CHAPTER 5: LANGUAGE

Key Issue One – Where are English Language Speakers Distributed?
OPENER

• What do you call a person who speaks multiple languages?
• What do you call a person who speaks two languages?
• What do you call a person who speaks one language?

...Now why??
WORLD OF TONGUES

- Earth’s heterogeneous collection of languages is one of its most obvious examples of cultural diversity.
- Estimates of distinct languages in the world are nearly 7,300.
- Aside from the 10 largest languages,
  - About 100 languages are spoken by at least 5 million people
  - And, only about 70 languages are spoken by at least 2 million people.
LANGUAGE

The Key Issues are:

1. Where are English-language speakers distributed?
2. Why is English related to other languages?
3. Where are other language families distributed?
4. Why do people preserve local languages?
LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION

• Language is a system of communication through speech.

• Many languages also have a literary tradition, or a system of written communication.

• The lack of written record makes it difficult to document the distribution of many languages.
COUNTRIES AND LANGUAGE

• Countries designate at least one language as their official language.

• A country with more than one official language may require all public documents to be in all languages.
LANGUAGES TODAY

- The study of language follows logically from migration, because the contemporary distribution of languages around the world results largely from past migrations of peoples.

- On the one hand, English has achieved an unprecedented globalization.

- On the other hand, people are trying to preserve local diversity in language.

- The global distribution of languages results from a combination of two geographic processes—interaction and isolation.
  - If there are few connections after migration, language will start to differ over time.
French Road Signs, Québec

Why are the signs Only in French?
This is a response to globalization.

Have you ever heard of Franglaize? Spanglish? Japlish?
The Indo-European language family developed as a result of migration and subsequent isolation of people that can only be reconstructed through linguistic and archaeological theories.
ISSUE 1: ORIGIN, DIFFUSION, AND DIALECTS OF ENGLISH

• Origin and diffusion of English
  • English colonies
  • Origin of English in England

• Dialects of English
  • Dialects in England
  • Differences between British and American English
  • Dialects in the United States
English is the official language in 50 countries (2 billion people), including some in which it is not the most widely spoken language. It is also used and understood in many others.

http://www.ted.com/talks/jay_walker_on_the_world_s_english_mania.html
ORIGIN AND DIFFUSION OF ENGLISH

• Language originates at a particular place and diffuses to other locations through migration of its speakers.

• The contemporary distribution of English speakers around the world exists because the people of England migrated with their language when they established colonies during the past four centuries.

• English first diffused west from England to North America in the seventeenth century.

• Similarly, the British took control of Ireland in the seventeenth century, South Asia in the mid-eighteenth century, the South Pacific in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and southern Africa in the late nineteenth century.

• More recently, the United States has been responsible for diffusing English to several places.
ORIGIN OF ENGLISH IN ENGLAND

• The British Isles have been inhabited for thousands of years, but we know little of their early languages, until the Celts arrived around 2000 B.C.

• Then, around 450AD, tribes from mainland Europe invaded, pushing the Celts into the remote northern and western parts.
The groups that brought what became English to England included Jutes, Angles, Saxons, and Vikings. The Normans later brought French vocabulary to English.
NORMAN INVASION

- English is different from German because England was conquered by the Normans in 1066.
- The Normans, who came from present-day Normandy in France, spoke French, which they established as England's official language for the next 150 years.
- The majority of the people continued to speak English.
- In 1204 England lost control of Normandy and entered a long period of conflict with France.
NORMAN INVASION CONTINUED

- Parliament enacted the Statute of Pleading in 1362 to change the official language of court business from French to English.

- During the 300-year period that French was the official language of England, the Germanic language used by the common people and the French used by the leaders mingled to form a new language.
THE QUEENS ENGLISH

• A dialect is a regional variation of a language distinguished by distinctive vocabulary, spelling, and pronunciation.

• English has an especially large number of dialects.

• One particular dialect of English, the one associated with upper-class Britons living in the London area, is recognized in much of the English-speaking world as the standard form of British speech, known as British Received Pronunciation (BRP).
BASIS OF ENGLISH

- English originated with three invading groups who settled in different parts of Britain. (Anglo’s – Saxon’s - Jutes)
- The language each spoke was the basis of distinct regional dialects of Old English.
BRITISH UNIVERSITIES

- Following the Norman invasion of 1066 by the time English again became the country’s dominant language, five major regional dialects had emerged.

- From this large collection of local dialects, one eventually emerged as the standard language the dialect used by upper-class residents in the capital city of London and the two important university cities of Cambridge and Oxford first encouraged by the introduction of the printing press to England in 1476.

- Grammar books and dictionaries printed in the eighteenth century established rules for spelling and grammar that were based on the London dialect.
DIALECTS OF ENGLISH

What is a Dialect?

(regional variation of a language, distinguished by distinctive vocabulary, spelling, and pronunciation) (result of Isolation)

Why so many different Dialects of English. Language is wide spread, and comes from many different regions and long periods of Isolation.

As result: One dialect, standard language (a well established and widely recognized) British received pronunciation (BRP).

Why so many in England?
The Cockney Rhyming slang of London.

What is Cockney Rhyming Slang?

'Allo me old china - wot say we pop round the Jack. I'll stand you a pig and you can rabbit on about your teapots. We can 'ave some loop and tommy and be off before the dickory hits twelve.

Can you guess what is said?

http://www.aldertons.com/

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jhninL_G3Fg
OLD AND MIDDLE ENGLISH DIALECTS

Past: many different invading groups settled in different parts of England.

Now 5 major regional dialects: Northern, East Midland, West Midland, South Western and South Eastern.

Dialects are more pronounced in Rural Areas.

The main dialect regions of Old English before the Norman invasion persisted to some extent in the Middle English dialects through the 1400s.
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BRITISH AND AMERICAN ENGLISH

• The earliest colonists were most responsible for the dominant language patterns that exist today in the English-speaking part of the Western Hemisphere.
DIFFERENCES IN VOCABULARY AND SPELLING

- English in the United States and England evolved independently during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

- U.S. English differs from that of England in three significant ways: vocabulary, spelling, and pronunciation.

- The vocabulary is different because settlers in America encountered many new objects and experiences, which were given names borrowed from Native Americans.

- As new inventions appeared, they acquired different names on either side of the Atlantic.

- Spelling diverged because of a strong national feeling in the United States for an independent identity.

- Noah Webster, the creator of the first comprehensive American dictionary and grammar books, was not just a documenter of usage, he had an agenda.

- Webster argued that spelling and grammar reforms would help establish a national language, reduce cultural dependence on England, and inspire national pride.
DIFFERENCES IN PRONUNCIATION

• Differences in pronunciation between British and U.S. speakers are immediately recognizable.

• Interaction between the two groups was largely confined to exchange of letters and other printed matter rather than direct speech.

• Surprisingly, pronunciation has changed more in England than in the United States.

• People in the United States do not speak “proper” English because when the colonists left England, “proper” English was not what it is today. Also, keep in mind, that most who left England were not upper class.
BRITISH SLANG WORDS
BELOW ARE A FEW SLANG WORDS COMMONLY USED IN BRITAIN.

• Bloke - man.
  'John is a nice bloke to know.'

• Botched - poor quality repairs.
  'He made a botched job of fixing the television.'

• Bottle - courage.
  'He doesn’t have the bottle to ask her.'

• Cheesed Off - fed up

• Chuck it down - to rain, often heavily.
  'It is going to chuck it down soon.'

• Chuffed - If you are chuffed, you are happy with something.
  'I was chuffed to win a medal!'

• Daft - Crazy / stupid

• Dosh - Money / cash 'I haven't got much dosh to give you.'

• Gobsmacked - Incredibly amazed.
  'I was gobsmacked when I saw my birthday presents.'

• Gutted - Not happy because of an event that has occurred that didn't go your way.
  'I was gutted when I didn't win the race'

• Jammy - Used in place of lucky when describing someone else.
  'He was very jammy winning the lottery'.

• Scrummy - Delicious. Shortened from scrumptious.
  'The food was very scrummy'

• Skint - Broke. No money.
  'I'm skint, I wont be able to buy the DVD today.'

• to Snog - to long kiss

• Telly - Television
  'I watched the news on the telly last night.'
DIALECTS IN THE UNITED STATES

• Major differences in U.S. dialects originated because of differences in dialects among the original settlers.

• The original American settlements can be grouped into three areas: New England, Middle Atlantic, and Southeastern.

• Two-thirds of the New England colonists were Puritans from East Anglia in southeastern England.

• About half of the southeastern settlers came from southeast England, although they represented a diversity of social-class backgrounds.

• The immigrants to the Middle Atlantic colonies were more diverse because most of the settlers came from the north rather than the south of England or from other countries.
Hans Kurath divided the eastern U.S. into three dialect regions, whose distribution is similar to that of house types.

East 3 areas of settlement and types of settlers:

• **New England**—2/3 puritans and East Anglia people
• **Middle Atlantic**—more diverse groups (Quakers from North England, Scots, Irish, German, Dutch and Swedish) then diffused westward.
• **South East**—½ from South Eastern England.
20\textsuperscript{TH} CENTURY HOMOGENY

- Many words that were once regionally distinctive are now national in distribution.
- Mass media, especially television and radio, influence the adoption of the same words throughout the country.
Regional pronunciation differences are more familiar to us than word differences, although it is harder to draw precise isoglosses for them.

The New England accent is well known for dropping the /r/ sound, shared with speakers from the south of England.

Residents of Boston maintained especially close ties to the important ports of southern England.

Compared to other colonists, New Englanders received more exposure to changes in pronunciation that occurred in Britain during the eighteenth century.

The mobility of Americans has been a major reason for the relatively uniform language that exists throughout much of the West.