

In many speech communities two or more varieties of the same language<sup>2</sup> are used by some speakers under different conditions. Perhaps the most familiar example is the standard language and regional dialect as used, say, in Italian or Persian, where many speakers speak their local dialect at home or among family or friends of the same dialect area but use the standard language in communicating with speakers of other dialects or on public occasions. There are, however, other, quite different examples of the use of two varieties of a language in the same speech community.