

Influences/Social Markers on Speech Style

Influences on Speech Style include

Prestige

Register and

Slang

Register

A **Register** is a traditional way of using language in a specific context. It depends upon situation, occupation or topic.

In Church (situational)

Among Lawyers (occupational)

Talking about language (topical)

Thus, we have

Religious Register

Legal Register

Medical Register

Linguistic register etc.

Jargon

Jargon is a distinctive feature of a Register. A jargon is a special technical vocabulary. Mostly nouns are part of jargon. A jargon is associated with a specific area of work or interest.

A medical register has a special jargon which only the 'insiders' (people of the medical field) understand. The outsiders (general public) vaguely understand.

Slang

Slang or colloquial speech describes the words or phrases that are used by younger speakers and other groups of special interests. These words replace the every day terms. It is associated with Fashion among young adolescents(teenagers). The slang changes with time. In a human's life, he/she uses slang only for a limited period of time. When they grow older, they return to use Standard language. The slang they used becomes outdated.

e.g. bucks -money (100-year-old slang in US)

Recent slangs for money in US

dead presidents }

benjamins } - money

In Tamil,

For **someone stole my money**- அபேஸ் பண்ணிட்டான் (older term)

சுட்டுட்டான் (recent term)

ஆட்டயப் போட்டுட்டான் (most recent term)

Age plays in big role in the use of slang.

Taboo Terms

Taboo terms are words or phrases which often involves body parts, bodily functions and sexual acts. People avoid using taboo terms for religious reasons, politeness and behavioural reasons. They are swear words. During public broad casting they are bleeped and in print they are starred.