

## **What should we say and how should we speak? Looking at linguistic norms**

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This paper explores the notion of linguistic norms, and it tries to identify different kinds of linguistic norms.

Firstly, social norms (i.e. a kind of norm that regulates our behaviour in a community) and their natures are focused on. Through the study of social norms, the paper looks at linguistic norms. I suggest that linguistic norms can be divided into three kinds due to their differences in functions and natures. These are *formal norms*, *contextual norms*, and *identity norms* respectively.

This paper provides examples and discussions to support the grouping of these linguistic norms. Focusing on the interactions between different speakers, a norm model, which consists of the dispositions and the interactions of the three norms in speakers' and hearers' minds, is proposed. This model aims at explaining people's linguistic behaviour in general. It also attempts to provide an account for the phenomena of miscommunications and code-mixing.