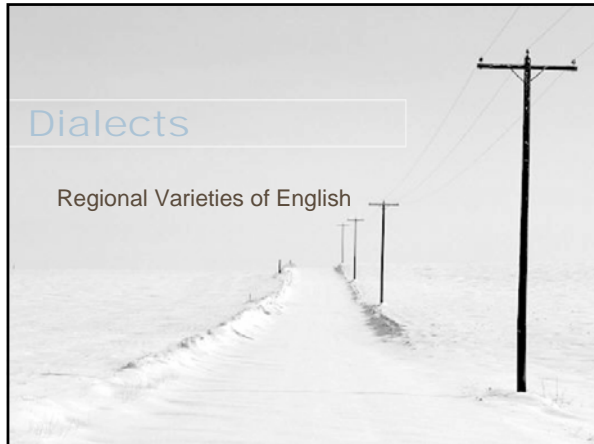
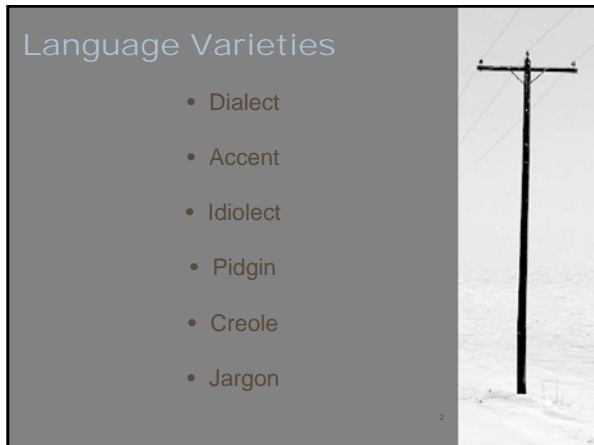
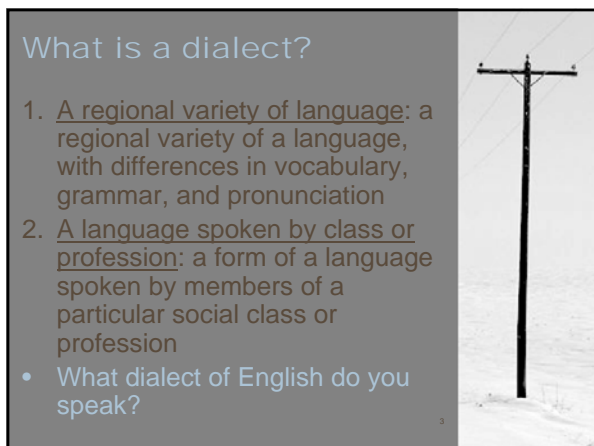


Dialects: Regional Varieties of English







Dialects: Regional Varieties of English

Different kinds of dialects

- "A language is a dialect with an army and a navy."
- Non-standard dialect
- Virginia Piedmont dialect
- An upper-class dialect



What is an accent?

- A manner of pronunciation: a way of pronouncing words that indicates the place of origin or social background of the speaker
- Do you have an accent?



Different kinds of accents


- A Texas accent
- A British accent
- The customers will love your Italian accent.
- He greeted them in a Chicago accent.



Dialects: Regional Varieties of English

Dialect features


- Northern
 - New England
 - Boston, New York City
 - Inland Northern
 - Upper Midwestern
- Western
 - Alaska
 - Pacific Southwest
 - Southwestern
- Hawai'i



10

Dialect features


- General Southern
 - South Midland
 - Southern
 - Tangier
 - Gullah
 - Louisiana
 - Cajun English



11

Dialect Myths and Reality

- MYTH: A dialect is something that **SOMEONE ELSE** speaks.
- REALITY: Everyone who speaks a language speaks some dialect of the language; it is not possible to speak a language without speaking a dialect of the language.



12

Dialect Myths and Reality

- MYTH: Dialects always have highly noticeable features that set them apart.
- REALITY: Some dialects get much more attention than others; the status of a dialect, however, is unrelated to public commentary about its special characteristics.



Dialect Myths and Reality

- MYTH: Only varieties of a language spoken by socially disfavored groups are dialects.
- REALITY: The notion of dialect exists apart from the social status of the language variety; there are socially favored as well as socially disfavored dialects.



Dialect Myths and Reality

- MYTH: Dialects result from unsuccessful attempts to speak the "correct" form of a language.
- REALITY: Dialect speakers acquire their language by adopting the speech features of those around them, not by failing in their attempts to adopt standard language features.



Dialect Myths and Reality

- MYTH: Dialects have no linguistic patterning in their own right; they are derivations from standard speech.
- REALITY: Dialects, like all language systems, are systematic and regular; furthermore, socially disfavored dialects can be described with the same kind of precision as standard language varieties.



Dialect Myths and Reality

- MYTH: Dialects inherently carry negative connotations.
- REALITY: Dialects are not necessarily positively or negatively valued; their social values are derived strictly from the social position of their community of speakers.




How do dialects differ?

- In vocabulary
- In pronunciation
- In grammar
- In speech style



Examining Dialect Patterns: Vocabulary


- Vocabulary
- [Take a regional DARE quiz!](#)



19

Examining Dialect Patterns: Pronunciation


- *th* sounds
- How does this speaker from [Brooklyn](#), New York City pronounce these words?
 - Nothing
 - There
 - That
 - Them
 - Everything



20

Examining Dialect Patterns: Pronunciation

- R and L
 - cah* for "car"
 - hep* for "help"
 - woou* for "wool"
- Consonant blends
 - wes* for "west"
 - ak* for "act"
 - churt* for "shirt"
 - aks* for "ask"
 - lil* for "little"



21

Examining Dialect Patterns: Pronunciation

- Vowels
- How does this speaker of British **Received Pronunciation** pronounce the vowels in these words?
 - Last
 - Experience
 - Two o'clock
 - Hour
 - Car
 - Down
 - Horse
 - Supernatural
 - Wrath



22

Examining Dialect Patterns: Grammar

- Absence of *be*
 - He at school.
 - They messing around.
- Verb endings
 - Yesterday they walk in the park.
 - She have a car.
 - He don't like it.
- Other endings
 - All them book
 - My friend book
 - Baddest



23

Examining Dialect Patterns: Grammar

- Past tense of irregular verbs
 - He knowed a lot.
 - I done it.
 - I have went already.
 - They brung him in.
- Habitual *be*
 - Sometimes they be acting silly.
 - We be playing basketball after school.
- Double negatives
 - It ain't about nothing.




24

Dialects: Regional Varieties of English

Examining Dialect Patterns:
Speech Style


- Loud or soft volume
- Fast or slow tempo
- Discrete or overlapping turns-at-talk
- Directness of indirectness
- High or low pitch
- Formal or informal style
- Voice qualities:
 - *Breathiness*
 - *Falsetto*
 - *Creakiness*
 - *Harshness*



25

Examining Dialect Patterns

- Listen to these three girls talking on the stoop. What features of vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar, and speech style do you notice in their speech?



26

American Tongues



27

Learning Activity

- Transcribe the talk by this Boston Northender using the conventions of Conversation Analysis outlined in chapter 5 of *Everyday Talk*.