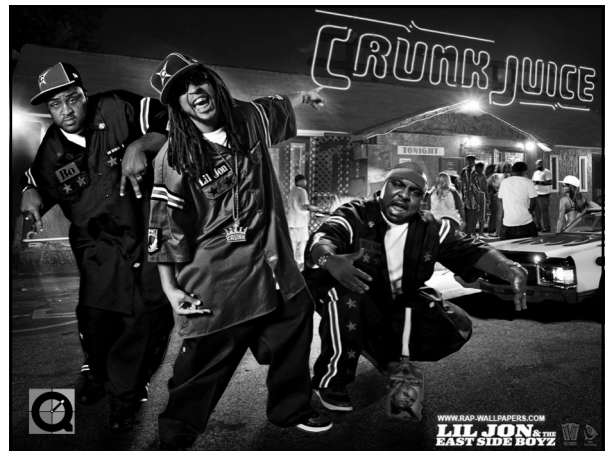


Regional Dialects Social Dialects Styles and Registers

Sociolinguistics
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Traditional Dialectology

- ☑ **Dialectology:** the study of *regional* language variation
- ☑ Heavy historical orientation
 - ☑ E.g.: “What is the natural linguistic development [the reflex] of Middle English *o?”
 - ☑ How did Thai tones develop?
- ☑ Focuses on the “vernacular”
 - ☑ Definition: the vernacular is the common spoken language of a people, as opposed to formal, written or literary language
- ☑ Typically focused on rural populations—more speakers of vernacular than in cities

Isogloss

☑ **Isogloss:** a line on a dialect map marking the boundary between linguistic features.

www.ling.upenn.edu/courses/Spring_2001/ling001/sociolinguistics.html/map_rhenish_copy.jpg

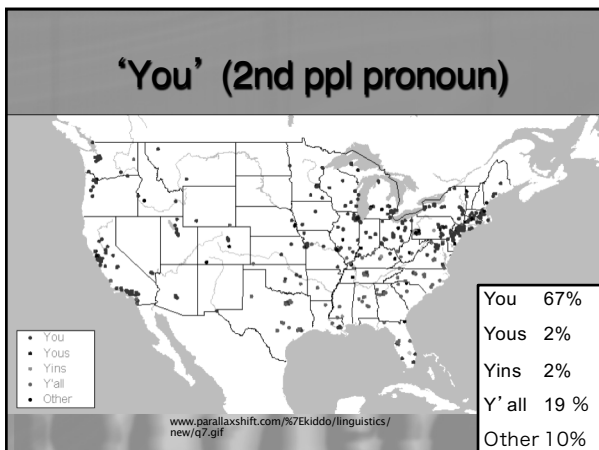
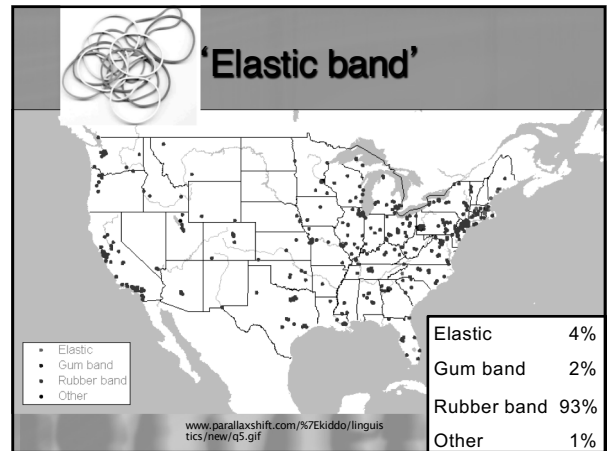
Modern dialectology

Modern dialectology

‘Long narrow sandwich’

Bomber	0%
Grinder	4%
Hero	4%
Hoagie	11%
Sub	77%
Other	4%

www.parallaxshift.com/%7Ekiddo/linguistics/new/01



Discussion

- What regional dialects are we aware of in our languages?
- Any other comments or questions?

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Regional vs. Social dialects

- Regional Dialects:**
 - Geographically based, limited to certain regions
- Social dialects:**
 - Based on social groups, limited to those groups

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Social groupings include...

- ☑ Age
- ☑ Sex
- ☑ Race / ethnicity
- ☑ Class
- ☑ Income and wealth
- ☑ Kinship
- ☑ Occupational structures
- ☑ Political structures
- ☑ Religious structures
- ☑ Education
- ☑ Leisure-time activities
- ☑ Organizational involvements

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Relating linguistic variation to social variation

- ☑ Correlation studies attempt to show how *linguistic variables* are related to *social variables*.
- ☑ Correlation studies must distinguish between *dependent variables* (the one we are interested in, i.e., the linguistic ones) and *independent variables* (the social ones, e.g., age, sex, social position, ethnicity, etc.)

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Listen to this song...

- ☑ Look for a strange linguistic variable--he pronounces 2 words differently than "standard English"
- ☑ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0asbGJbLKc>



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The Linguistic Variable

- ☑ Definition: a linguistic item which has identifiable variants.
 - ☑ E.g., 'singing' → [-ɪŋ] ~ [-ɪn] ending.
- ☑ A linguistic variable is not confined to just phonology; can also be grammar, morphology, lexicon, conversational patterns

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Two kinds of variation

- ☑ Clearly distinct, discreet (absence or presence) values, for example:
 - ☑ (-ing) → [-ɪŋ] ~ [-ɪn] (singing/singin)
 - ☑ (-th) → /-θ, -t, -f, Ø/ (with/wit/wif/wi')
- ☑ Quality, amount, continuum values
 - ☑ Degree of nasalization, fronting, backing.
 - ☑ More than one dimension may be involved, such as nasalization *and* fronting.

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Black English Variation

- ☑ Professor William Labov and Black English
- ☑ Why do so many Black children do poorly in school? ->drop out, many illiterate children and adults

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White English vs. Black English: Final Consonant Variants (write rules)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> told		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> toe
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mist		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> miss
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> boot		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> boo
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> four		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fo
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bath		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> baf
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mouth		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mouf

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White English vs. Black English: Vowels that sound the same!

- Pin and pen
- Feel and fill
- Fail and fell
- Time and Torn
- Boil and ball
- Find, found, fond

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Result?

- Feeling that spelling does not make sense--an impossible task
- Black children become frustrated and discouraged-> "Unfriendly School"

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Black English Grammar

- See pp 188-189 in Holmes (4th Ed)
- Note that the changes are systematic and can be summarized by linguistic rules.

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Variation in English syntax

- Copular constructions
 - He 's happy, He be happy, He happy.*
- Double negative constructions
 - He don 't mean no harm to anybody.*
- Double modal constructions
 - I might could go there for you.*
- Loss of infinitive 'to'
 - The car needs washed.*

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Black English--Lexicon

- "I was in my hoopty around dimday when some mad duck with a tray-eight tried to take me out of the box."
- I was in my car around sunset when a woman with a .38 caliber gun tried to kill me.

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**Is it Physical?
Related to Skin?**



NO!

Stereotypes

- Stereotype:** a popular characterization of the speech of a particular group, e.g., NYC 'boid/bird', Texas "Howdy Pardner", Australian 'G' day'.
- Often such stereotypes are stigmatized.
- Linguistic stereotypes are often found in jokes and movies
 - Examples from Thai soap operas? Popular jokes?

Dialects and social class

- The development of social-class dialects can be explained in terms of social barriers and social distance
- Social distance appears to be as important in differentiating dialects as geographical distance

Social class dialects are not distinct entities

- They merge into each other to form a continuum
- In some societies, social classes are relatively fixed (e.g., India); in many other parts of the world they are more fluid

Discussion

- Can you give some examples of social dialects in your language?

Styles and Registers

Stylistic stratification

- ☑ “There are a great many styles and stylistic dimensions that can be isolated by an analyst. But we find that *styles can be ranged along a single dimension, measured by the amount of attention paid to speech.*” (Labov 1970)

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Stylistic stratification

Some styles by level of attention paid to speech:

5. Minimal pairs (maximum attention)
4. Word lists
3. Reading
2. Careful speech
1. Casual speech = *vernacular*

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Style shifting

- ☑ “As far as we can see, there are no single-style speakers. Some informants show a much wider range of style shifting than others, but every speaker we have encountered shows a shift of some linguistic variables as the social context and topic change.” (Labov 1970)
- ☑ E.g., *formal* “You are requested to leave.”
 ↓
 “Please go.”
 ↓
informal “Get out!”
 ↓
 “Scram!”

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Register and some similar terms

- ☑ **Register:** sets of language items associated with discrete occupational or social groups (W51)
- ☑ **Jargon:** the specialized vocabulary of a trade or profession, especially when it is incomprehensible to outsiders (e.g. rap music?)
- ☑ Very close to *register*, *jargon* is somewhat pejorative
- ☑ **Slang:** informal vocabulary, especially short-lived coinages, that do not belong to a language’s standard vocabulary.

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What register is this...?

6 STANCE AND START DRILL
Purpose: To develop proper stance and starts when running sprints.
Execution: If the athlete is right handed, he should place his left foot as near to the starting line as possible, “crowding the line”. He should also drop his right hand down in front of the line. The feet should be staggered with the majority of the weight on the front foot and hand. The back foot should not be extended too far back because the athlete wants to gain ground on his first step. His tail should be raised up with the off hand on the hip. On the starting count, the athlete should explode off the up foot, stay low and gradually work up into proper running form. After the player runs 20 yards, the finish line becomes the starting line. This drill should be repeated four times.

7 SEVEN-AND-A-HALF FOOT STRIDE DRILL
Purpose: To increase stride length in form running.
Execution: From their small groups, the athletes will cover 40 yards. The first row begins the drill by running with proper stance and start techniques. As they run, they should work to lengthen their stride while maintaining proper running form. If the drill is run on the football field, the athlete should work to take two steps every five yards.

Speed Improvement Variations:
 Hill workouts (Sprints, cariocas, and backpedaling).

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Dialect, style and register are largely independent...



- ☑ You can have a casual chat (style) about mountain climbing (register) in a local language variety (dialect)...

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Dialect, style and register are largely independent...



- Or write a formal technical study (style) of noodle making (register) in a national language (dialect)

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Discussion

- What special registers are you familiar with?

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Homework

- Read Holmes 4th ed, chapter 6
- Do exercises 1 (p133) 5 (p 138) and 6 (p 144) IN YOUR OWN WORDS
- 2 more Sociolinguistics Scrapbook entries!

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Next period...

- What are some ways in which we can collect data on social and regional dialects?

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