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Sommario/riassunto <i>Standards and Variation in Urban Speech</i> is an examination

and exploration of the aims and methods of sociolinguistic

investigation, based on studies of Scottish urban speech. It criticially examines the implications of the notions 'vernacular', 'standard

language', 'Received Pronunciation', 'social class', and 'linguistic insecurity'. Through a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods using examples from comedians' jokes, dialect poetry, formal and informal interviews, and personal narratives, the work illustrates the actual norms that speakers exemplify in various ways.