

Indexing, Varieties, & Language Attitudes

LCD 205: Sociolinguistics
Queens College, CUNY

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Outline

- Indexing
- Varieties
- Questionnaires
- Speech Topics
- Homework & Exams

Indirect Indexing

- Work with a partner and pick one group and make an association web for that group
- Find another video for the same group which indexes another association from the web

Indexing and Media

- Italian American
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWC0sKCS5oA>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VbQWO22pprk>
- Web of Association
 - Family oriented
 - Older generations
 - Queens/Brooklyn
 - Loud
 - Cheap
 - Gangster/mafia
 - Catholic
 - Middle class
 - Blue collar

Indexing and Media

- Slavic/Eastern European
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQrmV77_cFU
- Web of Association
 - Spies
 - Villan
 - Mysterious
 - Chic
 - Greedy
 - criminal/mafia
 - Gypsy
 - Superstitious
 - Old money
 - Solemn
 - No emotion

Indexing and Media

- Latino
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7zM67or4t0>
- Web of Association
 - Lower class
 - Family oriented
 - Immigrants
 - Superstitious
 - Gangs
 - Uneducated
 - Informal
 - Proud
 - Machismo
 - Romantic
 - Sexy
 - Confident
 - Exotic
 - Catholic

Indexing and Media

- Irish
 - <https://youtu.be/iLeXB925yww?t=7m58s>
- Web of Association
 - Low class
 - Poor
 - Drinkers
 - Gangsters
 - cheap

Indexing and Media

- Southern
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egQQujJLS8>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWC0sKCS5oA>
- Web of Association
 - Good food/cook
 - Religious
 - Honest
 - Racist
 - Simple
 - Dumb

Homework

- From homework:
 - Find 3 videos and do an association web for another group

TERMS FOR DESCRIBING LANGUAGE

Freewrite

- How many languages are there?
- List ten languages
- List ten dialects
- List ten accents
- How are dialects, accents and language different?

Language

- There are 7,102 living languages (according to Ethnologue, 8 July 2015)
 - 43% are endangered (UNESCO),
 - 197 in India
 - 191 in the US
 - 190 in Brazil
 - 144 in China
 - 143 in Mexico
 - Countless more have become extinct
 - 231 since 1950 (UNESCO)

Language

- **How is ethnologue defining 'language'?**
- The ISO 639-3 standard applies the following basic criteria for defining a language in relation to varieties which may be considered dialects:
- Two related varieties are normally considered varieties of the same language if speakers of each variety have inherent understanding of the other variety at a functional level (that is, can understand based on knowledge of their own variety without needing to learn the other variety).
- Where spoken intelligibility between varieties is marginal, the existence of a common literature or of a common ethnolinguistic identity with a central variety that both understand can be a strong indicator that they should nevertheless be considered varieties of the same language.
- Where there is enough intelligibility between varieties to enable communication, the existence of well-established distinct ethnolinguistic identities can be a strong indicator that they should nevertheless be considered to be different languages.

Language Terminology

- Lots of terms
 - Variety
 - Lect
 - Accent
 - Vernacular/Slang
 - Jargon
 - Register
 - Dialect
 - Language

Language

- When we speak of language we are talking about three different things
 - I-language
 - E-language
 - P-language

i-language

- When we acquire language, we internalize it
 - I-language
 - Internal
 - Idiolect
 - Individual
 - Personal Grammar
 - Mental Grammar
- I-Language
 - We each have our own that differ
 - We may have more than one
 - The only true language that can be studied

E-language

- Language we are exposed to
 - E-Language
 - External
 - Dialect
 - Local community
 - People whose I-Language closely approximate one another.
- E-Language is a collection of I-Languages
- Studied in Corpus analysis
- Averaging over many individuals may not get at the nature of one true grammar

P-language

- The notion of a Language
 - P-Language
 - Platonic
 - Not real
 - Abstract
 - The 'English' or 'French' we think of
- P-Language
 - Notion of languages as entities outside of the community that speaks them
 - Idealization – like platonic ideal form
 - Cannot be scientifically studied

Variety & Lect

- Cover terms for a kind of speech.
- Neutral term
- Refers to just any speech type

- Also
 - Ethnolect
 - idiolect

Accent

- Accents within a Variety
 - Varieties of speech that differ from each other phonetically & phonologically
 - Aspects of pronunciation of a variety of a language
 - For example, Staten Island English and Bronx English
- L2-Accented Variety
 - A accent which is derived from the speakers L1
 - The accented English of someone who speaks Mexican Spanish as a first language
- They just sound different, but the other aspects of the language are the same
 - Words
 - Syntax
 - semantics

Slang/Jargon

- Slang
 - Words and phrases used by those who are typically outside established higher status group
 - Usually used more often in informal registers
- Jargon
 - Special technical vocabulary associated with a specific field
 - “Zanoxyn is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug for arthritis, bursitis and tendonitis.”

DIALECT

Dialect

- Dialect
 - Aspects of the grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation of a variety of a language
 - **Everyone speaks some dialect of their L1**
 - “languages” are really bundles of mutually understandable dialects

Dialect

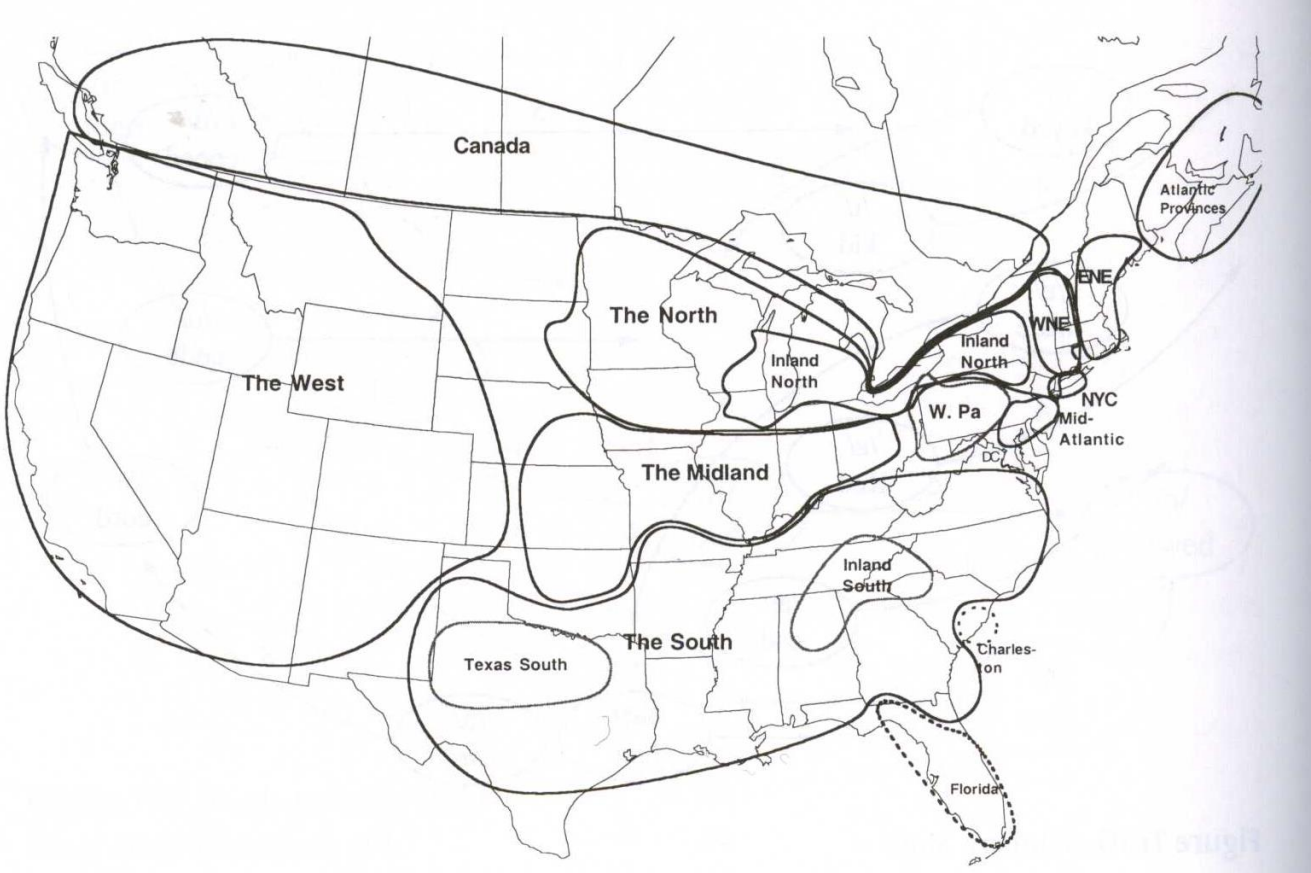
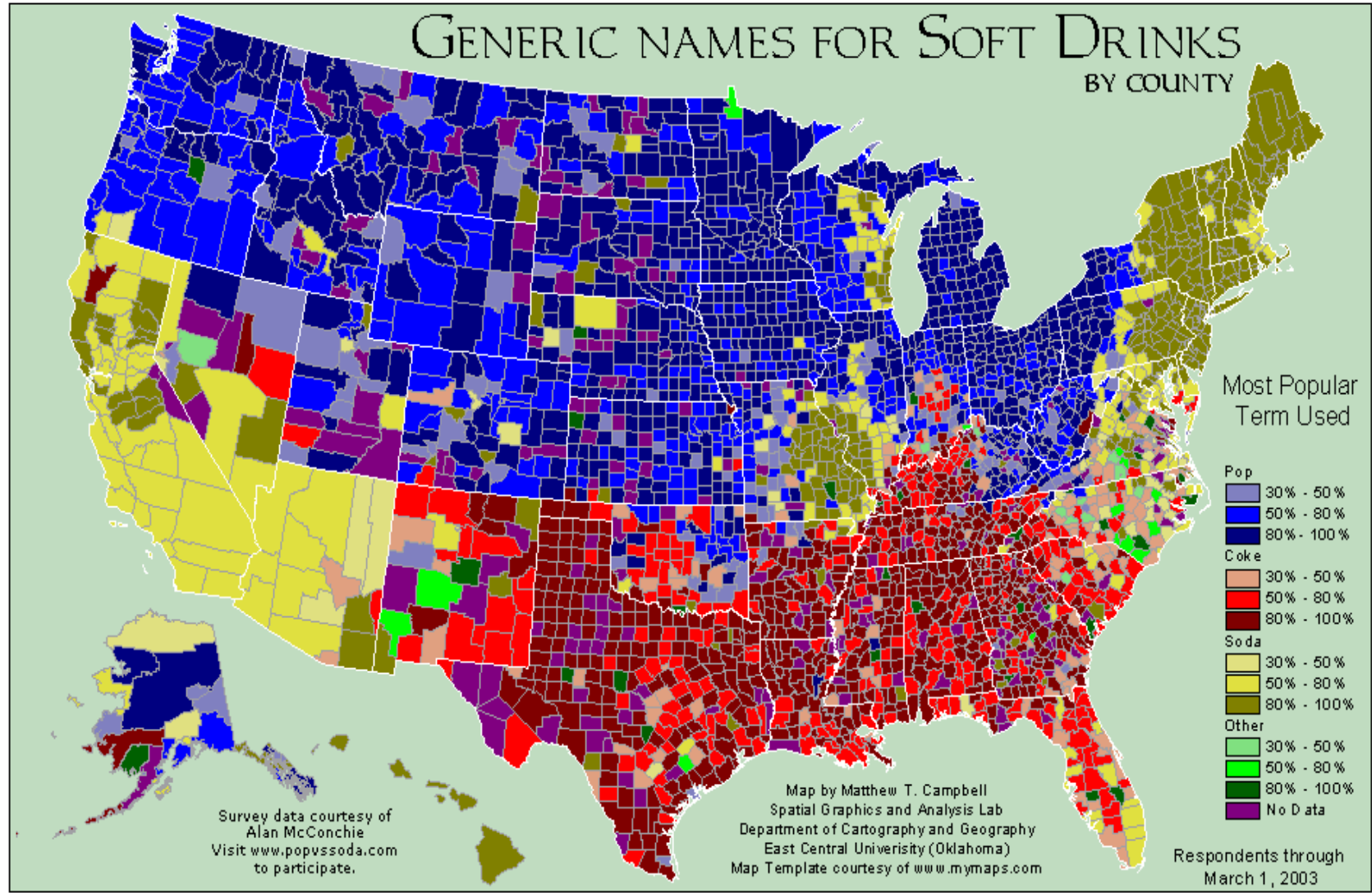


Figure 11.11 Urban Dialect Areas of the United States, Based on Pronunciation
Source: Adapted from Labov 1996.

GENERIC NAMES FOR SOFT DRINKS BY COUNTY

Most Popular
Term Used

- | | |
|-------|------------|
| Pop | 30% - 50% |
| | 50% - 80% |
| | 80% - 100% |
| Coke | 30% - 50% |
| | 50% - 80% |
| | 80% - 100% |
| Soda | 30% - 50% |
| | 50% - 80% |
| | 80% - 100% |
| Other | 30% - 50% |
| | 50% - 80% |
| | 80% - 100% |
| | No Data |



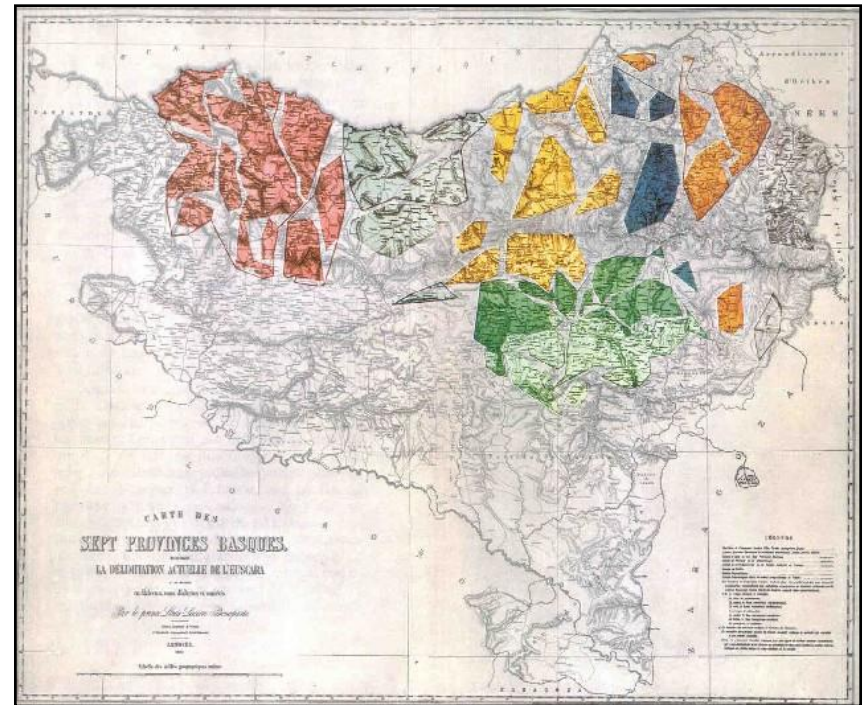
Survey data courtesy of
Alan McConchie
Visit www.popvsoda.com
to participate.

Map by Matthew T. Campbell
Spatial Graphics and Analysis Lab
Department of Cartography and Geography
East Central University (Oklahoma)
Map Template courtesy of www.mymaps.com

Respondents through
March 1, 2003

Dialect

- Problematic
- Used multiple ways



Dialect

- Popularly
 - “A language is a dialect with an army and a navy.”
 - political factors influence what’s called what
 - Chinese “dialects”
 - Scandinavian “languages”
 - Geographically bounded variety
 - Non-Standard variety

Dialect

- Scientifically
 - mutual intelligibility
 - if speakers of the two dialects understand each other, then they are speaking dialects of the same language
 - if not, they are speaking two different languages

Dialects

- Between two varieties it is impossible to:
 - Quantify the differences
 - How measure “difference”
 - Establish cut-off points
 - **dialect continuum**
 - Fuzzy borders
 - Where does one start and the other one end
 - Speakers of A understand speakers of B who understand speakers of C → ABC are dialects of one language
 - Determine intelligibility
 - People understand who they *want* to understand

Dialect v. Language

- What gets called a 'dialect' and what called a 'language' is dependent on social/political factors
 - Basque/Spanish
 - Nahuatl/Spanish
 - Chinese 'dialects'
 - Hindi/Urdu
 - Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian
 - Bokmål/Nynorsk/Danish



Language

- So...
 - Everything is a language
 - Everything is a dialect
- Best to refer to something as a dialect/variety

Language

- Recall that there really isn't any "language"
- Language = p-language
- Only!
 - i-language
 - Idiolect
 - Personal variety

Quickwrite

- Which varieties do you speak?
- How are they viewed? What are the varieties associated with? What is your evidence for this?
- Do you use them in the same domains?

Individual Speech

- Brainstorm
 - 5 vague topics

QUESTIONNAIRES

Using Language

- Understand Language attitudes by doing a sociolinguistic profile
- How and when different language varieties are used
- Directly or indirectly ask questions about language attitudes

Questionnaires

- 5 Sample Questionnaires about language attitude and use
 - Duan (2004)
 - Guerini (2007)
 - Madsen Serrano (2014)
 - NYCDOE
 - Pletsch (1999)
 - Redinger (2010)

Questionnaires

- Take questionnaire and discuss with neighbor
- For homework, make your own questionnaire