



Today

- Language variation, cont.
- Social and regional dialects
- Standard and nonstandard dialects
- Some patterns associated with socioeconomic status (SES)

Readings: 10.3, 10.9

Regional U.S. dialects

- Northern
- Midland
- Southern
- Western

Some sociolects:

- Yiddish
- Pennsylvania Dutch
- Chicano English
- Vietnamese English

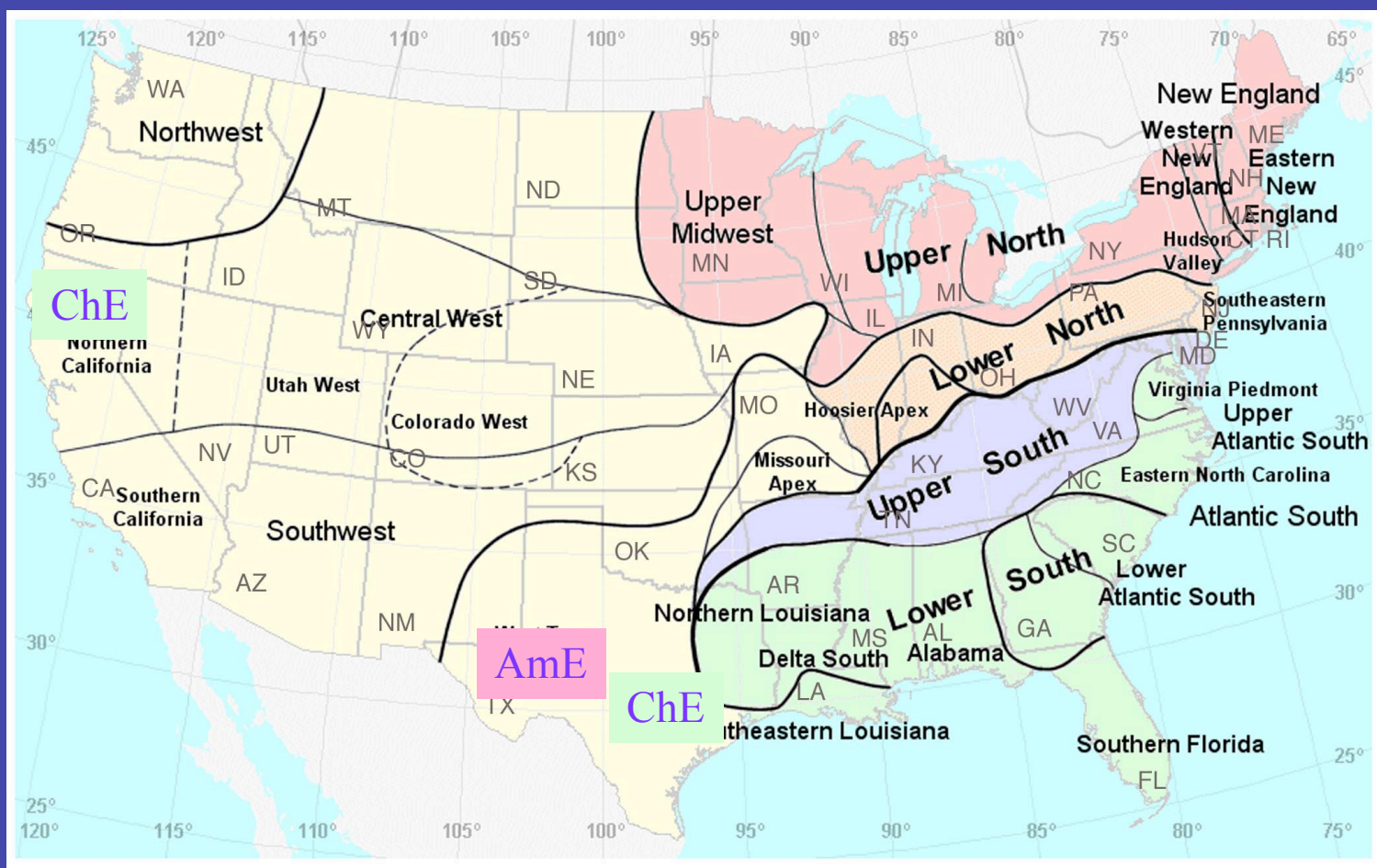


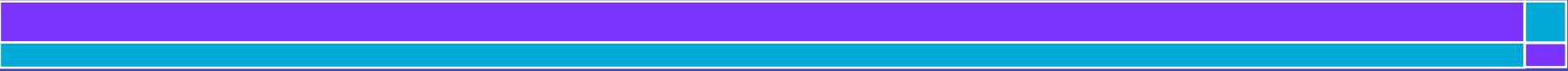
isogloss: a linguistic feature marking out the areal limits of a dialect area; or the boundary itself. (several form an “isogloss bundle”)

http://accent.gmu.edu/browse_maps/namerica.php

<http://www.ku.edu/~idea/northamerica/usa/usa.htm>

Map of US Dialects



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- 7-10 major dialects
 - Vowel system
 - Lexical isoglosses
 - Phonological isoglosses
 - Syntactic isoglosses

- Sociolectal and regional dialect features often originate from language or dialect contact
 - Yiddish English, Chicano English: language contact
 - Yiddish ≠ Yiddish English
 - Southern US English: dialect contact

Eastern Yiddish (Israel)	Poland Hungary South Africa Canada	Latvia Russia Uruguay USA...
Western Yiddish (Germany)	S Germany Netherlands	Switzerland France
Yiddish Sign Language	Israel	

Dialects have a history

- Regional differences (along East coast) can be traced to dialects of British English during settling of America in 17th, 18th c.

Boston: 'Pahk the cah in Hahvahd yahd'

[pɑ:k ðə ka in hɑ:vəd jɑ:d]

- Charleston, South Carolina [ɑ:]
- New York, New York [ɑ:]

*note: this is a stereotyped perception.
Deletion of [ɪ] unlikely preceding a vowel-initial word, such as 'in'

Standard vs. Non-standard

□ Some **non-standard** dialects

■ African-American English (AAE)

□ Multiple negatives:

He don' know nothin'.

■ Appalachian English

□ Double modals:

I might could do that.

He useta couldn't swim.

□ a-prefix: *go a-fishin', come a-runnin'*



Standard vs. Non-standard

□ **Standard** dialect

- an idealization that cannot be associated with any one current actual dialect
- typically learned by overt instruction (e.g., in schools) and then used by political leaders, upper classes, in the media
- considered the dominant or ‘prestige’ dialect

□ **Non-standard** dialect

- any dialect not perceived as ‘standard’



From Standard to Nonstandard

- Three standard varieties in US English:
 - Late 1800s: Charleston
 - World-War I: New York
 - Post World-War II: ??

Phonological differences

- Northern: ‘r-less dialects’
 - NY: ‘toidy-toid (33rd) street’
 - Boston: ‘Pahk the cah in Hahvahd yahd’
- Midland: stress shift
 - Appalachian: Détroit, cígar, dírectly, Nóvember
- Southern: [ɛ] → [ɪ] / ___ nasals
 - ‘t[ɪ]n o’clock’, [pɪn] ‘pin, pen’

Syntactic differences

- Appalachian (Midland):
 - Double modals: *might could, use to could*
 - *a*-prefix: *go a-fishin', come a-runnin'*
 - Past tense: '*clumb*' (=climbed), '*et*' (=ate)
- Southern
 - Aux. 'done': *She done already told you.*



Lexical differences

- Words for ‘sweetened carbonated beverage’
 - ‘Coke’ – CA, New Eng.
 - ‘Soda’ – South, East
 - ‘Pop’ – Midland North, West
 - ‘Tonic’ – Boston
 - ‘Cocola’ – Georgia, Tennessee

Lexical differences

□ Southern

- French influence: *armoire, bayou, bisque*

□ Midland

- German influence: 'dunk', 'spritz', 'schmear'
- *Come here once.*
- Elizabethan English: *flapjack, greenhorn, reckon, ragamuffin*

□ Western

- Spanish influence: *patio, plaza, padre, mesa*