# **Media Sociolinguistics**



University of Athens

Dpt of Communication and Media Studies

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# Variation in the (print) media

26/4/2023

#### **Course Overview**

- 1. What is a linguistic variable (γλωσσική μεταβλητή)?
- 2. Representative studies of language variation (γλωσσική μεταβλητότητα):
   Labov, Trudgill,
   Cheshire
- 3. Media-dependent linguistic variables (in-media variation)

# Variationists: An operational approach to style/styling

4th floor 4th floor Style

WLS RPS FS CS
Style

### Where are the groups of people?

- » Style?
  - ▶ Spiritual definitions → Sublime
  - ► «Style is the [wo]man» → Idiolect (Ιδιόλεκτος)
  - ▶ Style in literature → Elaborated style
- » Variation: by subject, genre, medium, sender, audience, situation, (social) class, ...
- » Variation by audience (audience design): characteristic of mass media
- » Styling

# 1. Genres (είδη) and registers (επίπεδα λόγου)

- » Differentiation according to use rather than the users
- What defines a register:
  - specialized vocabulary
  - textual organization: layout, special routines (beginning, ending, addressing, etc.), set phrases, rhetoric, metaphors, general presuppositions
  - conventions for oral written discourse
  - influence of the medium

# **Visualization**



#### **Visualization: Weather forecasts**



Βρυξέλλες	13-18
Zupixn	11-20
Aovõevo	11-18
Mašpim	11-25
Мо́охо	6-11

ΣΗΜΕΡΑ Γενικά αθρισε και μόνα στις Κυκλάδ και Κρήτη τοπικά αυξημένη συννεφιά, με αποραί κές Βρακές, κυρίως στην Κρήτη, όπου και πιθαν πρόσκαιρες καταιγίδες. Από το βράδυ ανάλογα φι νόμενα και στα Δωδεκάνησα.

Ανεμοι: Στα δυτικά μεταβλητοί 3-4, στα ανατολυ από Βόρειες διευθύνσεις 4-6 Μποφόρ, με σταδιαι εξασθένηση στις ηπειρωτικές περιοχές.

Θερμοκρασία: Βόρεια 7-24, υπόλοιπα ππειρωτι 11-26, νησιά 17-25°C. Στις Δυτική Μακεδονία κ Ηπειρο ημέγιστη 2-4°C χαμηλότερη.

ΑΥΡΙΟ: Στην Κρήτη και τα Δωδεκάνησα σποραδικ Βροχές κατά τόπους και πρόακαιρες στα Δωδεκάν σα. Βαθμιαία βελτίωση από το μεσημέρι. Οι άνεμ Βοραιοδυτικοί, στα δυτικά 3-4, στα αναταλικά 4-5 κ πρόσκαιρα στα νοτισανατολικά τοπικά 6 Μποφά Η θερμοκρασία χωρίς αξιόλογη μεταβολή.

ΤΡΙΗΜΕΡΟ Την Πέμπη και την Παρασκευή γενι αίθριος με λίγη πράσκαιρη συννεφιά, κυρίως στα δ τικά και βόρεκα. Το Σάββατο αραιή συννεφιά, κα τόπους πιο πυκνή. Οι άνεμοι μεταβλητοί 3-4 και σ νότια βορειοδυτικοί 4-5 Μποφόρ και το Σάββατο σ δυτικά μεταβλητοί 3-4, στα ανατολικά από βόρει διευθύνσεις 4-5 και τοπικά στο ΒΑ Αγγαίο 6 Μποφό

N. KAPATAPAKI

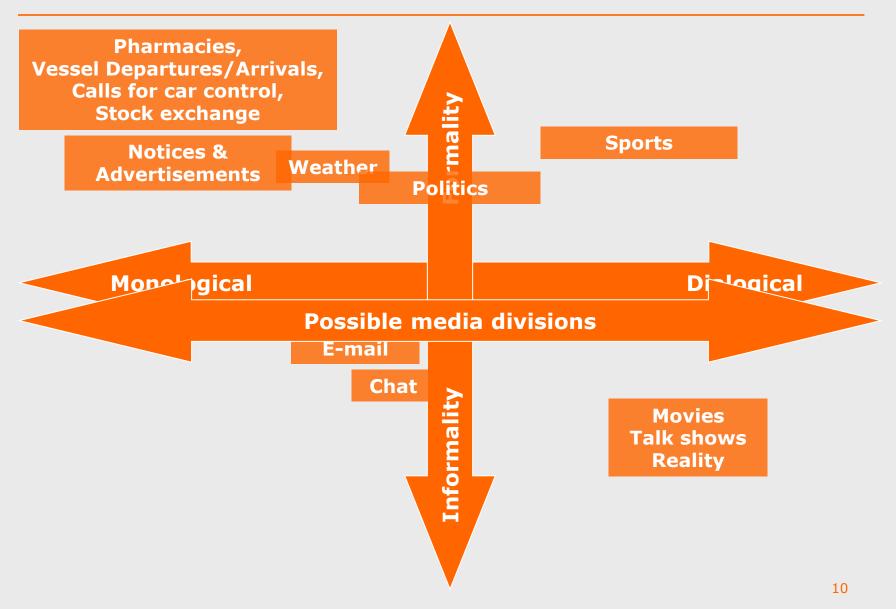
# **Oralization**



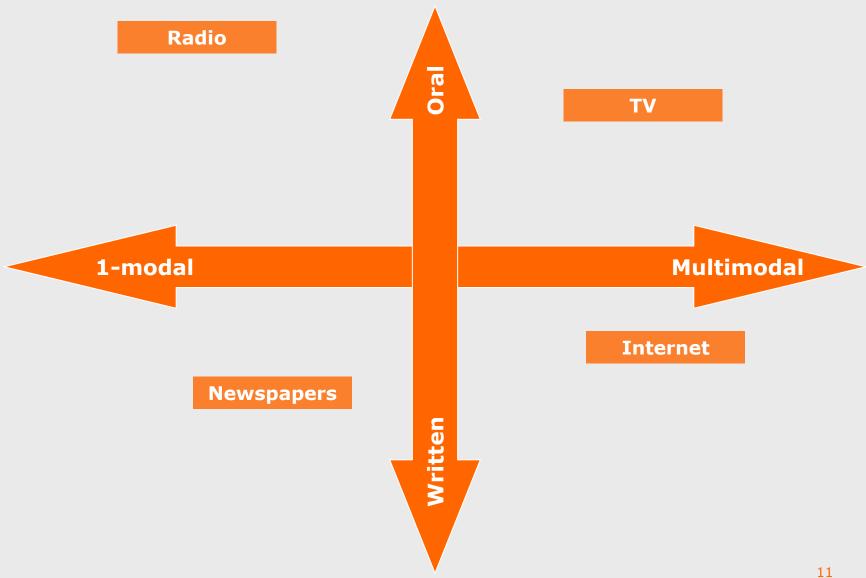
#### **Oralization: BBC2**

Hello there. I think Chris Low and all those other golfing fans are gonna be glued to BBC 2 during the next two evenings. I think the weather could play during the round today as you see here - this is a combination of cloud and weather radar – some pretty nasty weather heading across towards the national course at Augusta and that weather system could bring the odd sharp shot but tomorrow, I think, things will be less [\*\*\*\*\*\*], shall we say, so the chance of a thundery shower for the round on Saturday and Sunday after a misty morning things should pick up for the final rounds during the afternoon. ... I think probably the heaviest of the rain's moving in across Northern Ireland overnight tonight. And a few spots of drizzling rain turning up on the western side of Wales ... That's the forecast. Enjoy the golf.

#### **Possible register variations**



# **Possible media divisions**



# Audience design (ακροαματικός σχεδιασμός)

- Involved at all levels of language use, e.g. language choice in bilingual communities, addressing, politeness strategies, variation depending on group/class.
- \* The essence of style is that speakers are responding to their audience\* (Allan Bell)
- » Responsive style (υφολογική ανταπόκριση)
- » Accommodation model (μοντέλο προσαρμογής)
- What is known about mass media audience?

# Referee design (διαιτητευμένος σχεδιασμός)

- In contrast to audience design, referee design involves stylistic initiative / originality (initiative dimension of style).
- >> Everyday use: narration, jokes, humour.

# Style refereed by

- an internal standard: ingroup referee
   (εντός ομάδας)
- an external standard: outgroup referee,
   (εκτός ομάδας), e.g. high variety in diglossia situations

# **Audience and referee designs**

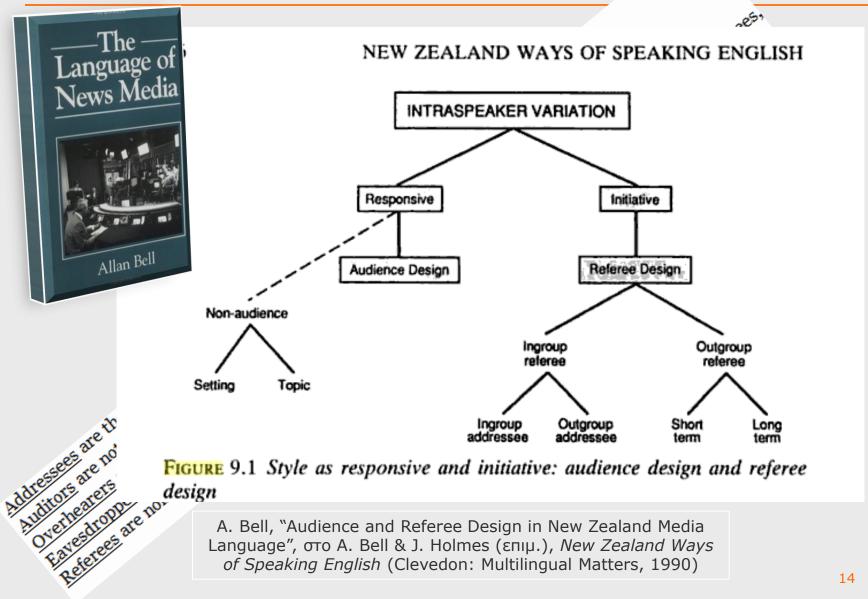
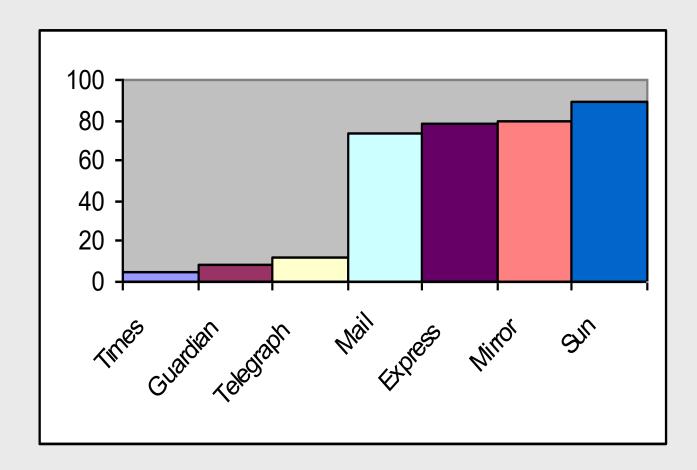


FIGURE 9.1 Style as responsive and initiative: audience design and referee

A. Bell, "Audience and Referee Design in New Zealand Media Language", στο A. Bell & J. Holmes (επιμ.), New Zealand Ways of Speaking English (Clevedon: Multilingual Matters, 1990)

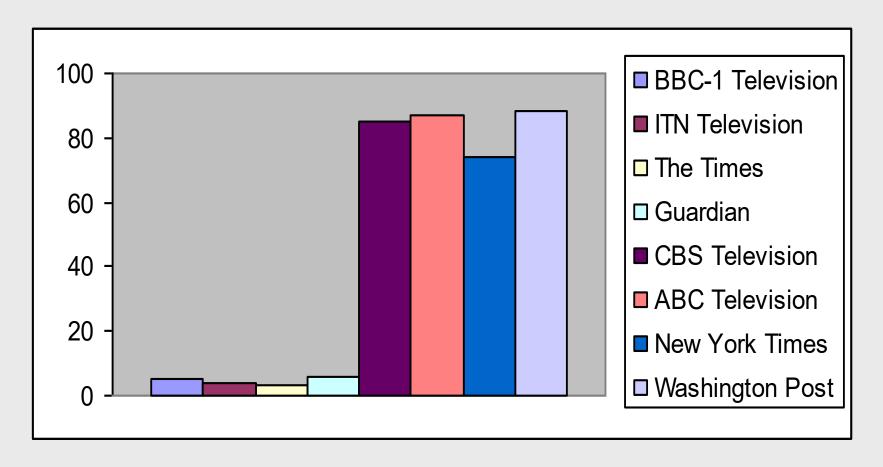
#### **Example of audience design**



"Nurse filmed turning off man's life support" -"Retirement age raised to 66", *Times* 25/10/10, "Nurse switched off man's ventillator" -"All-in-one £140 pension 'fairer'", Sun 25/10/10

Omission of determiners in seven British newspapers (Bell, 1991: 108)

#### **Double design**



Omission of determiners in 4 British and 4 American media, 1980-1982 (Bell, 1991: 131)

#### Nasalization in the Greek media: audience or referee?

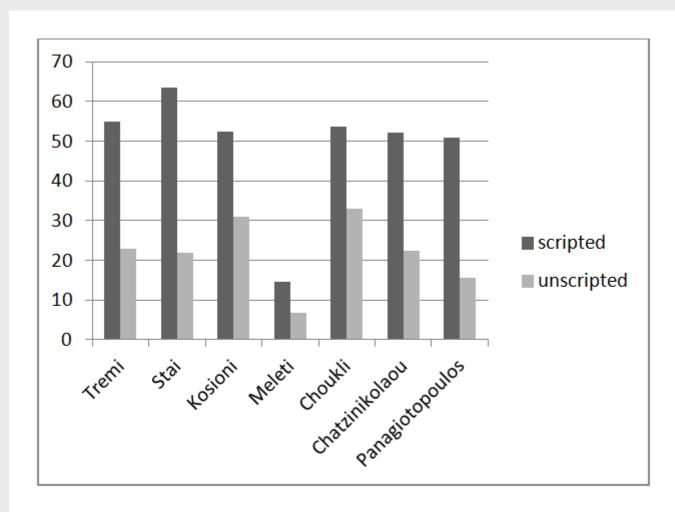


Figure 8. Percentages of nasalization in the scripted and unscripted speech of seven news anchors

# **Further study**

Media Sociolinguistics / Κοινωνιογλωσσολογία των Μέσων Documents

Root directory » Readings / Αναγνώσματα 🕹

Bell, Language Style as Audience Design, in Coupland & Jaworski (eds).pdf

Bell, Language style as audience design (in Coupland & Jaworski, eds.)

Bell, Language style as audience design.pdf

Allan Bell, Language style as audience design

Bell, News language.pdf

Allan Bell, News language