

Re: Are Linguistic Changes Accelerated by...

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2005-11/msg00065.html>

- *From:* "Darkstar" <darkstar100@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 2 Nov 2005 10:16:49 -0800
-

Peter T. Daniels wrote:

> Darkstar wrote:

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>> Peter T. Daniels wrote:

>>> Darkstar wrote:

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>>>>> One of Labov's claims is that English is changing faster now than
>>>>> ever before.

>>>>

>>>> BTW, what exactly does he claim?

>>>>

>>>> That English is changing faster now than ever before.

>>>> --

>>>> Peter T. Daniels grammatim@xxxxxxxx

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>>>> Basically, we need a general lineal equation that analyses factors and
>>>> their respective partial coefficients that influence the rate of
>>>> linguistic changes. I think Nathan has already raised this question
>>>> before... I dropped the topic, though, because it's so hard to talk to
>>>> you, guys :-)

>>>>

>>>> Mathematical linguistics was one of the fields pioneered by Soviet
>>>> linguists. Go read about it!

>>>>

>>>> There also used to be a very weird mathematician who used to post here
>>>> on this very topic. I won't say the name for fear of raising his shade
>>>> -- but he teaches at a university maybe ten miles west of me.

>>>>

>>>> Peter T. Daniels grammatim@xxxxxxxx

You're so superstitious, Peter :-) In fact, it's not about math, it's
all about picking a set of most influential factors and determining
their weights, that is their influence on the rate of change.

Like,

factor 1 has 70% of influence

factor 2 has 30%

....

factor n has 1%

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Very little math, and a lot of linguistics.

Has it ever been done anywhere? Can someone enlighten me, if so?...

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◇ *From:* Peter T. Daniels

• **References:**

◆ **[Re: Are Linguistic Changes Accelerated by...](#)**

◇ *From:* Peter T. Daniels

◆ **[Re: Are Linguistic Changes Accelerated by...](#)**

◇ *From:* Joachim Pense

◆ **[Re: Are Linguistic Changes Accelerated by...](#)**

◇ *From:* Darkstar

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◇ *From:* Peter T. Daniels

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