**Language attitudes and sociolinguistic awareness in multilingual Stockholm: A listener experiment on new language varieties**

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In order to identify and describe new varieties of Swedish in multilingual urban settings it is necessary not only to study language and language use of different speakers, but also to explore attitudes and perceptions towards different ways of speaking Swedish among different groups of language users.

Language attitudes have been studied since the 1960s by social psychologists, using the so-called matched/verbal guise test (Lambert, Giles, et al.). More recently, listener evaluations have been used also in dialectological and sociolinguistic research on folk perceptions regarding language varieties (perceptual dialectology; Preston, Niedzielski, et al.).

This paper presents an explorative listener experiment, which combines the study of language attitudes and sociolinguistic awareness. Three groups of listeners participated: 16 adolescents attending a suburban senior high school with a large proportion of bilingual students, 13 adolescents attending an inner city senior high school with a mix of monolingual and bilingual students, and 24 monolingual 1st year language students at university level. Subjects listened to speech samples from two monolingual and five bilingual adolescents living in different parts of Stockholm, and were asked to: (1) judge the speakers using semantic differential scales, and (2) label and describe the speech samples and to make guesses about the speakers’ background.

The analysis focuses on the conceptions among people with different sociolinguistic experiences regarding different ways of speaking Swedish in today’s multilingual Stockholm:

- What attitudes are associated with different ways of speaking?
- What kinds of varieties are distinguished, and how are they labeled?
- Which linguistic features do people perceive as characteristic for different speakers?
- How do the three groups of listeners differ in these respects?

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