

# Final Exam

## Linguistics 220 - "Language & Society"

### Overview

The goal of the final exam is to give you a chance to show how many of the issues we have been studying this quarter (and particularly since the midterm) are actually realized in everyday conversation. Hence, you will be doing a conversation analysis. You have been given a recording of an actual conversation between two participants and a written transcript of the conversation. Your task is to listen to the conversation as many times as you wish and write out an analysis of the conversation with respect to the social context in which it occurs. Minimally, your essay should answer the following questions.

- Socially, what is the (primary) goal of this conversation?
- What are the participants' individual goals and how do they tie in with the goal(s) of the conversation?
- What specific features of the conversation and/or each participants' speech lead you to these conclusions?

### Guidelines

The test is open book and open note. And, for what it's worth, because you have your own networked computer to work on, I guess the test is also open net.

You may either write the paper by hand, or type it on the computer.

The transcript has line numbers printed on it, so you can merely refer to the transcript in your paper (e.g., "see lines 5-7") rather than type out the transcript.

Because the paper must be completed in just 2 hours, I will not be a stickler about formatting issues. Rather, I will focus on the content: the actual analysis. As long as it's clear what specific part of the conversation you're referring to, it should be fine. If it's really necessary to quote some part of the conversation, then italics should be good enough (e.g., "notice how speaker A says *soda* instead of *pop*").

I encourage you to refer to published studies and investigations, or other material we have studied during the quarter in order to show how your analysis has a firm foundation. If you're going to say something about how the participants take turns, then you might need to reference Sacks, et al (1974), or if you want to make a point about how someone has violated the *cooperational principle*, then you should cite Grice (1975). I don't care much, though, about the particular style (MLA, Chicago, etc.) you use as long as it is consistent. Also, although this is probably not academically prudent, in the interest of maximizing time for writing the analysis, I'll let you skip the bibliography.

As far as the length of the paper is concerned, I expect it will be hard to give a proper analysis in less than three full pages (double-spaced). Four or five pages should be enough to maximize analysis in the minimal time allowed.