

I. What is language variation?

A. Categories of language variation

1. lexical
2. phonological
3. grammatical – morphological and syntactic

B. Independent or extralinguistic variables: How variation is patterned; speaker characteristics that interact with language

1. region / geography
2. gender
3. ethnicity
4. urban / rural
5. social class
6. age
7. education
8. community, in-group, subcultural affiliations / communities of practice

C. interaction: independent / extralinguistic variables interact with the three major linguistic feature categories

II. Ways to approach the study of language variation; methods of data collection and analysis

A. Sociolinguistics

B. Dialectology

C. Examples of various methods of data collection and analysis:

1. Labov (1966) New York City study, especially department store study

- a. research question: prestige and /r/ pronunciation
- b. methodology: 'fourth floor' pronunciations of store employees

2. Preston's language attitudes and 'perceptual dialectology' research (more about this later in the semester when we read *USA* Ch. 26)

- a. differential valuation of different language varieties
- b. methods: map-drawing and dialect rankings

3. Linguistic Atlas: the first major surveys of American English; began 1920s

III. General linguistic terminology

A. Grammatical terms

1. morpheme
2. morphology
3. free morpheme
4. bound morpheme
5. syntax

B. Lexical terms

1. lexicon
2. lexeme

C. Meaning and context terms

1. semantics
2. pragmatics

D. Phonological terms

1. phoneme
2. phonology
3. minimal pair
4. allophones
5. phonetic transcription – written representation of speech sounds
6. phonetic alphabet (IPA)
7. monophthongs and diphthongs
8. Articulatory descriptions

a. consonants:

- i. where is the sound produced?
- ii. how is the sound produced?
- iii. vocal cord activity (voicing)?

b. vowels:

- i. height of sound production
- ii. frontedness
- iii. tense or lax?

9. Manners of consonant articulation

- a. stop (plosive)
- b. fricative (continuant)
- c. affricate
- d. nasal
- e. liquid

- i. lateral
- ii. retroflex

- f. glide or semivowel

IV. Regional Variation. (Reading: Kretzschmar, "Regional Dialects": *Language in the USA*, Ch. 3)

A. Individuality of speech versus regional generalizations

- 1. idiolect
- 2. variation in the Linguistic Atlas data
- 3. social affiliations
- 4. intra-speaker variation and context/situation
- 5. geographical proximity and shared features

B. Why are there dialects in the U.S.?

- 1. immigration and subsequent migration routes in U.S. (geographical mobility)
- 2. settler diversity

C. major contemporary phonological changes in U.S. English

- 1. Northern Cities Shift
- 2. Southern Shift
- 3. Low Back Merger (*caught/cot*)

V. The Northern Cities Shift. (Readings, linked to updates page: Mendoza-Denton, Hendricks, and Kennedy, "The Northern Cities Shift," Parts 1-3; Gordon, "The Sounds, They Are A Shiftin," summary and essay; Hinds, "Accent? What AY-ack-cent?" from the *Detroit Free Press*)

A. What is the Northern Cities Shift?

B. Geographical locations where it has been identified

C. Pronunciation features associated with NCS

D. Relationship among NCS features; vowel chart