

INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO LANGUAGE AND ITS USE II.

Social networks

Jan Chromý



FACULTY OF ARTS
Charles University



SOCIAL NETWORK



ego-net



whole-network



CHARACTERISTICS

density

strength

closeness





WHY NETWORKS?

- Milroy, L. & Gordon, M. (2003). *Sociolinguistics: Method and interpretation*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- advantages (p. 120)
 1. studying small groups where speakers are not discriminable in terms of any kind of social class index
 2. relation to local practices
 3. variation between individuals, not speakers

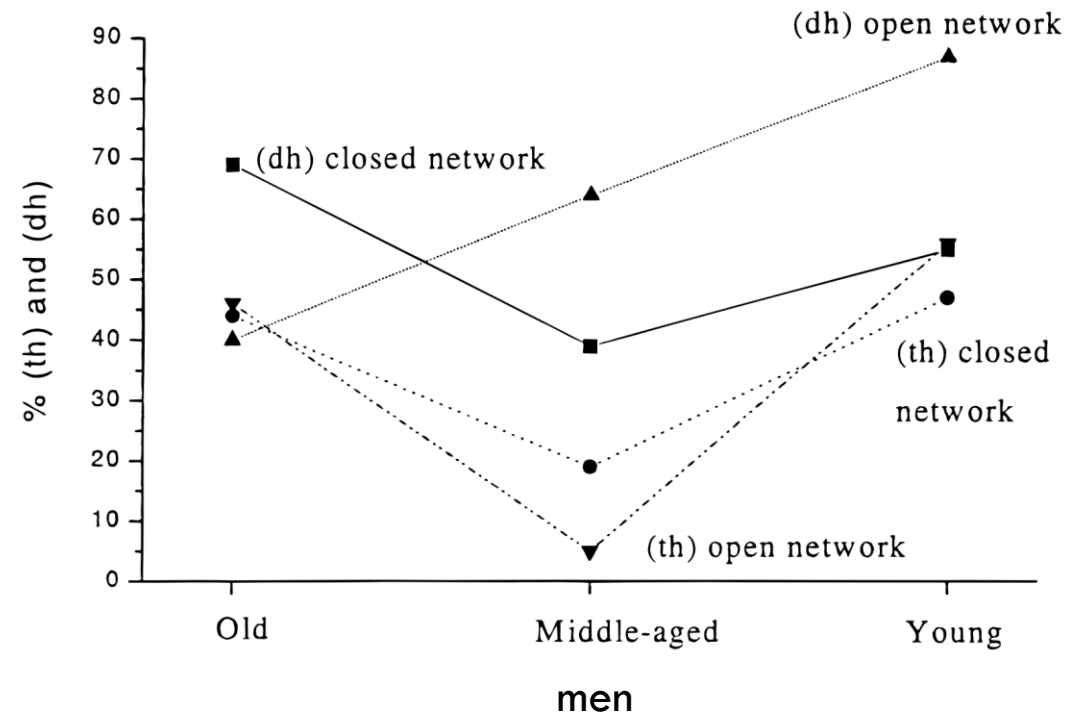
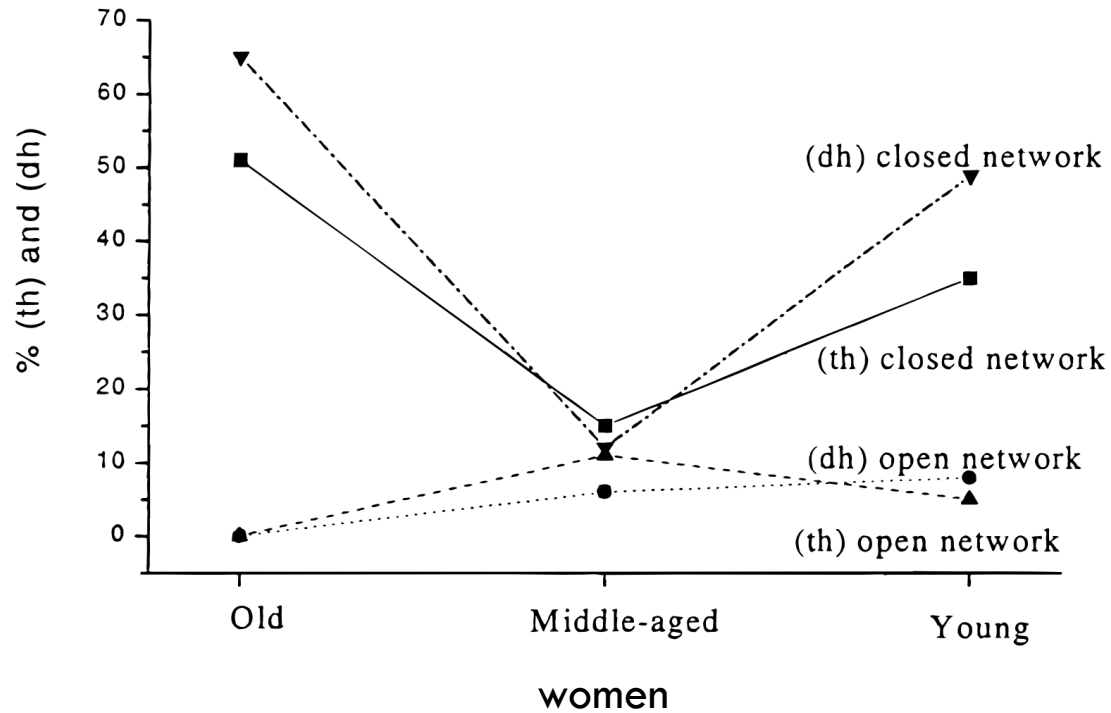


EXAMPLE

- Dubois, S., & Horvath, B. (1999). When the music changes, you change too: Gender and language change in Cajun English. *Language variation and change*, 11(3), 287–313.
- Cajun English
 - French-English bilingual community in Louisiana



DUBOIS & HORVATH (1999)



TENDENCIES AND HYPOTHESES



dense & close networks

resilience to language change
low variation



open networks

spread of variants
dialect levelling



SPREAD OF A CHANGE

- Milroy, J., & Milroy, L. (1985). Linguistic change, social network and speaker innovation. *Journal of linguistics*, 21(2), 339–384.



innovators

individuals with many weak ties
link between different closed networks



early adopters

central members of the community



READING TIP

- Milroy, L. (1987). *Language and Social Networks*. Chichester: Wiley.

