

**We have a lot of linguistic knowledge that we may not be aware of, but that can be made explicit through the rules of phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. You also have a deep social knowledge of your language. You know the appropriate way to talk to your parents, your friends, your clergy, and your teachers. We know about “politically correct” (PC) language: to say “mail carrier,” “firefighter,” and “police officer,” and not to say “nigger,” “wop,”.In short, we know how to use our language appropriately, even if we sometimes choose not to. This section discusses some of the many ways in which the use of language varies in society.**

# Styles



- ▶ **Most speakers of a language speak one way with friends, another on a job interview or presenting a report in class, another talking to small children, another with their parents, and so on. These “situation dialects” are called styles, or registers.**
- ▶ **Nearly everybody has at least an informal and a formal style. In an informal style, the rules of contraction are used more often, the syntactic rules of negation and agreement may be altered, and many words are used that do not occur in the formal style.**

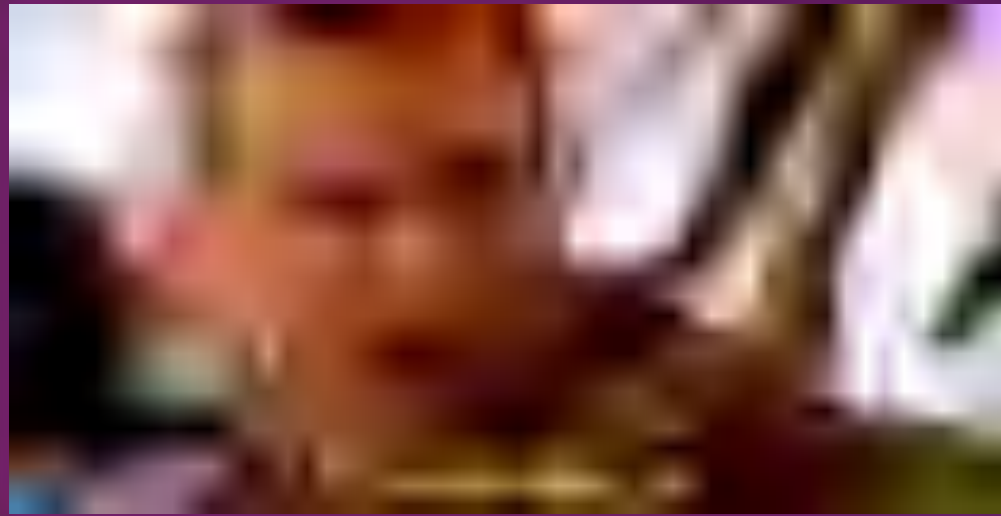


- ▶ Informal styles, although permitting certain abbreviations and deletions not permitted in formal speech, are also rule-governed. For example, questions are often shortened with the subject *you* and the auxiliary verb deleted. You can ask *Running the marathon?* or *You running the marathon?* instead of the more formal *Are you running the marathon?* but you cannot shorten the question to *\*Are running the marathon?*
- ▶ Informal talk is not anarchy. It is rule-governed, but the rules of deletion, contraction, and word choice are different from those of the formal language.

- ▶ Many cultures have rules of social behavior that govern style. Some Indo-European languages distinguish between *you* (familiar) and *you* (polite). German *du* and French *tu* are to be used only with “intimates”; *Sie* and *vous* are more formal and used with nonintimates. Thai has three words meaning ‘eat’ depending on the social status of who is speaking with whom.
- ▶ Social situations affect the details of language usage, but the core grammar remains intact, with a few superficial variations that lend a particular flavor to the speech.



# SLANG



- ▶ Slang is a very informal adaptation of language. In many cases, slang is specific to certain geographical locations, groups of people or specific industries. Its informal nature makes it acceptable for conversations among friends but inappropriate for formal writing because it is sometimes misunderstood.
- ▶ While some words and phrases are acceptable in everyday conversation, especially when you are speaking with friends, these same words do not translate well to quality professional writing. For example, if you are writing about the fit of a particular piece of clothing, saying it makes you look “bootylicious” or is a staple for any serious “fashionista” is not appropriate. While these words work well in casual conversation, they do not carry much weight when you are writing in a more serious, professional tone. Consider the following example:

- ▶ **Inappropriate:** These pants are bootylicious.
- ▶ **Appropriate:** These pants are flattering to your figure and enhance your body's natural shapeliness.
  
- ▶ **Slang is universal. It is found in all languages and all time periods. It varies from region to region, and from past to present. Slang meets a variety of social needs and rather than a corruption of the language, it is yet further evidence of the creativity of the human language user.**

# Examples

- ▶ **To have a crush (on somebody) (verb)** To have a crush on somebody is a great feeling and it means that you're attracted to somebody and would like them to be more than just your friend. And if somebody has a crush on you, well it's the same – they like you in a more intimate way.
- ▶ *“I have the biggest crush on Simon. **He's** so cute!”*
- ▶ *“**Isn't** he dating Jenny Parkes?”*
- ▶ *“**No, not** anymore, apparently they broke up a few weeks ago!”*
- ▶ *“Cool!”*



▶ **Busted (adjective/verb)** If you *bust* someone, you've caught them doing something they shouldn't be doing/saying/hiding. The police *bust* people every day translates to they catch all the bad guys and charge them or put them in prison.

▶ **Example 1**

▶ *“Did you hear that Sam got **busted** speeding?”*

▶ *“No, but I'm not surprised. I'm always telling him he needs to drive slower!”*

▶ **Example 2**

▶ *“There were two kids who were **busted** cheating in their exams!”*

▶ *“Really? What happened?”*

▶ *“I'm not sure, but they'll definitely be punished. Our school takes cheating really seriously.”*



# JARGON

- ▶ Jargon is a type of language that is used in a particular context and may not be well understood outside of it. The context is usually a particular occupation (that is, a certain trade, profession, or academic field), but any ingroup can have jargon. The main trait that distinguishes jargon from the rest of a language is special vocabulary including some words specific to it and, often, narrower senses of words that outgroups would tend to take in a broader sense. Jargon is thus the technical terminology or characteristic idiom of a special activity or group. Most jargon is technical terminology, involving terms of art or industry terms, with particular meaning within a specific industry.

# Examples

## Business Jargon

- ▶ The 9-to-5 - Business jargon meaning a standard work day
- ▶ Chief cook and bottle-washer - A person who holds many responsibilities.

## Police Jargon

- ▶ 10-4 - Radio jargon meaning Okay or I understand
- ▶ Code Eight - Term that means officer needs help immediately
- ▶ Code Eleven - A code that means the individual is at the scene of the crime.

## Musical Jargon

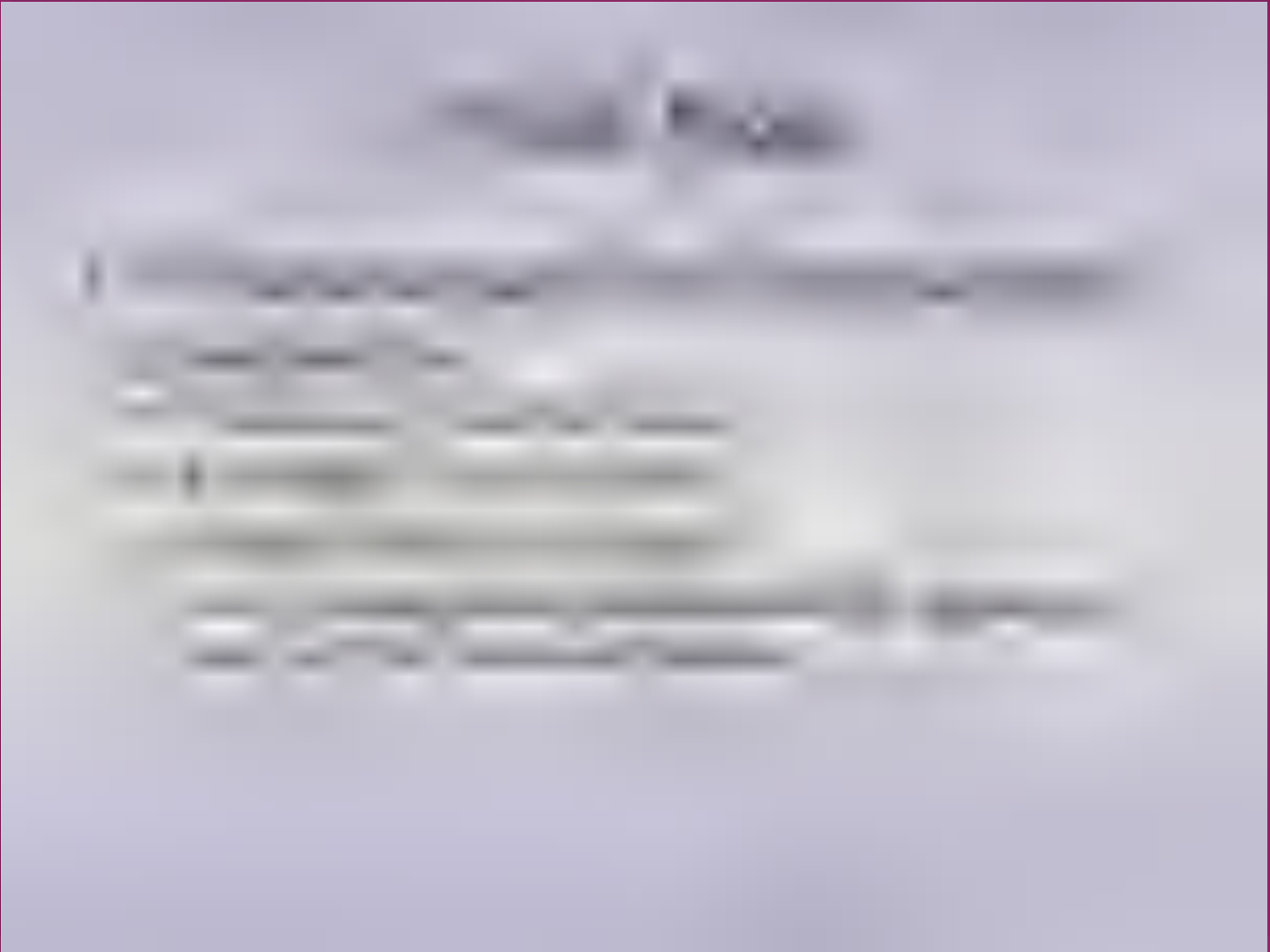
- ▶ Allegro: Cheerful or brisk tempo.
- ▶ Coda: Ending section of music.
- ▶ Piano vs. forte: Quiet vs. loud.

- ▶ **Political Jargon**
- ▶ Left wing - Political jargon for liberal, progressive viewpoint
- ▶ Right wing - Jargon meaning a conservative viewpoint



# ARGOT

- ▶ Argot is language particular to a specific group. It can mean a kind of slang, a technical language or a code. Argot, on the other hand, is specifically designed to confuse non-initiated listeners. It's a code, where you substitute one set of words for another. This is mainly used by criminals so that their conversations cannot be decoded by police or casual listeners.
- ▶ Jargon is to explain things, Argot is to hide things. As jargon becomes established, it becomes part of normal language, but as argot becomes established, the code must change to something new and unknown.



# TABOO

- ▶ A taboo is an activity that is forbidden or sacred based on religious beliefs or morals. Breaking a taboo is extremely objectionable in society as a whole. Around the world, an act may be taboo in one culture and not in another.
- ▶ Bigotry - speaking negatively about someone of another race.
- ▶ Head position - in Indonesia, it is taboo to have your head higher than an elder person
- ▶ Polygamy - having more than one spouse at the same time
- ▶ Wearing shoes inside - in some places, shoes are not worn inside a house
- ▶ Flowers - giving an even number of flowers is taboo in Russia because they are for the dead



## Taboos on Bodily Functions

- ▶ Nose blowing in public - this is taboo in Turkey

## Dietary Taboos

- ▶ Chewing gum - Singapore had banned chewing gum because people dispose of it improperly
- ▶ Cold foods - Chinese woman will avoid certain foods a month before giving birth.



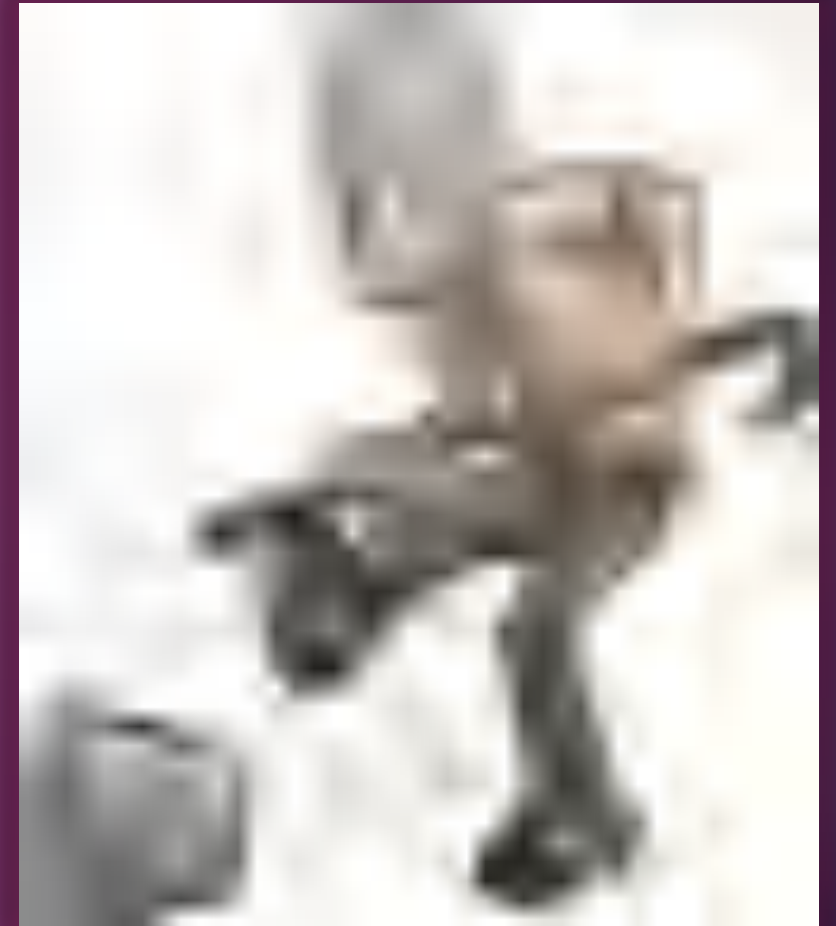
# EUPHEMISM

- ▶ A euphemism is the use of agreeable or inoffensive words to replace rude or offensive ones.

## Euphemism Examples in Everyday Life

- ▶ Our teacher is in the family way (pregnant).
- ▶ He is a special child (disabled or retarded).

kicked the bucket	has died
letting you go	you're fired
cognitively challenged	stupid



# EPITHETS

- ▶ A rhetorical term for an adjective or adjective phrase used to characterize a person or thing.
- ▶ A characterizing word or phrase firmly associated with a person or thing and often used in place of an actual name, title, or the like, as “man's best friend” for “dog.”.

## Examples of Epithet

- ▶ Alexander the Great
- ▶ Uncrowned King (Metin Oktay)
- ▶ Papa Müslüm (Müslüm Gürses)
- ▶ Richard the Lion-Heart
- ▶ Megastar Tarkan
- ▶ Little Sparrow (Sezen Aksu)



firefighter		fireman
technician	<u>Not</u>	repairman
cleaner	X	cleaning woman
fisher		fisherman
police officer		policeman

# sexism

SEE IT. SAY IT. STOP IT.

# Marked and Unmarked Forms

## Marked Forms

The form of a word that stands out from the norm i.e. lioness, priestess.

## Unmarked Forms

The normal/neutral form of a word. Most unmarked forms are considered male i.e. lion, priest.

- ▶ Similar to this is an asymmetry between male and female terms in many languages in which there are male/female pairs of words. The male form is generally unmarked and the female term is created by adding a bound morpheme.

# Language and Sexism

- ▶ Sexism is discrimination on the basis of gender. While it is primarily women who are affected by sexism, it can be used to discriminate either men or women. For example, traditionally, *he*, *him* and *his* were used to refer to both sexes, male and female, but nowadays many people feel that this makes *she*, *her* and *hers* seem less important or inferior. It is best to avoid sexist language in order not to offend people.

## Examples

- ▶ *A nurse has to be very open and understanding. They must listen to their patients and respond to them.* (preferred to *She must listen to her patients.* or *He must listen to his patients.*)

## ► Examples

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
heir	heiress
major	majorette
hero	heroine
Robert	Roberta
equestrian	equestrienne
aviator	aviatrix

## Question 1

Which of the following is more informal than others?

A-Argot

B-Slang

C-Jargon



**C** is the correct answer.

## Question 2

Which of the following statements is the best epithet definition?

▶ **A**- A witty remark.

▶ **B**- A glorified nickname.

▶ **C**- A short quotation at the beginning of a book.

**B** is the correct answer.

## Question 3

Why would a person use a euphemism?

▶ **A.** To speak around an uncomfortable topic.

▶ **B.** To exaggerate the importance of a  
touchy subject.

▶ **C.** To offend the person he or she is  
speaking to.

▶ A is the correct answer.

## Question 4

Which of the following statements is the best slang definition?

▶ **A.** A form of speaking that is informal and signals inclusion in a specific social group.

▶ **C.** A subset of language used in a certain profession.

▶ **B.** A groups of words or phrases which are used only in a certain geographic region.

▶ A is the correct answer.

# REFERENCES

- ▶ <http://examples.yourdictionary.com>
- ▶ <https://www.vocabulary.com>
- ▶ <https://linguistics.stackexchange.com/>
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# LANGUAGE IN SOCIETY

## **DIALECTS**

*English Language and Literature*  
*2014191014*

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What is a language and what is just a dialect?

## LANGUAGE

A system of communication used by a particular country or community

## DIALECT

A particular form of a language which is peculiar to a specific region or social groups

**SYN:** Regional language, local language, local tongue, etc.

# DIALECT

- The word dialect was originally borrowed from Greek language. In ancient Greece, this word was used to refer to certain written varieties which were distinct from one another. But in English, this term is used in a different sense.

# POPULAR USAGE OF THE TERM “DIALECT”

- Dialect in English is used to refer to a certain variety which has no written form e.g Scottish Dialect , Irish Dialect, etc.
- English employs dialect in a number of different senses, including also various types **of** “informal” or “nonstandard” varieties:
- “In general usage it therefore remains quite undefined whether such dialects are part of the ‘language’ or not. In fact, the dialect is often thought of as standing outside the language... **As a** social norm, then, a dialect is a language that is excluded from society.” (Haugen 1966)

# FACTS ABOUT DIALECTS

- All languages consist of dialect ( a language is a group of dialects; to speak a language is to speak a dialect of that language)
- Therefore, everyone speaks at least one dialect
- Dialect differences are usually minor and dialects of a language are usually mutually intelligible
- Dialects are geographically, socially, politically determined
- Dialect variation is a matter of difference, not deficit

- Nonstandard dialects are “**self**-contained” system, with their regular phonological and syntactic rules
- Nonstandard dialects of English are close relatives to Standard English, sometimes reflecting older forms of SE



What is idiolect?

The speech  
variety of an  
individual  
speaker

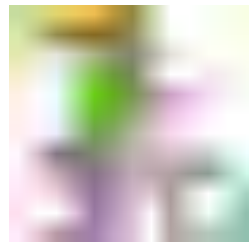
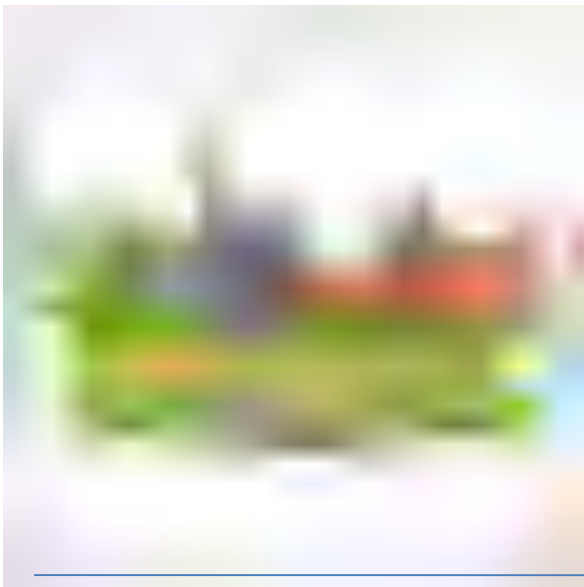


# What is dialect continuum?

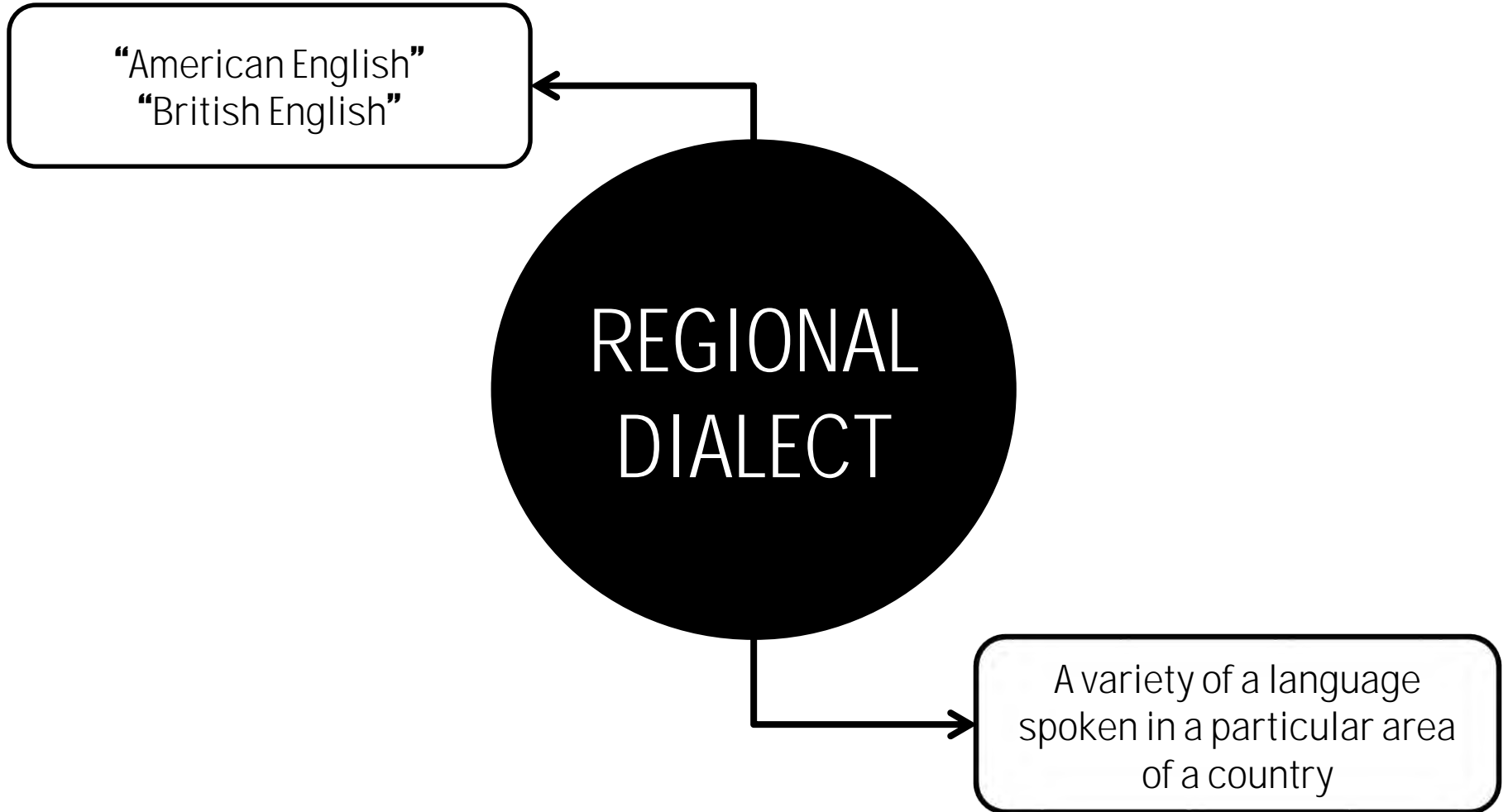
- A dialect continuum or dialect chain is a spread of [language varieties](#) spoken across some geographical area such that each differs only slightly from its neighbors, but the differences accumulate over distance so that widely separated varieties are not [mutually intelligible](#)



Imagine, for example, a traveler journeying from Vienna to Amsterdam by bicycle. She would notice small changes in the German spoken as she bicycled from village to village, and the people in adjacent villages would have no trouble communicating with one another. Yet, by the time our traveler reached Dutch-speaking Amsterdam, she would realize that the accumulated differences made the German of Vienna and the Dutch of Amsterdam nearly mutually unintelligible.



# REGIONAL DIALECTS





# What is a regional dialect?

- When various linguistic differences accumulate in a particular geographic region, the language spoken has its own character. This version of the language is referred to as a **regional dialect**.

# REGIONAL DIALECT

AMERICAN ENGLISH

GAS

DOVE

I DON'T HAVE A  
BOOK

BRITISH ENGLISH

PETROL

DIVED

**I HAVEN'T A BOOK**



# What is accent?

an accent is a  
manner  
of pronunciation  
peculiar to a  
particular  
individual,  
location, or nation

# PHONOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES

LUXURY

%48 OF AMERICANS

**[lʌkʃəri]**

%98 OF BRITISH

**[lʌgʒəri]**

DATA

%64 OF AMERICANS

[e]

%35 OF AMERICANS

**[æ]**

%92 OF BRITISH

[e]

%2 OF BRITISH

**[æ]**

- The United Kingdom has many regional dialects. The British vowels are used by speakers of the dialect called RP for received pronunciation because it is received in the court of monarch.

## RECEIVED PRONUNCIATION

Received Pronunciation is the accent of Standard English in the United Kingdom and is defined in the *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* as "the standard accent of English as spoken in the south of England"

# LEXICAL DIFFERENCES

- Regional dialects may differ in the words people use for the same object, as well as in phonology.
- If you **ask a “tonic” in Boston**, you will get a drink called soda or soda-pop in Los Angeles.



soda



tonic



soda-  
pop



*Los Angeles*



FREEWAY

**NEW YORK**



THRUWAY

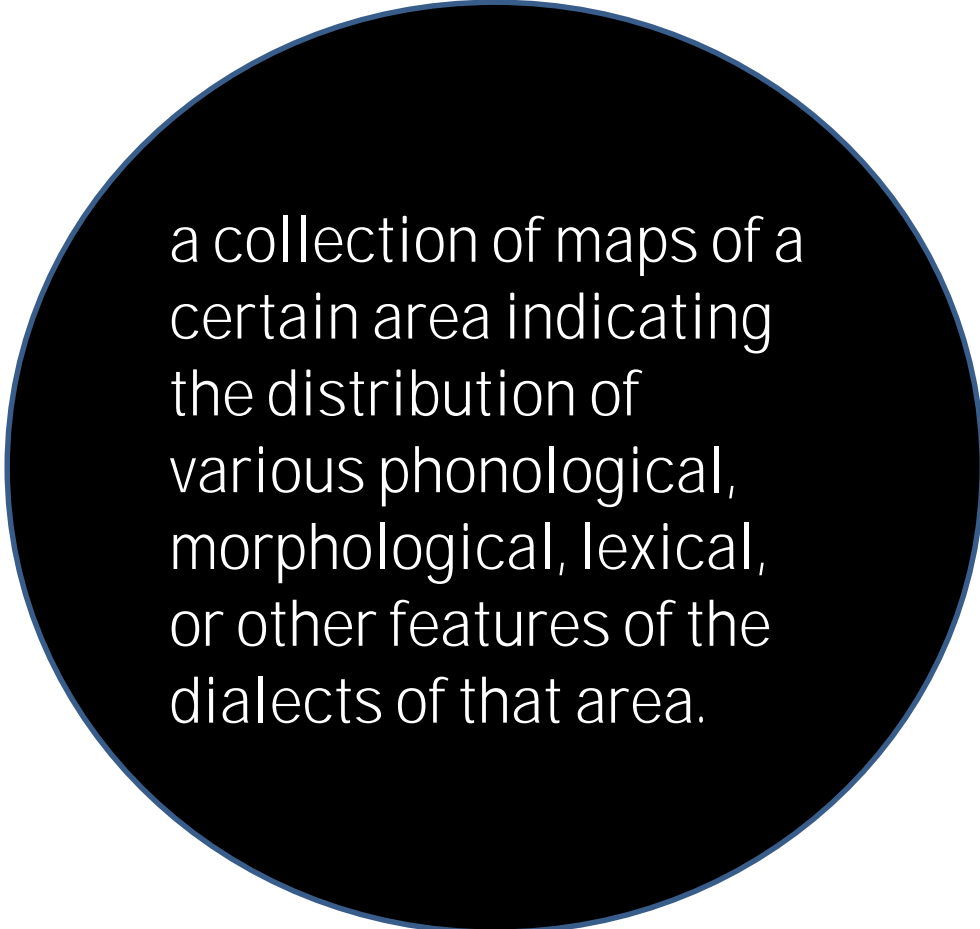


PARKWAY



MOTORWAY

# DIALECT ATLASES



a collection of maps of a certain area indicating the distribution of various phonological, morphological, lexical, or other features of the dialects of that area.



# SYNTACTIC DIFFERENCES

- Dialects can also be distinguished by systematic differences. In most American dialects, sentences may be conjoined as follows:
- John will eat and Mary will eat → John and Mary will eat
- John will eat and Mary will eat → John will eat and Mary

## Dialect 1

between you and I

**Won't** he let you and I swim?

## Dialect 2

between you and me

**Won't** he let you and me swim?




# SOCIAL DIALECTS

What is social dialect?

Besides geography, there are other factors which bring variations in a language, such as social class, sex and age. So, the dialects of a language which are based on non-regional differences are called social dialects or sociolects

# THE “STANDARD”

## What is the definition of The Standard American English?



The term *Standard American English* customarily refers to a variety of the English language that's generally used in professional communication in the United States and taught in American schools.

- The dominant, or prestige, dialect is often called the standard dialect. SAE is an idealization. Nobody speaks this dialect; and if somebody did, we would not know it, because SAE is not defined precisely.

# AFRICAN AMERICAN ENGLISH

- African American English (AAE) is a variety of American English, spoken by urban working-class African Americans and largely bi-dialectal middle-class African Americans
- AAE is generally used in casual and informal situations, and is much more common among working class people. African Americans from middle class backgrounds and with higher level of education are now more likely to be speakers of SAE. U.S. President Barrack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama are cases in point.





# PHONOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AAE AND SAE

- r-Deletion
- AAE includes a rule of r-deletion that deletes /r/ everywhere except before a vowel. Pairs of words like **guard** and **god**, **nor** and **gnaw**, **sore** and **saw**, **poor** and **Poe**, **fort** and **fought**
- in SAE the medial [d] in ***didn't*** is often deleted, producing **[dɪnt]**.

- Neutralization of [ɪ] and [ɛ]
- AAE shares with many regional dialects a lack of distinction between /ɪ/ and /ɛ/ before nasal consonants, producing identical pronunciations of pin and pen, bin and Ben, tin and ten, and so on. The vowel sound in these words is roughly between the [ɪ] of pit and the [ɛ] of pet.

- Diphthong Reduction
- AAE has a rule that reduces the diphthong /əɪ/ (particularly before /ɪ/) to the simple vowel [ə] without the glide, so that *boil* and *boy* are pronounced [bə]

# SYNTACTIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AAE AND SAE

- Multiple Negatives
- Constructions with multiple negatives akin to AAE
- *He **don't** know nothing.*

- Deleting of the Verb **“Be”**

SAE

He is nice.  
They are mine.

**He's** as nice as he says he is.

AAE

He nice.  
They mine.

He as nice as he say he.

## Habitual **“Be”**

AAE

John be happy.  
He late.  
You tired?

SAE

John is always happy.  
He is late this time.  
Are you tired now?

# “There” Replacament

- Some AAE dialects replace SAE *there* with ***it's*** in positive sentences, and ***don't*** or ***ain't*** in negative sentences.
- ***It's*** a fly messing with me.      ***There's*** a fly messing with me.
- ***Ain't*** no one going to help you.      ***There's*** no one going to help you.

# LATINO (HISPANIC) ENGLISH

- A major group of American English dialects is spoken by native Spanish speakers or their descendants.



# CHICANO ENGLISH

- Chicano English, or Mexican American English, is a dialect of American English spoken primarily by Mexican Americans (sometimes known as Chicanos), particularly in the Southwestern United States, ranging from Texas to California but also apparent in Chicago



# Syntactic Variables in ChE

- There are regular syntactic differences between ChE and SAE. In Spanish, a negative sentence uses a negative morpheme before the verb even if another negative appears; thus negative concord is a regular rule of ChE syntax.



SAE

I **don't** have any money.

I **don't** want anything.



ChE

I don have no many.

I no want nothing.

# What is genderlects

A variety of speech or conversational style used by a particular gender.

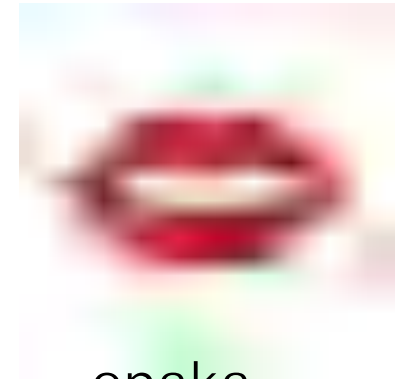


Hara

Umai

stomach

delicious



onaka

oishii

THANK YOU  
FOR  
WATCHING

MUSACAN  
**ÖZTÜRK**