

PSY474H5F - Children's Perception of Language Variation

Delivery Method: IN-PERSON

Schedule: WED 12:00pm – 3:00pm

Room Location: MN3160 (Maanjiwe Nendamowinan)

Contact Information

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Teaching Assistant:
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Office Hours (over zoom):

Wednesday 4 to 5, or by appointment

Meeting ID: 943 293 2730

Passcode: sgavGN

Email policy: Emails will be answered promptly, within 24 to 48 working day hours (working days exclude weekends, holidays, and sick days).

Course Description

Human language comes in many different varieties, and most children encounter multiple languages and/or accents early in life. How do infants cope with language variation? When do children first learn to tell apart the accents and languages spoken to them? What does it mean to be monolingual or bilingual? Why do children favor speaking the accent (or language) of their community over the accent (or language) spoken in their home? How does exposure to more than one accent (or language) affect the way children process spoken language? How does attention to how others speak help children navigate their social world? What is linguistic discrimination, and how does it develop? These are just a few of the questions we will address in this seminar course. Students will be expected to complete the assigned readings and view online lecture content before class each week to ensure they can participate fully in classroom discussions.

Reading Material

This seminar class will involve a fair bit of reading (please check course webpage for most up to date reading list). In addition to articles, we will read the following book (available on Amazon for less than \$25):

Kinzler, K.D. (2020). *Why you talk the way you do – and what it says about you*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this class, students will:

- understand contemporary questions and debates in the field
- practice reading and interpreting scientific articles on language use and perception
- gain a better understanding of how language use and experience impact daily life
- gain experience communicating scientific ideas verbally and in writing

Course Evaluation

Oral presentations (25%)
Response papers (45%)
Class participation (5%)
Final term test (25%)

Each student will give two to three oral presentations over the course of the semester (depending on class size). Dates for presenting will be determined in the first few weeks of class. All students will be required to submit response papers throughout the semester (see syllabus for due dates, see webpage for detailed instructions), due by 10 AM the day of class. Your mark will be based on the top 5 response paper marks submitted during the semester. Note that students will need to complete that week's assigned reading and online lecture materials before writing the thought papers. Class participation marks will be based on the quantity and quality of contributions made to class discussions/ activities.

Course Webpage

The website associated with this course is accessible via <http://q.utoronto.ca>

Note: You don't need to create a new login for Quercus; it already knows who you are. You just need your UTORid and password. This is the same login that gets you onto the wireless network with your laptop, and the same one that you use to check your email. If you're confused about your UTORid or don't remember your password, go to: <https://www.utorid.utoronto.ca/>

In order to access course material, monitor course information, and view your grades you must log into Quercus. If you have any general questions regarding Quercus, please visit the [help site](#).

Student Tech Requirements and Connection Tools

- [Recommended tech requirements for online learning](#)
- [UTM Library Learn Anywhere resource website](#)

IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES **PLEASE READ**

Missed Test Special Consideration Request Process

Students who miss a test due to circumstances beyond their control (e.g. illness or an accident) can request that the Department grant them special consideration. Students must present their case to the Department (NOT the Instructor) by submitting a request via the online Special Consideration Request form at: <https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest>.

Important note: If you sit down and receive a test, you will **NOT** be able to receive special consideration.

If your request is approved by the department, a make-up test will be offered. You will receive an email when a make-up date has been arranged. The department will try to give 2-3 days notice of make-up date, however this is sometimes is not possible. **Be prepared for the make-up.**

Extension of Time Special Consideration Request Process

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete their term work beyond the due date without penalty, owing to circumstances beyond their control (e.g., illness, or an accident), must do so by submitting a request **directly to the Instructor** for the period up to and including the last day of the term. The decision as to whether or not to apply a penalty for the specified period rests with the Instructor.

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete term work beyond the last day of the term must submit their request directly to the Department. This request covers the period following the last day of classes and ends the last day of the exam period. This is done by submitting a request via the online Special Consideration Request form at <https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest>. You are advised to seek advising by the departmental Undergraduate Counsellor prior to the deadline.

Supporting Documentation

The University is temporarily suspending the need for a doctor's note or medical certificate for any absence from academic participation. However, you are required to use the Absence Declaration tool on ACORN found in the Profile and Settings menu to formally declare an absence from academic participation. The tool is to be used if you require consideration for missed academic work based on the procedures specific to our campus/department.

Missed Final Exam or Extension of Time beyond exam period

Missed final exams or for extensions of time beyond the examination period you must submit a petition through the [Office of the Registrar](#) and follow their procedures.

Penalties for Lateness

A penalty of 10% per calendar day (i.e., including weekends and holidays, during which students are not able to submit term work) up to and including the last day of classes, will be applied by the Instructor. After the last day of classes, the penalty of 10% per calendar day will be applied by the Undergraduate Counsellor on behalf of the Department. No penalty will be assigned if request for special consideration, described above, was successful.

Academic Guidelines

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met all prerequisites listed in the UTM Calendar for this course. If you lack any prerequisites you WILL BE REMOVED from the course up until the last day to add a course. Further information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates and credits can be found in the [University of Toronto Mississauga Calendar](#).

You are encouraged to read this material. If you run into trouble and need advice about studying, preparing for exams, note taking or time management, free workshops and advice are available from the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre at 905-828-5406.

AccessAbility Services

The University provides academic accommodations for students with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Human Rights Code. This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the University's courses and programs. Students requiring academic accommodations for learning, physical, sensory, or mental health disabilities or medical conditions should contact the [AccessAbility Office](#) (2037B Davis Building), 905-828-3847.

Privacy and Copyright Disclaimer

Option 1: Notice of video recording and sharing (Download and re-use prohibited)

This course, including your participation, will *might at times* be recorded or streamed and made available to students in the course for viewing remotely. If the lecture is being recorded or streamed, you will be informed at the beginning of class. Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation, and are protected by copyright. Do not download, copy, or share any course or student materials or videos without the explicit permission of the instructor. For

questions about recording and use of videos in which you appear please contact your instructor.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto Mississauga is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, UTM treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously.

The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters outlines behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the process for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

1. Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
2. Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
3. Making up sources or facts.
4. Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

On tests and exams:

1. Using or possessing unauthorized aids.
2. Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test.
3. Misrepresenting your identity.

In academic work:

1. Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
2. Falsifying or altering any documentation required, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

With regard to remote learning and online courses, UTM wishes to remind students that they are expected to adhere to **the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters** regardless of the course delivery method. By offering students the opportunity to learn remotely, UTM expects that students will maintain the same academic honesty and integrity that they would in a classroom setting. Potential academic offences in a digital context include, but are not limited to:

Remote assessments:

1. Accessing unauthorized resources (search engines, chat rooms, Reddit, etc.) for assessments.
2. Using technological aids (e.g. software) beyond what is listed as permitted in an assessment.
3. Posting test, essay, or exam questions to message boards or social media.
4. Creating, accessing, and sharing assessment questions and answers in virtual "course groups."
5. Working collaboratively, in-person or online, with others on assessments that are expected to be completed individually.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

Academic Rights

You, as a student at UTM, have the right to:

- Receive a syllabus by the first day of class.
- Rely upon a syllabus once a course is started. An instructor may only change marks' assignments by following the University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy provision 1.3.

- Refuse to use turnitin.com (you must be offered an alternative form of submission).
- Have access to your instructor for consultation during a course or follow up with the department chair if the instructor is unavailable.
- Ask the person who marked your term work for a re-evaluation if you feel it was not fairly graded. You have up to one month from the date of return of the item to inquire about the mark. If you are not satisfied with a re-evaluation, you may appeal to the instructor in charge of the course if the instructor did not mark the work. If your work is remarked, you must accept the resulting mark. You may only appeal a mark beyond the instructor if the term work was worth at least 20% of the course mark.
- Receive at least one significant mark (15% for H courses, 25% for Y courses) before the last day you can drop a course for H courses, and the last day of classes in the first week of January for Y courses taught in the Fall/Winter terms.
- Submit handwritten essays so long as they are neatly written.
- Have no assignment worth 100% of your final grade.
- Not have a term test worth more than 25% in the last two weeks of class.
- Retain intellectual property rights to your research.
- Receive all your assignments once graded.
- View your final exams. To see a final exam, you must submit an online Exam Reproduction Request within 6 months of the exam. There is a small non-refundable fee.
- Privacy of your final grades.
- Arrange for representation from Downtown Legal Services (DLS), a representative from the UTM Students' Union (UTMSU), and/or other forms of support if you are charged with an academic offence.

Equity Statement

The University of Toronto is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a course instructor, I will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns you may contact the UTM Equity and Diversity officer at edo.utm@utoronto.ca or the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union Vice President Equity at vpequity@utmsu.ca.

Course Outline

Please note that this outline is subject to change depending on the needs of the class (we may need additional time to cover a topic). Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class one week before. However, the assignment and test dates are fixed. Please keep an eye on the course webpage to ensure you do not miss any required video content for this course.

Date	Topic	Assignments Due
September 14	Introduction	
September 21	Accent Variation	Best et al., 2009 (Thought paper #1)
September 28	Accent Variation	Buckler et al., 2017 (Thought paper #2)
October 2	Infant Multilingualism	Kandhadai et al., 2014 (Thought paper #3)
October 11 – 14	Reading Week (No classes)	
October 19	Childhood Multilingualism	Fibla et al., 2022 (Thought paper #4)
October 26	Input/ Output	Newport, 1990 (Thought paper #5)
November 2	Language Bias	Kozlowski, 2015 (Thought paper #6)
November 9	Language Bias Continued	St. Pierre & Johnson, 2020 (Thought paper #7)
November 16	Language Bias Continued	Kinzler, 2020* (Thought paper #8)
November 23	Student Presentations	STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
November 30	Language Loss/ Retention	Singh & Seet, 2019
December 7	Final Term Test	FINAL TERM PAPER DUE

**The reading for this class looks light at first glance but note that Kinzler 2020 is a book, not an article! You will also be expected to do additional readings not listed on this syllabus to complete your presentations and final term paper.*