Goldvarb-ing: Everything you always wanted to know about variation analysis

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Facultad de Filología, Santiago de Compostela, Room 13 (3rd floor)

Abstract:

In this workshop, I provide an introduction to variation analysis using Goldvarb X, the new variable rule application for Windows and Macintosh (Sankoff, Tagliamonte & Smith 2006). Beginning with the theoretical and methodological principles of the methodology (Cedergren & Sankoff 1974; Sankoff 1978, 1988, etc.), I demonstrate how multiple regression can be effectively applied to the study of language variation, how Goldvarb works and why, how to interpret Goldvarb results and the right way to report them (Tagliamonte 2006). Participants will be led through a variationist analysis from beginning to end, providing tips and examples from my own research. Participants will also have the opportunity to experiment with Goldvarb X themselves using already existing data files which will be made available during the workshop. The workshop will conclude with an interactive component in which students can bring their own data, issues and/or problems they may be having with their research for trouble-shooting and assistance.

Note: Participants are encouraged to bring their token files to the workshop.

References:

Cedergren, Henrietta J., and David Sankoff. 1974. "Variable Rules: Performance as a Statistical Reflection of Competence." *Language* 50: 333-355.

Sankoff, David. 1978. "Probability and Linguistic Variation." *Synthèse* 37: 217-238.

Sankoff, David. 1988. "Variable Rules." In *Sociolinguistics: An International Handbook of the Science of Language and Society*, Vol. 2, edited by Ulrich Ammon, Norbert Dittmar and Klaus J. Mattheier, 984-97. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.

Sankoff, David, Sali A. Tagliamonte, and Eric Smith. 2006. "Goldvarb X." Department of Linguistics, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada. http://individual.utoronto.ca/tagliamonte/Goldvarb/GV_index.htm.

Tagliamonte, Sali A. 2006. *Analysing Sociolinguistic Variation.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.