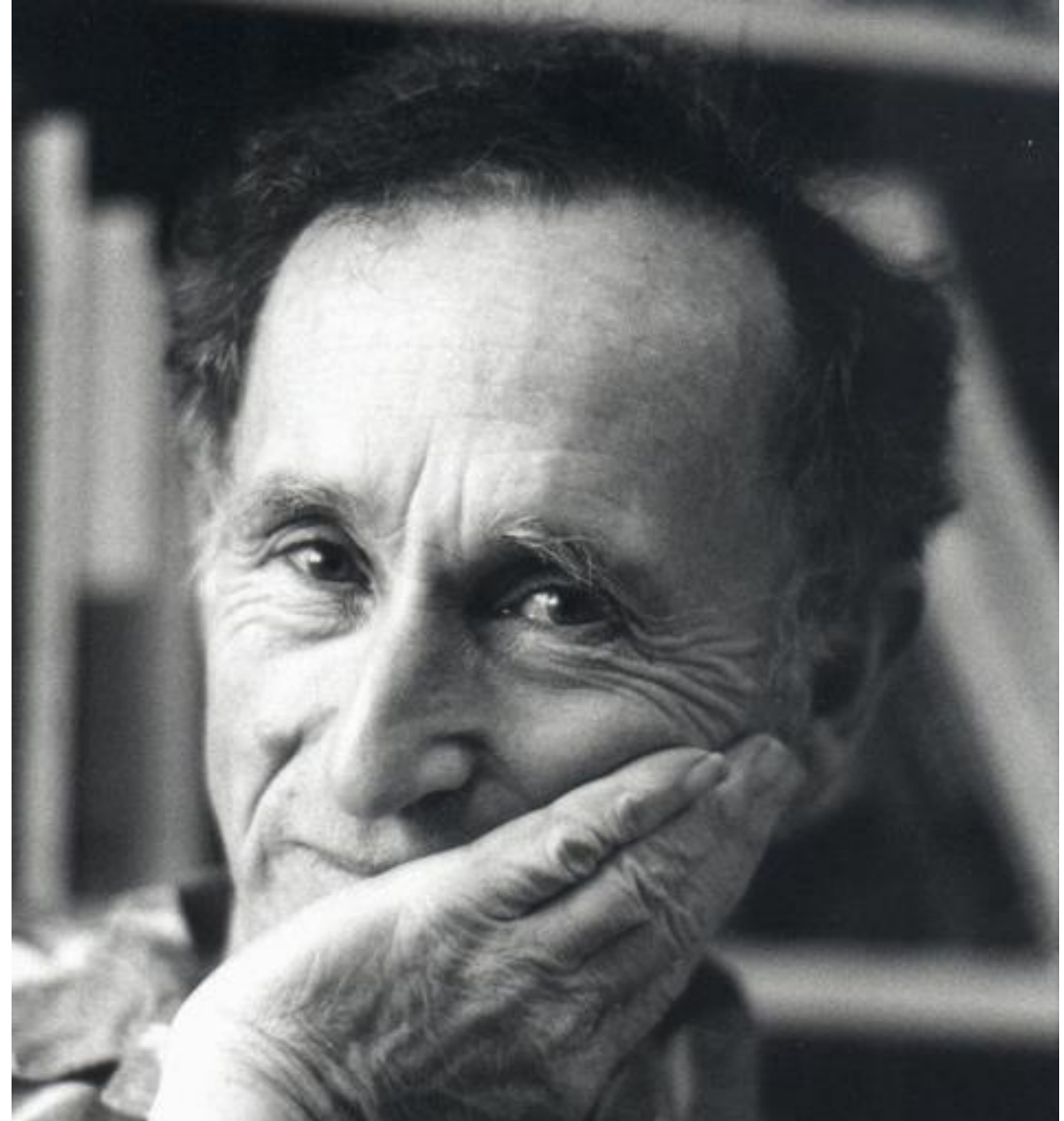


FACULTY OF ARTS
Charles University



WILLIAM LABOV (*1927)

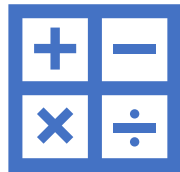
- founder of variationist sociolinguistics



MAIN PRINCIPLES



variation is
systematic



quantitative
approach



social variation

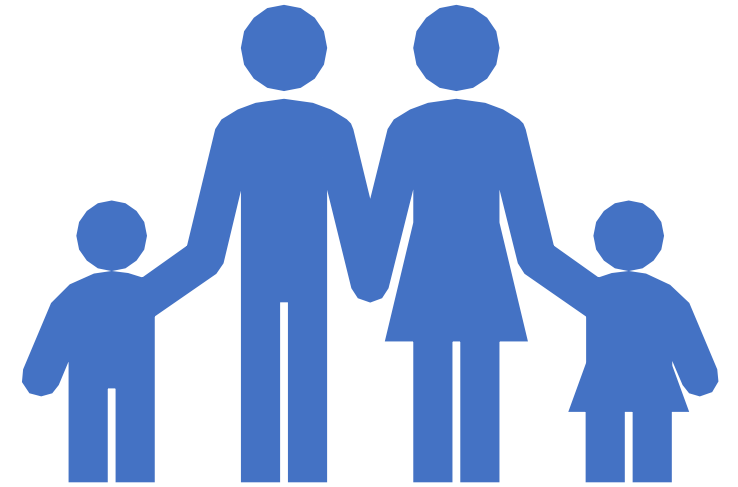


stylistic variation



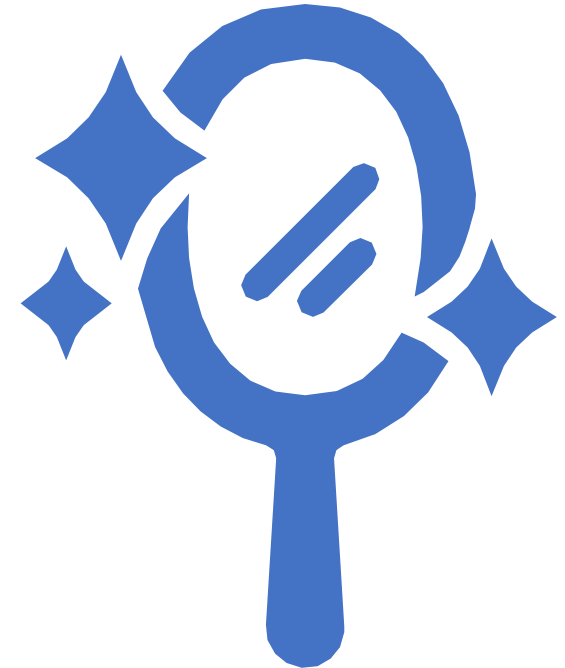
SOCIAL VARIATION

- principle
 - different people speak differently
- factors
 - age
 - gender
 - social class
 - ethnicity

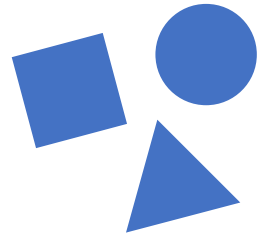


STYLISTIC VARIATION

- principle
 - individuals change the way they speak in different situations
- factors
 - self-monitoring
 - addresse
 - situation
 - identity



LINGUISTIC VARIABLE



abstract unit

concrete values



examples

(ing): /in/ vs. /iŋ/
(ej): /ɛj/ vs. /ej/



READING TIP

- Labov, W. (1972). *Sociolinguistic patterns*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

