

Phonetics and Phonology

Phonetics is the study of ...

- Speech sounds
- How they are produced in the vocal tract (articulatory phonetics)
- Their physical properties (acoustic phonetics)
- How they are perceived (auditory phonetics)

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Phonetics and Phonology

Phonology is the study of ...

- The sound system of a language
- How the particular sounds contrast in each language to form an integrated system for encoding information
- How sound systems differ from one language to another

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Phonetics

- What sounds have you heard in other languages that are not in English?
- Exactly how do you move your articulators to pronounce the t sound in butter?
- What two English sounds are often confused when they are heard on the telephone?

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Phonology

- How does the pronunciation of s differ in "he talks" and "she snores"?
- What English sounds never occur at the beginning of words?
- How can you say That looks interesting as
 - A statement?
 - A question?
 - Ironically?

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Morphology

Morphology is . . .

- The structure of words in a language, including patterns of inflections and derivation
- The study of how words are formed in a language

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Morphology

- Identify the morphemes in **Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious**
- Which morphemes are derivational?
- Which morphemes are inflectional?
- Is this potentially an English word?

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Descriptive and Prescriptive Grammar

- **Descriptive grammar** is the objective description of a speaker's knowledge of a language (competence) based on their use of the language (performance).
- **Prescriptive grammar** is a set of rules designed to give instructions regarding the "correct" or "proper" way to speak or write.

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Descriptive or prescriptive?

- Never end a sentence with a preposition.
- In casual styles of speaking, people frequently end sentences with prepositions, but this is generally avoided in formal styles.
- **Between you and me** is correct; **Between you and I** is ungrammatical.

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Variation in Modern Spoken English

- "Ain't no way he's gonna."
- "Danny gone - he be working down to the factory."
- "Whatsa matter you?"
- "He said he may can have these by the first of the month."
- "Between you and I, he's wrong."
- "Coffee I can always drink, so pour me."
- "Meat's so expensive anymore that we eat a lot of macaroni."
- "Down the shore everything's all right."

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Variation in Modern Spoken English

- “Those boots sure are fly.”
- “If you’re going out I’m coming with.”
- “Mr. Vincent took a heart attack.”
- “So she goes, like, no, it’s way late for that.”
- “The data shows that the hypothesis can’t be supported.”
- “Put it in your pocket.”

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English Changes Over Time

Ic þis giedd wrece bi me ful geomorre,
minre sylfre sið. Ic þæt secgan mæg,
hwæt ic yrmþa gebad, siþþan ic up weox,
niwes oppe ealdes, no ma þonne nu.

From “*The Wife’s Lament*” (before 1072)

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English Changes Over Time

1. Ic þis giedd wrece bi me ful geomorre,
I tell this poem about myself, full of sorrow
2. minre sylfre sið. Ic þæt secgan mæg,
in my own journey. I can say this,
3. hwæt ic yrmþa gebad, siþþan ic up weox,
for I miserably endured after I grew up,
4. niwes oppe ealdes, no ma þonne nu.
new or old, never more than now.

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English Changes Over Time

- In English tonge I schal yow telle,
yif ye wyth me so longe wil dwelle.
No Latyn wil I speke no waste,
But English þat men vse mast,
þat can eche man vnderstande,
þat is born in Ingelande;
For þat langage is most chewyd
Os wel among lered os lewyd.
• *Speculum Vitae*, 1325

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English Changes Over Time

- ... at the lest way ... speke none englisse but
that which is cleane polite, perfectly and
articulately pronounced, omittinge no lettre
or sillable, as folisse women often times do
of a wantonnesse, whereby diuers noble men
and gentilmennes chyldren (as I do at this
daye knowe) have attained corrupte and
foule pronunciation.
• *The Boke Named the Governour*, 1531

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English Changes Over Time

- As an independent nation, our honor requires
us to have a system of our own, in language
as well as government. Great Britain, whose
children we are, and whose language we
speak, should no longer be our standard; for
the taste of her writers is already corrupted,
and her language on the decline. But if it
were not so, she is at too great a distance to
be our model, and to instruct us in the
principles of our own tongue.
- *Dissertations on the English Language*, 1789

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English Changes Over Time

Like, oh my god!
Like – totally
Encino is like so bitchen
There's like The Galleria
And like all these like really great shoe stores
I love going into like clothing stores and stuff
I like buy the neatest mini-skirts and stuff
It's like so bitchen cuz like everybody's like
Super-super nice
It's like so bitchen
"Valley Girl" by Frank Zappa and Moon Unit Zappa (1982)

Lexical Variation in Modern English

- Lexical change over time
 - [hot](#), [like](#), [kosher](#), [tight](#), [word](#)
- Lexical variation over space
 - [soda](#) vs. [pop](#)
 - [seesaw](#) vs. [teeter-totter](#)
 - [bubbler](#) vs. [drinking fountain](#)
 - [tennis shoes](#) vs. [gym shoes](#) vs. [sneakers](#)
- Doublespeak

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Phonological Variation in Modern English

- The [cot-caught](#) merger
 - Cot/caught, hock/hawk
 - Mary, merry, marry
- The [short-forty](#) and the [park the car](#) variables
- The [walkin'](#) and [talkin'](#) variable
- The [coupon](#) variable
 - coupon, due, news, duke

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Syntactic Variation in Modern English

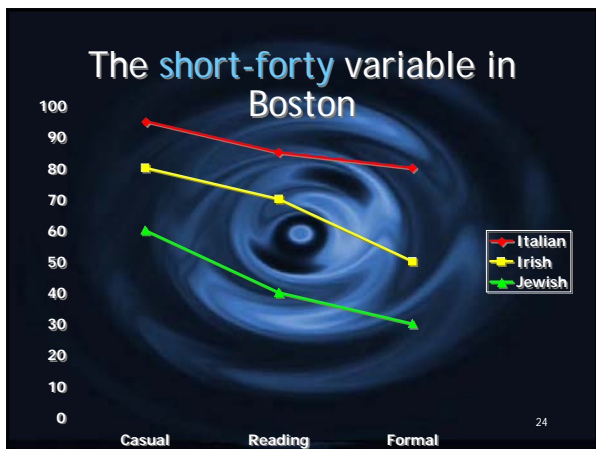
- Multiple negation
 - "We ain't never had no trouble about none of us pullin' out no knife."
- Invariant forms of 'to be'
 - "We was in an ideal place for it."
 - "Was you a majorette?"
 - "There was twenty dollars in my purse when I last looked."

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Why Does Your Language Vary?

o It depends who you are.

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Why does your language vary?

- o It depends who you are.

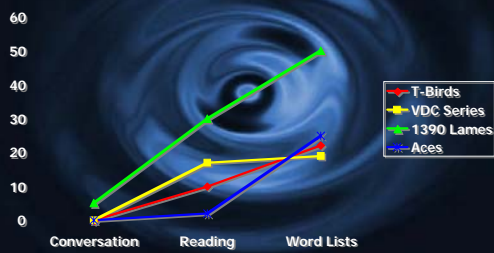
25

Why does your language vary?

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- o It depends what you're doing.

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Postvocalic (r) by gang members in Harlem



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Why does your language vary?

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Why does your language vary?

- o It depends who you are.
- o It depends what you're doing.
- o It depends where you live.

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Why does your language vary?

1. Listen to three samples from the DARE Audio Collection.
2. Where do the speakers live?
3. What phonological, syntactic, and lexical differences do you notice between your own variety of English and the variety used by these speakers?

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Why does your language vary?

- o It depends who you are.
- o It depends what you're doing.
- o It depends where you live.
- o It depends how old you are.

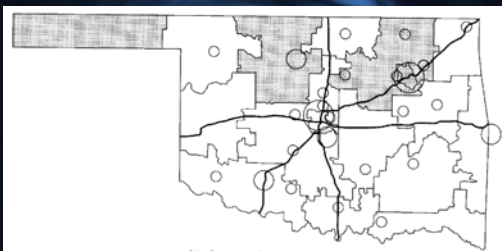
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The cot-caught variable in OK



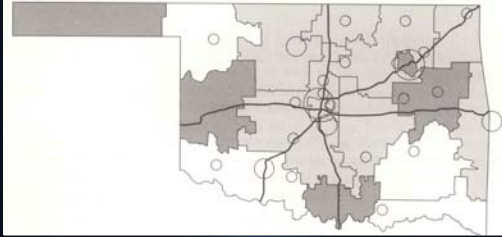
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The cot-caught variable for older speakers born before 1945



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The **cot-caught** variable for younger speakers born after 1945



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Why does your language vary?

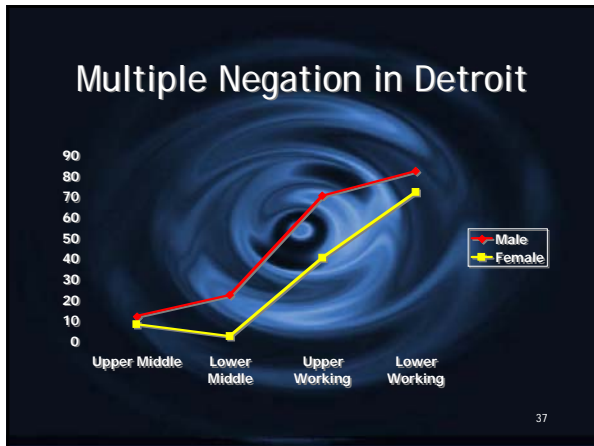
- o It depends who you are.
- o It depends what you're doing.
- o It depends where you live.
- o It depends how old you are.

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Why does your language vary?

- o It depends who you are.
- o It depends what you're doing.
- o It depends where you live.
- o It depends how old you are.
- o It depends what social class you come from.
- o It depends on your gender.

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Why does your language vary?

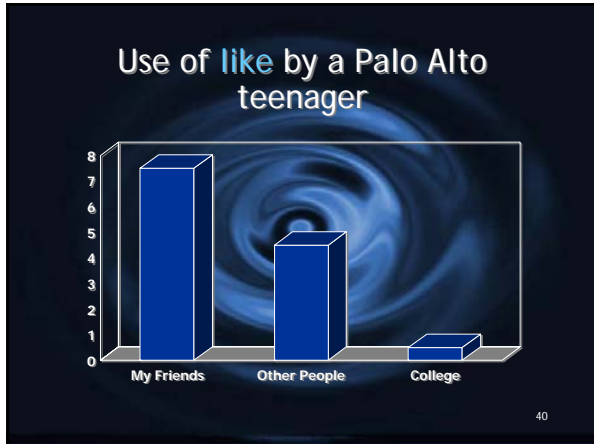
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- o It depends on your gender.
- o It depends what you're talking about.

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- o It depends on your gender.
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The Linguistic Facts of Life

1. All spoken language changes over time.
2. All spoken languages are equal in linguistic terms.
3. Grammatical and communicative effectiveness are distinct and independent issues.
4. Written language and spoken language are historically, structurally, and functionally fundamentally different creatures.
5. Variation is intrinsic to all spoken language at every level.

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Learning Activity

- Listen to three samples from the [DARE Audio Collection](#). Where do the speakers live? What phonological, syntactic, and lexical differences do you notice between your own variety of English and the variety used by these speakers?

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