

Факультет гуманитарных наук
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The emergence of sociolinguistics: where, when and why?

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Why is it studied?

 The key idea is to explain reasons for speaking differently in different social situations and how language is used to convey a social meaning





Welsh signs







Why is it studied?

- The media's promotion of sociolinguistics creates a buzz of interest around the topic, leading the public to take an interest into sociolinguistics;
- Examining the way in which people use language in different social contexts can begin to explain how language works and the workings of social relationships in a community.



When and where?

- First attempt: Indian language 50BC
- 19th and 20th centuries: dialectology
- Indian and Japanese linguists: first conducted study into relationship between language and society in the 1930s
- 1952: the term 'sociolinguistics' was coined by Haver Currier
- 1960: western scholars, such as William Labov and Basil Bernstein became interested in sociolinguistics



Reasons (1)

- the contradiction between the linguistic postulates and the reality;
- all languages are equal in terms of structure; all speakers have similar language skills;
- in real life languages are not equal in their functions and status; some people have better command of the language than the other.



Reasons (2)

- sociolinguistics appeared in response to social needs;
- the process of decolonization.





Спасибо за внимание!

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