

Research Article

Major Comparison between Linguistics and Sociology

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the interrelationship between linguistics and sociology, which are the two pivotal fields within social sciences that significantly influence human communication and behavior in different social aspects. It provides a comparative analysis of both disciplines, aiming to clarify commonalities and divergences in their approaches to understanding language and social dynamics. Definitions and central concepts from each field are examined, emphasizing their complementary nature in shaping social identities and interactions. The research identifies key issues, methodologies, and significant theories that illustrate how language functions as a social tool, reflecting cultural norms and societal structures. By highlighting the importance of sociolinguistics, the study underscores the necessity for a holistic understanding of how language and society influence one another in the domain of social background. The findings advocate for enhanced educational frameworks to support students in these disciplines, ultimately contributing to a deeper comprehension of human communication within social contexts.

KEYWORDS: *Linguistics, Sociology, Sociolinguistics, Human Language, Society.*

Introduction

Linguistics and sociology, as two major concepts of social sciences, have a significant role in the realm of human beings. Both linguistics and sociology are interconnected to complete the communication process. In this study, thus, the researcher is going to comparatively examine linguistics and sociology, which are recurring throughout the present research. We introduce the authentic and general definitions of the terms and try to equip the readers, particularly students of the English department, who have pursued the field of language and linguistics. The study also will insist on comparison of linguistics as a science that deals with human languages in general, including its historical, comparative, and descriptive or its relationship with other related fields or its structural aspects and so on, with the most valuable field which is sociology or the study of social life, social change, and social behavior in general (Ashtyani, 2005). At the same time, the two terms would be described through the use and evaluation of various theories that are related to the fields. We also summarize key issues and indicate where they have a comparison, the issues that will be explored in more detail later in the research thesis. Similarly, the research considers the definitions of the most central concepts of linguistics and sociology and then compares them individually by bringing the features of each of the terms. For instance, for the features of linguistics, there are some specific terms such as phonetics and phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, applied linguistics, and many other components that are presented in linguistics (Meyer, 2009). On the other hand, sociology is concerned with the interaction of humans with each other in the broad sense. Hasham (2015, p.5) stated, "Sociology is the study of social phenomena, which is concerned with human and social reactions". According to her, sociology defines the similarities and differences of social patterns in the realm of human life. Furthermore, no unique and comprehensive definition of sociology covers the term completely. Sociology also

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helps us to have a new professional outlook on our social environment and get out of the normal and ordinary landscapes (Azadmanish, 2016). For both sociology and linguistics, the subject matter is society. In linguistics, we deal with the study of human language, while sociology is concentrated on the study of social life and its changes among social individuals. As a social science, sociology has always had a strong relationship with linguistics because of the interdisciplinary nature of these two fields. For instance, [Farrokhpey \(2006, p.1\)](#) defines human language as “the collection of sentences that a fluent speaker can produce if he had time, energy and motivation.” He added that human language is not complete by an individual due to physical and psychological limitations and can produce and comprehend only a small part of their entire language. According to him, the human language includes three components such as 1) the phonological components or sound system of a language that is used by a particular group of people, 2) the syntactic components or structures of a language that puts human language in the correct order to make it more meaningful, and 3) the semantic component or meaning. All components of human language are very significant in conveying messages during the communication process. Hence, all the stated factors convinced us to explore human language in society because it is a social phenomenon. Sociology and linguistics, likewise, apparently seem different, but they are deeply connected due to social phenomena. It is also the society in which human language is processed in various aspects; otherwise, if there were no society, there would be no language either. So, these two disciplines have always been in a complementary distribution.

Problem Statement

The comparative understanding of linguistics and sociology presents a significant challenge for students and scholars in these fields. Although both disciplines play crucial roles in exploring human communication and social behavior, their interconnections are often overlooked or misunderstood. Linguistics focuses on the structure, usage, and evolution of language, while sociology examines social behavior, cultural norms, and the dynamics of human interactions. This lack of clarity can lead to misconceptions and an incomplete grasp of how language functions within social contexts. Therefore, the present study aims to address these gaps by systematically analyzing the intersections and divergences between linguistics and sociology. It will explore the theoretical frameworks and methodologies employed by each field to enhance the understanding of human interaction. Additionally, the research will identify key issues that arise from the interplay between language and society, emphasizing the need for an integrated approach to these disciplines. By illuminating the complexities of their relationship, this study seeks to foster a deeper comprehension of how linguistic and sociological factors influence one another, ultimately contributing to more effective communication and social understanding. In both society and language, the fields reflect and shape social identities, relationships, and dynamics are prescribed to show the interconnectivity of the two disciplines. In cultural contexts and backgrounds, these two fields are trying to find out the influences of language use, social behavior, and implications of cross-cultural communication and understanding. And lastly, applications and implications of linguistics and sociology, which refer to practical applications in terms of linguistics and sociology. This study considers a deeper understanding of the interrelationships between language and society to more holistic approaches in the fields of linguistic and social research.

Research Objectives

Considering the problems of English language students in terms of linguistics and sociology, there is a need to study these two disciplines comparatively to enhance the knowledge of not only language, of course social science students.

The objectives of the research are stated below:

- 1) To identify the factors that are common in these two fields.
- 2) To highlight the significant issues that are presented in the fields of linguistics and sociology.

- 3) To reveal some specific procedures and usages of the terms that are stated in these two disciplines, comparatively.

Literature Review

Linguistics and sociology, as two broad majors, have been playing an important role in human development and human life over time because of the interconnectivity that exists in these two social fields. Both terms, linguistics and sociology, are complementary distributions and have a deep connectivity with each other. [Yule \(2010, p.344\)](#) describes that “people who live in different countries, speak different languages as well”. For instance, when an American student goes abroad, he/she will learn the grammar and vocabulary of that particular language through successful communication. He also added that all members of different cultures in the world do not speak different languages, but also have different ways of using the language they speak in certain cultural backgrounds. The speakers, thus, who live in the same country and speak the same language can also have different assumptions about what to say and how to say it, depending on their ethnic groups and social backgrounds like geographic region, gender, and other social factors that are presented in society ([Yule, 2010](#)). Also, it exists among a group of people who use the tool for specific purposes. For Yule, every language around the globe has come into contact with other human languages to interact and exchange their messages. For instance, the Persian language borrowed several words from Arabic, English contains numerous words borrowed from French, and so on. [Saville-Troike \(2006\)](#) also states that it is very significant to understand the needs of language speakers to know how they communicate effectively and appropriately within a particular language community. It is not enough that language speakers only know and interact with the vocabulary, phonology, grammar, and other aspects of linguistic structures (although they are the most important components of human language); also, it is important to know to whom, with what, and how to say in a suitable situation. Social and cultural knowledge of speakers is also important to interpret the forms of linguistics. Furthermore, [Dai and He \(2001, pp.111-112\)](#) stated that “there is a sub-branch of linguistics which is called sociolinguistics”. According to them, in sociolinguistics, we describe the relation between language and society, and /or between the uses of a particular language and the social structures in which the users of language live. [Larsen-Freeman & Anderson \(2011\)](#) describes that there are many indications of the inter-relationship between language and society in the broad sense. One of them is when a language is used to transfer meaning to listeners and maintain social relationships. Another indication, likewise, is the users of the same language who speak differently in the kind of language used in society, and the speakers who use their language based on their social background. So, language in such cases reveals information about its speakers. Language, as the structure of its lexicon, reflects both the physical and social environments of a society. Moreover, Language as a social phenomenon is closely related to the structure of society in which it is used, and all features of linguistic form are completely social. Similarly, our knowledge of language is created and produced within a group of society, either to speak or write. For instance, the language used in society is combining words and phrases to form sentences in a social community, not elsewhere. It is society that develops language in all aspects. [Poole \(1999\)](#) clarified that not only does the structure of a language develop in a society, but also a person’s speech can relate as well. He describes that people who speak in the city are different from those who live in the surrounding rural areas. Also, of relevance to our speech is whether we are a man or a woman, specifically within a group of society that they belong to a particular language. Language and society are dependent on each other and go forward to complete the communication process. Moreover, it is a society that uses language as a tool of interaction in different forms to transfer its thoughts and ideas among its other. [Fromkin et al \(2014, p.279\)](#) explain that “every language speaker uses language to understand and understand one another, and no two of us speak exactly alike.” They believe some differences are the result of age, sex, social situation, and where and when the language was learned in the social context. For them, the pronunciation of words, word choices, and grammatical rules are other issues to consider as language and society have inter-relationships with each other. If we consider the

language of an individual speaker with its unique characteristics, it is referred to as idiolect. For instance, in English, there are 450 million to 850 million idiolects ([Fromkin et al, 2014](#)).

Research Methodology

This study aims to explore the interrelationships between linguistics and sociology, focusing on how each discipline approaches the study of language within a social context during the communication process. The study employed a qualitative method to comprehensively analyze these two fields in terms of their mutual influence. Then the literature review has identified to gather related existing theories, frameworks, and findings related to the relationship between language and society to show the related academic journals, books in both sociology and linguistics. Moreover, identifying the key themes in the current literature is discussed to highlight the previous studies of language and society through an analysis of academic publications and books from both disciplines to quantify the levels of shared concepts and terminologies. Selection of sampling is also considered by utilizing updated and related academic resources, which have more similarities with the present study; then the collected information is analyzed thematically to specify the recurring themes that are correlated between linguistic and sociological concepts. All information is arranged to obtain and understand the purpose of the scope of the research and ensure data security throughout the research process. Eventually, there are some limitations, like insufficient updated resources and books in terms of sociology and linguistics. Lastly, to conclude, the methodology of the present study aims to provide a structured approach to comparing linguistics and sociology to contribute to a deeper understanding of the roles of language and society in shaping human communication and interaction.

Findings

This study highlights several key findings regarding the interrelationship between linguistics and sociology, emphasizing their interconnected roles in human communication and social behavior:

1. **Complementary Nature:** Linguistics and sociology are fundamentally interconnected, with each discipline informing and enhancing the understanding of the other. Linguistics focuses on language structures and their functions within society, while sociology examines social behaviors and cultural norms, illustrating how language serves as a tool for social interaction.
2. **Key Concepts and Definitions:** The study identifies and clarifies central concepts in both fields. Linguistics encompasses components such as phonetics, syntax, and semantics, while sociology addresses social phenomena, including cultural practices and group interactions. This comparative analysis aids in understanding how each field contributes to the broader narrative of human behavior.
3. **Sociolinguistic Insights:** The findings underscore the significance of sociolinguistics as a subfield that bridges linguistics and sociology. It illustrates how language reflects and influences social identities, power dynamics, and cultural contexts. Language variation across different social groups highlights the impact of factors like age, gender, and ethnicity on communication practices.
4. **Social Functions of Language:** Language is found to be a vital mechanism for conveying social norms, values, and identities. It not only facilitates communication but also shapes societal interactions and relationships. The study reveals that without an understanding of language, one cannot fully grasp the complexities of social structures and human interactions.
5. **Implications for Education:** The research advocates for a more integrated educational approach that combines linguistics and sociology. It suggests that students benefit from understanding the interplay between language and social contexts, which can enhance their comprehension of both fields and their applications in real-world scenarios.

6. **Future Research Directions:** The findings highlight the need for further interdisciplinary studies that explore the nuances of language and society. By examining the intersections of linguistics and sociology, future research can contribute to a more holistic understanding of human communication and its social implications.

These findings collectively emphasize the importance of recognizing the interdependence of linguistics and sociology in studying human communication and social behavior, providing a foundation for further exploration and education in these fields.

What is linguistics?

The field of linguistics, according to [Akmajian \(2010, p.5\)](#), “is the scientific study of human natural language, and is an exciting field of study with an important impact on the fields of education, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, philosophy, and so on.” He describes linguistics as the scientific study of all languages of the world, involving not only a particular language but human languages in general. The term also studies language as a universal and recognizable aspect of human behavior to explain and analyze human language phenomena in the fields of language forms and their manifestations, and aims to consider a scientific understanding of the place and uses of human language in society. In addition, the term tries to organize and fulfill the needs it serves, and the functions it performs among the language speakers. Indeed, the field of linguistics is related more or less to all other disciplines because it’s the crucial means to explain the features of all of them. Among other fields, linguistics has a deep relationship with sociolinguistics because of its uses and societal development. Similarly, considering different aspects of all languages, including the origin, organization, nature, and development of language, descriptively, historically, comparatively, and comparatively formulates the general rules related to language depending on the terms of linguistics. On the other hand, it is the science that illustrates and classifies all languages of the world without any exceptions among them. Also, it is linguistics to identify and classify the units of language patterns, including structures and usages. For instance, it describes “the sound system, the words and morphemes, the phrases and sentences, the meaning and the structures of a language, as completely, accurately, and economically as possible” ([Gut, 2009, p.23](#)). Thus, the term describes the nature and components of human languages to reveal and analyze the complexity of all languages scientifically. Some of these methods and observations, likewise, are included, such as language skills, phonetic transcription, and the use of various instruments, like “oscillograph, mimeograph, endoscope, sonograph, auto phonoscope, breathing flask, electric vocal tract, formant graphing machine, etc.” ([Varshney, 1977, p.13](#)). Similarly, to record the various components of linguistic science, there are many kinds of objects to be described and evaluated in a better way. Like a scientist, a linguist has their language laboratory and tries to develop hypotheses to recognize the reality of human language phenomena. For instance, for the statement on language, a linguist always refers to providing his information based on observation and verification in terms of hypotheses and formulated events.

The scope of linguistics

Broadly speaking, linguistics is the science of human language, which seeks to answer questions such as what language is. What are the subject matters of linguistics in language, considering how to study this significant social phenomenon, and so on? Generally, it is the expression of human thought, and all thought is expressed through language phenomena, which are used in society; hence, all knowledge of the universe may fall within linguistics because it is the primary means of describing everything on our globe. “Yet the science of linguistics has got to be a systematic discipline” (Celce-Murcia et al, 2014, p.72). He states that linguistics is the science that provides logical answers to some basic questions regarding language phenomena. For instance, what kind of behavior in society does the linguist want to investigate to find a suitable answer? Or what is the territory of the linguistic phenomenon? A linguist also attempts to describe language and its changes in a social context. So, all

such reasons reflect that linguistics plays a vital role in expressing ideas and thoughts about human behavior. Also, a linguist concentrates at any time on one of the many different interrelated aspects of his subject matter, which is presented in a language. The subject matter of a linguist is broadly speaking, the data of language, the facts of language as it is spoken and written in a social context. Moreover, according to [Kortmann \(2020, p.4\)](#), “the scope of linguistics is a full understanding of the various components of language and their relations with the rest of the world outside language.” Similarly, the scope of linguistics is broad as it is a complex phenomenon that includes different aspects of a language, such as “phonetics and phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, and stylistics, amongst others” ([Crystal, 2003, p.407](#)). He describes linguistics as multidisciplinary and has many varied specializations, which include sociolinguistics, computational linguistics, applied linguistics, psycholinguistics, anthropological linguistics, philosophical linguistics, and others. Also, the term deals with the basic concepts of language, including methods, descriptions, and theories, that are applicable in any linguistics study, in contrast to those branches of study that relate linguistics to the research of other areas ([Dai & He, 2001](#)).

Thus, language is not a separate social phenomenon that entirely connects people to their environment to solve their social problems. Naturally, over time, the study of language has established close links with other branches of social studies, resulting in some interdisciplinary branches of linguistic study. Similarly, it is linguistics includes all manifestations of human language in different social hierarchies over time. It is not the responsibility of a linguist to consider only correct speech and explain the forms of expressions; of course, he is responsible for studying all the components of all human languages as well. In addition to other elements of a language, a linguist tries to observe speech by considering written texts and analyzing the usages of related expressions. Similarly, according to [Gumperz & Levinson \(1999\)](#), the scope of linguistics should be contained: a) to describe and trace the history of all observable languages of the world, which amounts to tracing the history of families of languages and reconstructing as far as possible the mother tongue of each family; b) to indicate the forces that are permanently and universally at work in all languages, and to deduce the general laws to which all specific historical phenomena can be reduced; and c) to delimit and define itself in a group of society. All such components of linguistics describe that the domains of the field are broad. It is linguistics answers any type of question related to the language phenomenon because the domains of the field are very broad and have a close relationship with all other disciplines. Moreover, it is linguistics to define and analyze every social phenomenon, particularly human language. Thus, without linguistics, there is no other field to explain human language and its structure precisely. The scope of linguistics is similar to the wave of water, which starts from a specific spot and periodically continues its domain forward. For instance, the first spot is phonetics and phonology, the other one is morphology, and the next one is syntax, semantics, and pragmatics, and then starts the relationship of linguistics and other fields like sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, and so on.

What is sociology?

Broadly speaking, sociology is the systems of the daily life of society and how society behaves in a particular geographical region. Barez (2005) defines sociology as a science that observes, experiments, and researches the reactions of social life and social phenomena of the environment with a scientific method, and describes and classifies them, and with the help of analytical methods and the help of scientific methods, it understands the causal relationship of those phenomena. In other words, sociology is a science that discusses the behavior and temperament of human beings and culture, i.e. the sum of their social heritages and traditions, from a socio-economic, political, religious, educational, and legal point of view, and after comparing different societies, it expresses the factors affecting the progress and evolution of some societies and the causes of backwardness in other societies with a scientific method. In this way, it takes the help of the sciences of psychology, economics, politics, and most importantly, history. Moreover, Kafi (2006, pp.19-20) describes that “sociology is the scientific study of human interaction and studies the behavior of human groups.” Whenever a human being responds to

the actions of other human beings, human interaction occurs, we understand the meaning of the actions of others and react to them according to our interpretation of the behavior of others, our action becomes a stimulus for the other person, and as a result, he in turn reacts to our actions, from a sociological point of view, every human interaction has a pattern and is repetitive, so at the same time social interaction is predictable. Similarly, sociology as a social science deals with all social behaviors in general and provides scientific answers to those questions that are related to social abnormalities within a group of society.

What is society?

The term society refers to a group of individuals living together in a more or less ordered community in a particular geographical area, often sharing common cultural and social institutions, values, and norms (Tavassoli & Fazel, 2017). It is the structure of relationships within which culture is created and shared through regular interactions among its members. Thus, the term society is an entity that includes individuals who share relationships based on mutual cultural and geographical interests, in which individuals internalize social norms and values. In general, sociologists' efforts to consider and analyze individuals' behaviors to understand the smaller groups of individuals and how they live together and continue their mutual relationships in different social aspects, like cooperation, competition, and conflict, in the social contexts over time. Such a relationship of individuals creates society. In addition, there is a blood relationship between parents and children, brothers and sisters, and other kinship terms. Kafi (2006, p.38) defines "A society as a population that occupies a common land, is subject to common political authority, and shares a common culture". According to him, there are two types of definitions for the term society: structural and functional definitions. In a structural definition, the social identity of a group of individuals is considered, while in a functional one, the behaviors are the subject matter for a sociologist. It does not mean that these two are isolated from one another – they are interrelated. For instance, Sabori (2002, p.12) explains the structural view of society refers to a structure that includes "the social heritage of folkways, mores, ideals, institutions, and habits." While functional views refer to social relationships and how they are acting in their life interdependently to help each other in completing their wishes. Similarly, a society contains both structural and functional units. It is also an organization that has a common interest in the continuation of its life and in arranging its rules and regulations during the past of time. In other words, pieces of society are individuals who have a common system and not a group of people only. A society without awareness and social relationships could be no society because it is a significant and complex network that takes place in sociology (Zandjani Zadeh, 1997, p.48). He stated that lots of factors could be considered, including "population, interdependence, cooperation, conflict, and cultural distinctiveness, contribute to its dynamic nature and ongoing evolution over time." Understanding different aspects of society is essential for comprehending human behavior and interactions in the broader social context as a system of human life.

The importance of sociology

The term sociology deals with individuals who have common interests in terms of relationships. Without relations, no one can continue their life over time. A sociologist tries to understand how they connect their relations and in which way they continue their relations. It is a sociologist to carries out the style of social life without religious and political factors. It is also a sociologist to study how individuals combine their relationships within a group of society as a field of social sciences. Other fields of social sciences are comprised of anthropology, demography, social research, social relationships, and many other fields. The foundations of sociology focus on the general view of sociology issues and are essential for all fields of study, including the humanities. The foundations of sociology also present definitions and concepts, and include a summary of sociological perspectives. According to Mohsin Habibi (2016), in sociology, we can take a new look at the social environment and behavior to determine our place in society and re-examine the groups with which we have had less contact or with whom we have never had contact. Using the tools that sociology provides us, we can get to know other environments and cultures that we already know little about. Sociology may increase our ability to

understand the origins of opinions and tendencies that are completely different from one group of individuals to another in terms of relationships and behavior on our globe. One of the significant issues of sociology is to predict and control behaviors, sociologists can help official government plans and programs for the future by predicting the trend of group behaviors. To observe the changing face of social reality and react appropriately to it. Sociological insight enables us to understand that many events that supposedly concern only the individual reflect larger issues. For instance, unemployment is a personal tragedy for someone who is fired from a job and cannot find another job, but when millions of members of society are in the same situation, then unemployment is more than despair and private deprivation, i.e., it is a public issue that shows great social trends (Chawoshian, 2007).

In a nutshell, sociology on various social issues such as how society emerges and evolves, how people interact with each other, the impact of individuals on society and the impact of society on individuals, national identity, social personality, social groups, social movements, parties, and associations, the difference between developed and backward societies, the emergence of political revolutions, how to change the political system, how groups and parties intervene in political and social power, the interaction of the economic and social system, damage social issues such as theft, suicide, drugs, government corruption, how to deal with harms, and dozens of other issues study and investigate.

Similarly, Chawoshian (2007) defines that “the scope of sociology is varied and related to all social factors including ethnicity, social class, age, gender, and education level” (p.12). The science, thus, seeks to study the regularity of order and the repetition of similarities that have occurred or will occur in societies through three streams as: 1) Understanding the components of the problem; 2) Understanding the causal relationships between the components of the problem; 3) Recognizing the consequences and predicting (Mohammadi, 2014, pp.32-33). Based on these three types of knowledge that are obtained in sociology, it can be concluded that sociology is responsible for studying the causes and problems of society and understanding their consequences. Besides, it has been said that sociology can be considered the social groups, and the concept of society forms the fundamental issues of sociology. Likewise, sociologists are seeking to find the laws governing social life and cases. It withdraws itself from specific events to be able to touch what is public. Mohseni (2005, pp.5-7) stated that all social phenomena, including “religious practices, education, work, habits and traditions, laws, social institutions, and finally the encounters and relationships between human beings, with their endless diversity in more or less vast associations and organizations, are all fundamental aspects of sociology”. Thus, it is the responsibility of a sociologist to study and analyze the current events of society. At the same time, the issues that are discussed by sociologists are not new. The sociologist seeks to touch and recognize the existing forms of social life. Also, a large group of sociologists consider the main fields of their studies to be family, education, economics, industrial relations, work, and occupation etc. It is known that now, for example, we will mention some social aspects and issues that fall within the scope of sociological studies. Gharaei Moghaddam (1995, pp.24-25) includes the following issues, which are related to the scope of sociology:

- Social Phenomena and Institutions, for instance, economy, family, education, government and politics, religion, ethics, and phenomena arising from collective behaviors;
- Social reaction, the mutual relations of the sectors of society, and the social division of labor;
- Phenomena related to the external and material form of human society;
- Population movements concerning their social causes;
- Strata social classes and their characteristics and status;
- The relationship between man and the residential environment and the interaction of social and ecological factors;
- Social groups in different forms and forms;
- Collective customs and habits;

- International relationships;
- Social values and norms;
- Social changes;
- Nomadism, rural and urbanization;
- Social deviations;
- Free time;
- Culture and relationships between different cultures;
- The Causes of Social Movements and Revolution;
- Problems of the third world and developed countries;
- Social structures;
- City development and urbanization;
- Social relationships.

These and many other topics and issues are all in the realm of sociology, where sociologists often study one or more cases.

Comparison between linguistics and sociology

When comparing linguistics and sociology, it is very significant to understand the two scientific terms separately. Linguistics involves human language in general, while sociology, according to Mohseni (2005), is “the study of social behavior or social action of human beings” (P.5). Thus, it is the means of language that society uses for solving social problems in different aspects. Both language and society are shaped by each other, and no one can act independently. On one hand, language creates, develops, and becomes extinct in society. On the other hand, society and its development relate to the tools of language. Through language, society can start its communication in the community. Thus, [Crystal \(2003\)](#) hinted that in terms of society and language, there is a specific field which is called sociolinguistics, which is “the study of all aspects of the relationship between language and society” (p.422). According to him, sociolinguistics acts as a bridge between language and society and is very important to comprehend that language is the subject matter of language. Without language, society cannot transfer its social features, its feelings, its emotions, its information, its thoughts, its ideas, and so on. On the other hand, it is society that gives substance to language, otherwise, there would be no language. A language, likewise, is always a social phenomenon that is created, developed, and extinct in society. [Fromkin et al \(2014, p.2\)](#) describe that the possession of language is very important because it is used in society to connect relationships. For instance, deaf people produce and understand sign language through gestures, while most normal people do not know such gestures; they use different expressions and words through spoken and written forms.

Language is a tool to align social institutions and social interaction to exchange information with each other. [Heise \(2019\)](#) states that “families breakfasting, physicians examining patients, lawyers conferring with clients, teachers querying students, and clergy conducting funerals, and so on” (p.1). In considering any social institution, there is always a tool used to organize the institution more appropriately, which is called language. Language, on the other hand, is a tool to describe all social phenomena without exception. In addition, speaking on language and sociology requires understanding the specifications of sociolinguistics, which is concerned with both linguistics and sociology. As a result, language is not uniform or constant in society. It is varied and inconsistent for both language users individually and among groups of speakers who use the same language in society. People arrange their way of talking in different ways during their interactions and examine written forms to consider the interaction of language and society in the past.

For a long time, people have brought changes in their languages in different terms, like pronunciation, forms of writing, building of words, and so on. [Holmes \(2013\)](#) describes that considering linguistics and

sociology not only relates to the standard language that is used by the people, it is also to regional and social dialects to shape the relationships between linguistics and sociology. According to him, for instance, in the south and north of the United States, the English language, which is used by the people, varies and differs in terms of pronunciation and the way of using words. It seems that in any language, such dialect variations occur. Using a language depends on the region of the country you are in. It also relates to the values that listeners of a particular language are communicating in a community. For instance, [Yule \(2010\)](#) states that the speakers of a language often assess “the regulation of linguistic behavior, language standardization, and educational and governmental policies” (P.241). When the listeners hear the speech of a speaker, such information deals with the social systems and backgrounds of that particular social context. All such diversities are the subject matter of sociolinguistics, including social class, age, gender, ethnicity, and educational levels of society. It is clear that in society, any individual has their way of speaking, which results from social and cultural factors that the individuals are related. They also have their tone of voice, words, and phrases while utilizing related languages to convey their messages. In another way, sometimes using language brings pleasure to society through the use of language. For instance, when a comedian acts out the actions of a famous person, the audience understands what he is doing. Similarly, all such variations seem to us to indicate that language and society are strongly interrelated. [Rove & Levine \(2018\)](#) believe that an individual has to be able to interact with other people, and the idiolects of people living and working together cannot be so different that they are not understandable to one another in social background. They state that people often deliberately consider the social context of their speech, particularly when they change from one style of speaking to another, which is called code-switching (the practice of alternating between two or more languages or dialects within a conversation or discourse).

Indeed, language and society as two interrelated fields that complement each other in different aspects and functions in communication systems. It is the language that discovers how society can help and understand each other to organize their social affairs. A linguist also has to highlight the significance of language and society because the essence of language takes place in society. All language features, including the history and structures, are considered in social groups. As is expected, society has found that reality about language can clarify the understanding of social interactions - after all, Hudson (1980, pp.4-5) illustrates that “it is hard to think of any property of a society that is as distinctive as its language, or as important for its functioning.” He added that the main focus of sociolinguistics is to consider any size of language variation within speech communities related to a specific geographical area. For instance, in a speech community, old people do not speak like young people, and men do not speak like women due to the variation of social context. Or when a single individual chatting with his close friend is different from his job interview because of using different expressions and sentences. So, analyzing the components of any particular language depends on the society that lives in a specific geographical area. It is also worth mentioning that any group of society introduces and recognizes itself through related language because language is the index of the culture of those people. [Meyerhoff \(2006, p.156\)](#) describes that it is sociolinguistics which “refers to one’s relatively stable sociocultural background and the latter refers to one’s current social situation and consequently being more changeable over time.” For all social classes, groups, and social backgrounds, the language phenomenon applies because the only means that society can use for conveying and receiving messages during their social relationships in a social context.

Similarly, linguistics and sociology, as two interrelated fields, are completing the process of human language communication in different aspects. Linguistics concentrates on human language, including structures, variation, and change within the social context, and examines how a language is used and how it shapes social identities and social norms during the communication process. It also considers “language variation, language attitudes, language contact, language policy, language planning, language ideology, and language concerning social institutions like education, media, and politics” (Zendjanizada, 1996, p.48). In other words, the sociology of language contemplates language as a social institution and its role in social structures and processes. It is a language that puts the construct of the social group into different hierarchies, too. In both

linguistics and sociology, there is a common interest called a social phenomenon or the social structure introduced by language. For example, considering different aspects of a language, including language change, language structure, language attitudes, language policy, and so on, depends on its social context. It is also clear that without society, no one can evaluate the position of a language in terms of its usage independently. In other words, any group of society and its cultural aspects are introduced by the language of that particular community group. In society, there is no other tool to use instead of language in terms of social introduction and description.

Similarly, linguistics and sociology are two interrelated fields that connect and complete the process of social communication in terms of social relationships and behavior in the community. Thus, all social factors such as class, gender, ethnicity, and age are described by utilizing language. It is the society that describes the causes of language changes within different social groups of communities. [Yule \(2010, p.254\)](#) states that in terms of understanding language and society in a better way, it is significant to analyze sociolinguistics, which “is the study of the relationship between language and society”. He further describes that to analyze the identity of social patterns and their statistical process, it is sociolinguistics that helps to trace the specifications of human language in society. In addition, social factors influence language use in different aspects to complete each other in a social context and to provide a detailed comprehension of human language phenomena in different terms for a broader understanding of the social implications of language use.

Discussion

The interplay between linguistics and sociology provides a rich tapestry for understanding human communication and social behavior. This discussion will explore key themes from the research, emphasizing how these two disciplines inform and enhance each other. It is the interconnectedness of language and society that highlights linguistics and sociology are not merely separate fields; they are deeply intertwined in their exploration of human interaction. Linguistics focuses on the structure and function of language, while sociology examines the social contexts in which language operates. This symbiosis is evident in the study of sociolinguistics, which bridges the gap by analyzing how language varies across different social groups and contexts. Thus, both disciplines share common factors such as social identity, cultural norms, and communication methods. The research identifies significant issues that arise when exploring the intersections of language and society, including language variation, language attitudes, and the impact of social factors on linguistic practices. For instance, regional dialects and sociolects illustrate how language reflects social hierarchies and cultural differences, revealing broader societal dynamics. Moreover, the study employs qualitative methodologies to analyze the mutual influences between linguistics and sociology. By examining existing literature and identifying key themes, the research underscores the importance of interdisciplinary approaches in understanding human behavior. This methodology not only enhances academic discourse but also provides practical insights for fields such as education, social policy, and communication studies. Understanding the relationship between language and society can also inform public policy, enhance cross-cultural communication, and improve educational practices. For instance, recognizing how language and the communication process shape social identity leads to more inclusive communication strategies in diverse environments. In summary, it reinforces that linguistics and sociology as two significant fields that are complementary to one another and enhance our understanding of human communication more comprehensively. The research findings suggest that a deeper awareness of their interconnections can lead to more holistic approaches in both linguistic and social research. By examining the nuances of how language operates within social contexts, scholars and practitioners can foster greater empathy and understanding in an increasingly interconnected world.

Conclusion

Linguistics and sociology are two related fields that consider the terms of language and society. Linguistics deals with human language and its aspects, while sociology considers the relationships of social behavior. Both fields describe the values of using language and its components in society. It is a society that lets us know some elements of language, such as language attitudes, language policies, language use, etc., to understand the complexity of human communication. In other words, linguistics involves human language as a significant part of social life and its behavior. For instance, people use the tool of language to express their feelings, emotions, ideas, and so on to other people to continue their social affairs. They use the language in either spoken or written form to transfer their messages to the listeners to solve their social problems. Therefore, language as a means of interaction is used in society to connect social relationships. As a social tool, it connects all individuals who are interacting in their daily communication. Similarly, language and society have a strong relationship with one another due to the interconnectivity between these two. Language speakers are using the tool of language in their daily conversations to understand each other. Also, language speakers are constantly using language in various forms, such as spoken, written, and drawing, in their everyday social interaction. Indeed, the interest of sociologists in language is to understand how society uses language within social organization and its social behavior. While the interest of linguists is to study human language and its features through the social background. In other words, linguistics and sociology are aligned to complete the communication process. Without any of them, the whole process will be paralyzed, and the system of social interaction will be stopped. Language also plays a prominent role in the transmission of individuals' skills and knowledge in different aspects to solve the problems of social affairs and social roles amongst men in society. All social factors, including exchanging ideas and feelings are depend on language to convey their message to others. Moreover, it is language that reveals the features of individuals in terms of age, sex, social classes, occupations, or cultural groups in the same or different communities through the use of various speech. Such aspects show that language and society are strongly connected to complete social life. Using language is not only to transfer social messages, but it is also able to isolate the geographical features, social organization, and social institutions. Without language, it is very difficult to gather individuals and put them in a social hierarchy. All social achievements are related to language, and human language is dependent on society.

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