


Fundamental Concepts in Sociolinguistics
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Allen D Grimshaw and his work

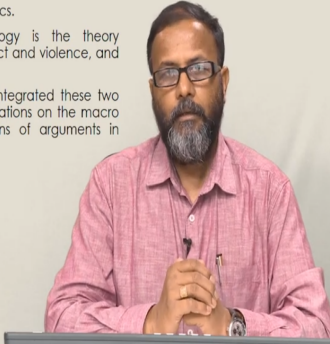

Welcome to class. In continuation with the discussions on founding fathers and pioneers in the field of sociolinguistics. Today we will talk about Allan Grimshaw, who is primarily a renowned sociologist but a very eminent sociolinguist as well. He is known for his theories in racial violence and society and we will have a brief description about his interesting works and contributions apart from sociology into sociolinguistics as a discipline.

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Allen Day Grimshaw

- Allen Day Grimshaw was born on December 16, 1929 and died June 15, 2011.
- Grimshaw's early research, including his PhD dissertation, focused on race relations and violence in the United States.
- His most influential work during this period was his volume *Racial Violence in the United States*.
- Grimshaw's other major area of interest was sociolinguistics.
- Grimshaw's most significant contribution to sociology is the theory construction and empirical research in two areas: conflict and violence, and the general area of sociolinguistics.
- In the later part of his career Grimshaw successfully integrated these two areas in studies of the discourse of international negotiations on the macro level and of conflict talk (sociolinguistic investigations of arguments in conversations) at the micro level.



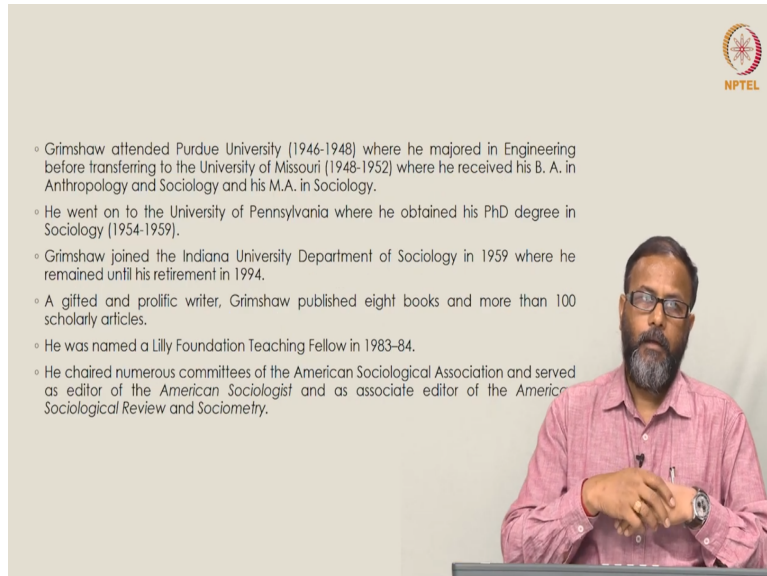
Allen Day Grimshaw, this is how his full name is, called Allan Grimshaw, was born on December 16th, 1929 and died on June 15th, 2011. From his early research, including his PhD work focussing on race relations and violence in the United States and onwards, he wrote prolifically on the issue. And he contributed major insights into the problem.

His most influential work during this period was his volume 'Racial Violence in the United States'. His other major area of interest was sociolinguistics and his most significant contribution to sociology is the theory construction and empirical research in two areas: conflict and violence, and the general area of sociolinguistics.

And he worked authoritatively in both the areas; conflict and violence, and sociolinguistics. In the later part of his career, Grimshaw successfully integrated these two areas of studies in

the discourse of international negotiations on the macro level and of conflict talk, sociolinguistic investigations of arguments in conversations at micro level.

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- Grimshaw attended Purdue University (1946-1948) where he majored in Engineering before transferring to the University of Missouri (1948-1952) where he received his B. A. in Anthropology and Sociology and his M.A. in Sociology.
- He went on to the University of Pennsylvania where he obtained his PhD degree in Sociology (1954-1959).
- Grimshaw joined the Indiana University Department of Sociology in 1959 where he remained until his retirement in 1994.
- A gifted and prolific writer, Grimshaw published eight books and more than 100 scholarly articles.
- He was named a Lilly Foundation Teaching Fellow in 1983-84.
- He chaired numerous committees of the American Sociological Association and served as editor of the *American Sociologist* and as associate editor of the *American Sociological Review* and *Sociometry*.


The journey of Grimshaw as a student, as a researcher, as an authority on conflict and violence and sociolinguistics is commendable. He attended Purdue University from 1946 to 1948, where he majored in engineering before switching to the University of Missouri in 1948 and he remained there till 1952 where he received his B.A. in Anthropology and Sociology and his M.A. in Sociology.

He went to University of Pennsylvania where he obtained his PhD degree in Sociology in 1954, from 1954 to 1959. Grimshaw joined the Indiana University Department of Sociology in 1959 where he remained until his retirement in 1994.


A gifted teacher and a scholar, a prolific writer, Grimshaw published eight books and more than 100 scholarly articles which gave a deep insight in understanding conflict and violence from sociological perspective and issues in sociolinguistics and understanding language in action in sociolinguistics.

He was named as Lily Foundation Teaching Fellow in 1983. He chaired numerous committees of the American Sociological Association and served as editor of the *American Sociologist* and as an associate editor of the *American Sociological Review* and *Sociometry*.

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- His most notable contribution in this field came in the form of the Multiple Analysis Project (MAP) which was the first sociolinguistic study to bring together representatives of different professions to investigate the same data record of a particular speech event.
- This research produced two books:
 - Collegial Discourse: Professional Conversation Among Peers, and
 - What's Going On Here?: Complementary Studies of Professional Talk.




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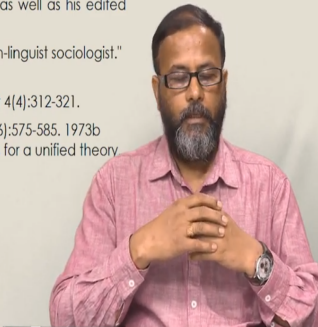
His most notable contribution in the field came from the ‘Multiple Analysis Project’, you know that is called, in short, we call it MAP, which was the first sociolinguistic study to bring together representatives of different professions to investigate the same data record of a particular speech event.

And this very innovative project; Multiple Analysis Project produced two very interesting and influential books, number 1, ‘Collegial Discourse: Professional Conversation Among Peers’, and ‘What's going On Here? Complementary Studies of Professional Talk’.

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- Grimshaw combined his interest in social conflict and sociolinguistics, and conducted a series of analyses of international negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States.
- Grimshaw's most notable research initiatives in this area were the Generals and Admirals International Negotiation (GAIN) and Aral Sea projects as well as his edited volume, Conflict Talk.
- 1966 "Directions for research in sociolinguistics: Suggestions of a non-linguist sociologist." Sociological Inquiry 36(2): 319-322.
- 1969 "Sociolinguistics and the sociologist." The American Sociologist 4(4):312-321.
- 1973a "On language in society: Part I." Contemporary Sociology 2(6):575-585. 1973b "Rules in linguistic, social and sociolinguistic systems and possibilities for a unified theory. Pp. 289-312




Grimshaw combined his interest in social conflict and sociolinguistics and conducted a series of analyses of international negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States. His

most notable research initiatives in this area were the Generals and Admirals international Negotiations also acronymed as GAIN, (G-A-I-N), and Aral Sea projects, as well as his edited volume, 'Conflict Talk'.

In 1966 "Directions for Research in Sociolinguistics: Suggestions of a Non-Linguist Sociologist" was published in Sociological Inquiry and that gave a fresh perspective, a new perspective to the discipline and also it became a milestone for people already working the discipline like Fishman, Dell Hymes and other people.

In 1973, "On Language and Society: Part 1" was published in Contemporary Sociology. And later, "Rules in Linguistics: Social and Sociolinguistic Systems and Possibilities for a Unified Theory". He was trying to, so there was a debate in that decade where sociology of language, language and society, language in society and sociolinguistics stood. These were the frameworks under which people were working and we understand Fishman's idea and Ferguson's idea: sociology, sociolinguistic versus sociology of language. So, such contributions by Grimshaw as a sociologist, who was interested in linguistics and who combined his experiences and knowledge of two domains into one, gave a fresh perspective to look at language in this framework.

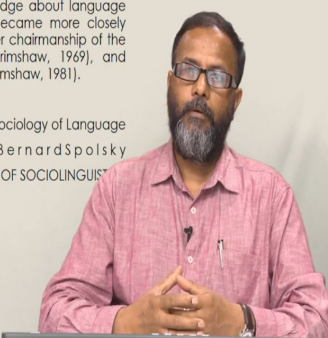
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Bernard Spolsky on Grimshaw:

◦ There was another sociologist who must have provided Fishman with more support. He refers to Allen Grimshaw as 'in a special category by himself', not a member of the seminar but attending it regularly. Grimshaw (1997) says that his initiation to language science was through Savitz. Grimshaw had become interested in language and social contexts during a visit to India in 1961. He writes: 'I was an informal participant in many of the activities of the seminar and gave a talk to the group about ways in which knowledge about language might eliminate sociological questions; it was not long before I became more closely involved' (1997: 101). This involvement included membership and later chairmanship of the Committee on Sociolinguistics, organization of a conference (Grimshaw, 1969), and publication of a number of papers that were later collected by Dill (Grimshaw, 1981).

◦ Ferguson and Fishman: Sociolinguistics and the Sociology of Language
- Bernard Spolsky
THE SAGE HANDBOOK OF SOCIOLINGUISTICS



And if you go by the account of Bernard Spolsky on Grimshaw, this becomes very clear that how he created, curated a fertile ground for the discipline to evolve to what we see today. I quote from the article by Bernard Spolsky in 'The Sage Handbook of Sociolinguistics', titled 'Ferguson and Fishman: Sociolinguistics and Sociology of Language'.

Bernard Spolsky writes, I quote, "There was another sociologist who must have provided Fishman with more support." He refers to Allan Grimshaw as 'in a special category by himself', not a member of the seminar but attending it regularly. He is referring to the Sociolinguistic Consortium and Seminar that the sociolinguists conducted during the 60s.

I quote again, "Grimshaw 1997 says that his initiation to language science was through Savitz. Grimshaw had become interested in language and social contexts during a visit to India in 1961." By the way Grimshaw, has a very long connection with India and he stayed in India for a longer period of time and he conducted many works and many sociological and sociolinguistic works.

He writes, 'I was an informal participant in many of the activities of the Seminar and gave a talk to the group about ways in which knowledge about language might eliminate sociological questions; it was not long before I became more closely involved.' This involvement included membership and later chairmanship of the Committee on Sociolinguistics, organization of a conference, and publication of a number of papers that were later corrected by Anwar Dill.

Grimshaw's contribution in linguistics is that he brought two domains together and he worked on the interface of sociology and linguistics. He added his experience of understanding sociological processes of conflict and violence into linguistic expressions and the conference of the two disciplines gave a fresh framework, a new framework to the people, to the group which was already working in the area.

And these people were Dalhands, Gumperz, Joshua Fishman, Charles Ferguson, Susan Erwin Tripp, and so many other people, who pioneered this discipline in addition to Grimshaw. His was an act of broadening the horizons of the discipline including this whole dichotomy of language in society and sociology of language, and he worked out sociolinguistics.

And what we see today as a discipline, sociolinguistics as a discipline, we cannot undermine and underrate and overstate the contributions of Grimshaw in development of the discipline. This is it for now. We will continue with our series of discussions on such other luminaries and scholars who shaped the discipline. So this is it for now, see you in the next class. Thank you.