

Linguistic Profiling

based on the definition of Racial Profiling

what's Racial Profiling? It's a form of discrimination practiced by law enforcement, summed up by the phrase "driving while black or brown". Policemen have been shown to draw assumptions based on their perception of people according mainly to the way they looked. This discriminatory practice is based on perceived race, ethnicity, national origins or religion.

So what is Linguistic Profiling?

It's a form of discrimination. And it occurs when a person is denied access to otherwise available goods or services by phone, sight unseen, based exclusively on the sound of the voice.

Demonstrated and proven by the works of Stanford Professor John Baugh.

Video 1

Fair Housing Campaign

raising awareness against housing discrimination

Video 2

West Side Story

terrace apartment/get rid of your accent

Doc

Book of Judges (Bible)

Video 3

Report in Detroit with John Baugh

Linguistic Profiling (follow up)

material for the class:

*video Trump 1

*video Trump 2

we all produce linguistic prejudice

The need to denounce the reality of linguistic profiling/discrimination
in order to promote greater linguistic acceptance as a way to improve social harmony

What has John Baugh's research shown/demonstrated?

Companies (such as real estate agencies) screen calls : they identify the callers as being black or latino
not only real estate agents, but potential employers, loan officers, etc.
and this discrimination, obviously, is against the law

many guess accurately your age, race, sex, ethnicity

many professional speakers (in broadcast, in the media) have stripped their family's cadence in order to
adopt a "Standard American Accent"

Why?

You want to avoid negative reactions

(if you think you don't have an accent, it's because the way you talk never triggered any negative
reactions)

Because every accent has a "color", every accent is implying something else

for example: a British accent in English can imply intelligence, a German accent might imply scientific
knowledge, these are clichés, of course, but accents imply these notions.

So your accent, the way you talk/sound, depends on the accident of your birth...

Keeping your accent might show a respect for your ancestors...

FINAL RECAP

-Video Colbert

shame made him change the way he talks (without a Southern Accent)

-Video : Disney Profiling

based on studies by sociolinguist Calvin Gidney

we started the class by looking at language learners

native speakers look upon those who speak their language with an accent as foreigners, outsiders,

therefore non-natives are :

- * less intelligent

- *less educated

- *possessing poor English skills

accents stigmatize a group

THE MYTH OF NON ACCENT

as defined by the works of Lippi-Green

a standard language is a myth (elite groups)

metaphor: your language seen as a HOUSE

birth→adulthood

a sound house

we can change the decoration

we can tear down walls

we can fix a room, etc.

no one is free from the “standard language” ideology

a myth justifies social order

a myth operates without us being aware of this fact

standard language? It's an idea, not a reality

standard is subjective

what do we call accent in the first place ? What makes 1st language and 2nd language different

how can we fool ourselves so much about languages?

the standard language myth?

It's like describing a unicorn

standard = newspaper / broadcast / “taught”

language can define you as clearly as the color of your skin

the way you talk only depends on an accident, that is the accident of your birth

an accent might show a respect for your ancestors

language profiling is against the law but it's harder to prove than racism

Fiction and Accents

How fiction uses “shorthands” to define characters

>the example of Disney (watch the video)

good/evil (good being represented by Standard American English, evil being the foreign accent, often the British one, also reflecting intelligence and elegance)

identify the inferior characters with a myriad of accents

The racism of a storytelling that identifies characters with accents with characters with flaws

NB

the concept of **tokenism** (tricky to fully comprehend)

Generally speaking, tokenism is about including someone in a group purely for the sake of sounding or looking diverse. Tokenism is not genuine—it's keeping up appearances.