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*Speakers' creativity and contact-induced change*

Motives for introducing deliberate changes in one's language fall into several (non-mutually-exclusive) categories. People make such changes to increase the linguistic distance between their language and nearby closely-related languages or dialects; to keep their speech secret from unfriendly outsiders; to avoid ridicule or censure; as a means of identity formation; and – the most creative changes – just for fun, because they can. This talk will examine examples in all these categories, among them distancing changes in languages of Papua New Guinea, secret languages in Taiwan and Pakistan, identity-constructing urban youth languages in Africa, and adaptations from German in the standardization of Estonian. The talk concludes with consideration of the implications of such changes for theories of language change.