

A liquid speech community?

The concept of 'speech community' in sociolinguistics historically and theoretically

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The notion of speech community is central in sociolinguistics. It has been the topic of manifold discussions and various definitions. In this article Quist follows the 'speech community' as it has been understood and defined since the 1960's till today. She shows how changes in views of the 'speech community' follow general tendencies in the *zeitgeist* – tendencies that sociologists have described as changes from modernity to late/post-modernity. In her account for these changes Quist draws on, among others, Rampton 1998 and Bauman 2000. She extends the account to an analysis of Danish sociolinguistics and argues for an ethnographic approach to the study of variation in the city, taking the community of practice as the analytic and theoretic framework for the analysis.

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