

Language Use and Identity

Look at the chart on your Exploring Community Language Use handout. Think about two different types of language use that are common in your community. For example, you may think of one person greeting a non-local guest using formal English, and the same person greeting a local friend using a different language or language variety. Or, you may think of an elder in your community speaking a formal variety of your community language at a public gathering, and you and your siblings during your evening meal at home. What would be in a speech balloon for that person? What can you draw in a portrait of that person to indicate a connection between identity and language use?

In the space below, or on a fresh sheet of paper, draw portraits with speech balloons, reflecting connections between language use and identity in your community. You may draw a single person speaking differently at different times, or different people speaking.