Language:

... in 25 words or less ...

LVQ
Language for a Linguist...

- Communicative
- Community-based
- Systematic
- Generative
- Arbitrary
- Human
Whenever we speak...

Language Competence

Organizational Competence

Grammatical Competence

Vocabulary

Syntax

Morphology

Phonology

Textual Competence

Cohesion

Rhetorical Organization

Pragmatic Competence

Illocutionary Competence

Sociolinguistic Competence

Dialect

Cultural References

Register

Functional Abilities
Two Views of Language

- Noam Chomsky
  - Focus on ideal situation
    - Homogeneous speech community
    - Competence = performance

- Dell Hymes
  - Focus on real people
    - Speech community is critical
    - Competence ≠ Performance
Whaddya Think?

- What are the two most noticeable features that vary by dialect?
- What other features may also vary?
Dialect

- American English
  - http://www.blogthings.com/amenglishdialecttest/

- International English
  - Nigerian English
  - Chinese English
  - Many more at: http://www.ku.edu/~idea/
Politics of Language

Languages of the WORLD

Map not to Scale

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Linguistic Perspectives

- Mutual Intelligibility
  - English
    - American
    - British
    - Nigerian
  - Chinese
    - Beijing
    - Hong Kong

  "Dialect with a Navy"
Sapir-Whorf

- Language & Culture:
  - Inseparable Couple?
    - Strong view...
    - Weak view...
    - "The aged" vs. "Senior Citizens"
Standard vs. Non-English

1. I don’t have any.
2. I ain’t got none.

Prescriptive rules

“Correct English is the slang of prigs who write history and essays.”

-George Eliot-
Prescriptive Fallacies

- Standard is more logical
- Standard is classical
- Older is better
- Language should be pure
  (free from foreign influences...)
Speech vs. Writing...

I used to hate writing assignments, but now I enjoy them.

I realized that the purpose of writing is to inflate weak ideas, obscure poor reasoning, and inhibit clarity.

With a little practice, writing can be an intimidating and impenetrable fog! Want to see my book report?

"The dynamics of interbeing and monological imperatives in Dick and Jane: A study in psychic transrelational gender modes."

Academia, here I come!
Speech vs. Writing

- Primacy of Speech
  - Traditional focus of Sociolinguistics

- Quasi Independence of Writing
  - Coming into its own
  - Electronic Communication
  - Organizational Communication
  - English for Specific Purposes
Languages are not products residing in grammars and dictionaries, but flexible, interactive tools...
Societal Views

- Functionalism
  - Culture
  - Socialization
  - Norms & values
  - Status & role
Whaddya Think?

- Marxism in Sociolinguistics:
  - What’s the relevance to today?
    - Race
    - Gender
    - Social class
    - Others?
  - Benefits/Dangers of this approach?
    - cf. Sapir-Whorf...
Interactionalism

- Bottom-up approach
- Benefits/dangers...?
Languages are not products residing in grammars and dictionaries, but flexible, interactive tools...
Key Vocab

- Culture
- Socialization
- Norms/Values/Mores
- Status/Role
Whaddya Think?

- Are all languages created equal?
  - Theoretically?
  - Practically?
Rural India Plowing

- What’s the moral?
- Possible corollaries?

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Speech Community

... in 25 words or less...

(5 pts on pg 38)
Speech Community Cont’d

- Bilingualism  
  - in Society
  - in Education
- Bi-Dialectalism
- Diglossia

(incl. Multilingualism)
Diglossia

- What is it?
  - How many languages?
  - What is the status of the languages?
  - How is language selection governed?
Common Code Usages

- **High:**
  - Sermons, lectures, political stuff, serious news, poetry, fine literature

- **Low**
  - Instructions to workers & servants, conversation with friends, pop-culture stuff, folk literature, humor
Diglossia in Use

- “High” is *seen* as more ____ than “Low”

- How does diglossia develop?
- Why does it persist?
  - Pride
  - Power
  - Tradition
Diglossia Examples?

- Arab Speaking World?
- Spanish Speaking World?
- English Speaking World?
Whaddya Think?

- Should diglossia be a part of an 'enlightened' community?
For Tomorrow

- **Read**
  - Chapter 2: 44 – 62

- **Reflect & Write**
  - ~ 250 word reflection on “a day in your life”
    - How did you use language (different situations, goals, products)
    - What dialects/styles did you use? When? Why?
  - Relate some of the class concepts to your day