Chapter 1
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
  - Rhetorical Organization

Pragmatic Competence
  - Illocutionary Competence
    - Dialect
    - Cultural References
    - Register

Strategic Competence
  - 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
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...
Whaddya Think?

- Marxism in Sociolinguistics:
  - What’s the relevance to today?
    - R _ _ _
    - G...
    - S...
    - Others?
  - What’s the danger(s)?
Key Vocab

- Culture
- Socialization
- Norms/Values/Mores
- Status/Role
Rural India Plowing

- What’s the moral?
- Possible corollaries?
Whaddya Think?

- Are all languages created equal?
  - Theoretically?
  - Practically?
Speech Community

... in 25 words or less...

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

- Bilingualism (incl. Multi)
  - in Society
  - in Education
- Bi-Dialectalism
- Diglossia
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