

# Language, food and regional dialects

- **Grammatical variation:**
  - *I need a fork - I don't have one*
  - *I need a fork - I haven't got one*
  - *I need a fork - I ain't got one*

# Phrase and meaning variation

- *Eggs over easy* OR *Eggs over light*
- **Meaning variation**
  - *chips* (= French fries) vs
  - *chips* (packaged potato chips)



# Food names in the UK and the US

**FRIES**



 Chips  
 Fries

**CHIPS**



 Crisps  
 Chips

**COTTON CANDY**



 Candy floss  
 Cotton candy

**CANDIES**



 Sweets  
Sweeties  
 Candies

**COOKIES**



 Biscuits  
 Cookies

**CILANTRO**



 Coriander  
 Cilantro

**SELTZER**



 Soda water  
 Seltzer water  
Club soda

**EGGPLANT**



 Aubergine  
 Eggplant

**SHRIMP**



 Prawns  
 Shrimp

**GRILLED CHEESE**



 Toastie  
 Grilled cheese

**ZUCCHINI**



 Courgette  
Courgetti  
Courgette spaghetti  
 Zoodles

**ICE POPS**



 Ice lollies  
 Ice lollipop



# **Different words for the same food in the United States**

**pancakes, flapjacks, griddle cakes,  
crepes, hotcakes**



# Surveys of regional dialects

- **Dialectology**
- **Surveys used to create Dialect Atlases**
- **Elaborate atlases, maps, then telephone surveys, now computer models**

# Surveys of regional dialects

- **2 basic methods of data collection: fieldwork and survey by correspondence**
- **First large-scale dialect survey was a German linguistic atlas - 1880s**
- **1902-1912 French linguistic based on a questionnaire of about 2,000 words and phrases**

# Surveys of regional dialects

- **Because the US was so large, atlases were done by region**
- **1931 and 1933 - 213 New England communities were surveyed**
- **1939-1943 Linguistic Atlas of New England (with 734 maps)**

# Surveys of regional dialects

- **Scientific interest: dialects are a source of information about popular everyday culture**
- **Reflect the history of a language and the ethnic, cultural, and political history of a region**



# Surveys of regional American English

- **Demographics of participants:**
  - **Age**
  - **Ethnicity**
  - **Occupation**
  - **Home town (age 5-13)**
  - **Sex/ Gender**
  - **Urban/ Rural/ Suburban**

• **START SURVEY** 

# Survey of Regional American English:

## Vocabulary: What do you call these?

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



# Survey of Regional American English:

## Vocabulary: What do you call...

**1. A sweet carbonated drink?**

**2. A frozen fruit-flavored ice or ice-cream which has a wooden stick as a holder?**

**3. Very small candy-like material that we put on top of ice cream?**



# Survey of Regional American English:

## Vocabulary: What do you call...

4. The main ingredient in meatloaf?

5. What you use to boil water for tea?

6. A commonly eaten long thin green vegetable that grows on a vine?

# Survey of Regional American English:

## Vocabulary: What do you call...

**7. A drink made of root beer and vanilla ice-cream?**

**8. The meal eaten in the evening?**

**9. The last or end slice of a loaf of bread?**

# Survey of Regional American English:

## Vocabulary: What do you call...

**10. The red liquid that you put on top of pasta?**

**11. The sweet topping that is spread over cakes after they are baked and cooled?**

**12. A large sandwich that is eaten on a long roll filled with meats, or tuna salad, etc.?**



# Survey of Regional American English:

## Vocabulary: What do you call...

**13. The food that is eaten with turkey that is traditionally cooked inside of the turkey?**

**14. A small amount of food that's eaten between meals?**

**15. Food that you order from a restaurant that you eat at home?**

# Survey of Regional American English:

## Pronunciations: How do you say these words?

- 1 pecan
- 2 chocolate
- 3 vanilla
- 4 cumin
- 5 caramel
- 6 apricot

# Survey of Regional American English:

## Pronunciations: How do you say these words?

**7 herbs**

**8 mayonnaise**

**9 tomato**

**10 prosciutto**

**11 salmon**



# Survey of Regional American English:

## Pronunciations: How do you say these words?

**12 guacamole**

**13 mozzarella**

**14 pasta**

**15 almond**

**16 cauliflower**

# Where do you buy food? In a...

- **supermarket (large retails store)**
- **foodstore**
- **grocery store (retail store that sells food)**
- **bodega**
- **delicatessen / deli (from delicacies)  
(specialty foods and prepared foods)**
- **health food store (“health” foods,  
nutritional supplements)**

# Where do you buy food?

- **green grocer (mostly fruits and vegetables)**
- **produce market**
- **convenience store**
- **food cooperative**
- **general store**
- **ethnic market**



# What do you call stores like these?





# What you call stores like these...

- **Depends on where you live**
  - ***corner store*** (corner market) and ***convenience store*** (“general” USA)
  - ***dairy*** (or ***dairy store***) (New Zealand)
  - ***milk bar*** (Australia)
  - ***corner shop*** (the UK and Canada)

# What do you call a stores like these...

- **Depends on where you live**
  - ***a bodega (NYC)***
  - ***Korean grocer (NYC; LA)***
  - ***a package store (Maine)***
  - ***a party store (Midwest)***
  - ***mini-mart***
  - ***7-11***

# American regional cuisine

- **Just as we have regional dialects, we have regional foods and cuisine**
- **[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_regional\\_dishes\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_regional_dishes_of_the_United_States)**

# American regional cuisine

- **Regional variation exists for:**
  - **Soups and stews**
  - **Breads and bread dishes**
  - **Chicken, seafood, and meat dishes**
  - **Desserts and confectionery**
  - **Hot dogs and sausages**
  - **Pizza**
  - **Potato dishes; Rice dishes**
  - **Salads; Sandwiches**



# American regional cuisine

- **Some dishes even have a place name associated with them**
  - **Boston baked beans**
  - **Southern fried chicken**
  - **Buffalo wings**
  - **New England boiled dinner**
  - **Coney Island hot dog**

# American regional cuisine

- **Alabama-style barbecue**
- **Kansas City-style barbecue**
- **Memphis-style barbecue**
- **Texas-style barbecue**
- **Chicago (New York, etc)-style pizza**
- **Charleston red rice**

# American regional cuisine

- **People often have negative reactions to unfamiliar pronunciations and words ...**
- **They also have negative reactions to unfamiliar foods and foods they don't eat**

# American regional cuisine

- **Chitterlings (the small intestines of a pig)**
- **Chicken feet**
- **Pigs feet**
- **Scrapple**
- **Grits**
- **Suckling pig (for a pig roast)**



# Reactions to difference

- People tend to judge both language forms and foods items that are different from theirs as less good and less normal than their own

# More about dialects

**Dialect Myths and Reality [Source: Wolfram, W., & Schilling-Estes, N. *American English: Dialects and Variation*, Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1998.]**

- **MYTH: A dialect is something that SOMEONE ELSE speaks**
- **REALITY: Everyone who speaks a language speaks some dialect of the language; it is not possible to speak a language without speaking a dialect of the language**

# What is a dialect?

- **MYTH:** Dialects always have highly noticeable features that set them apart
- **REALITY:** Some dialects do get much more attention than others; **BUT** the nature of a dialect is separate from public commentary about its special characteristics

# What is a dialect?

- **MYTH: Only varieties of a language spoken by socially disfavored groups are dialects**
- **REALITY: The notion of dialect exists apart from the social status of the language variety; there are socially favored as well as socially disfavored dialects**



# What is a dialect?

- **MYTH:** Dialects result from unsuccessful attempts to speak the "correct" form of a language
- **REALITY:** Dialect speakers acquire their language by adopting the speech features of those around them, not by failing in their attempts to adopt standard language features

# What is a dialect?

- **MYTH:** Dialects have no linguistic patterning in their own right; they are derivations from standard speech
- **REALITY:** Dialects are systematic and regular; socially disfavored dialects can be described with the same kind of precision as standard language varieties

# What is a dialect?

- **MYTH: “Dialects” inherently carry negative connotations**
- **REALITY: Dialects are not necessarily positively or negatively valued; their social values are derived strictly from the social position of their community of speakers**

# Explaining why there are dialects

- **Sociocultural reasons:**
  - **original settlement patterns**
  - **movement / migration**
  - **geography**
  - **cross-language contact**



# Dialectal Division of American English

Map 2. Comparison of the major dialect boundaries in Map 8.1 of Carver 1987 and the boundaries of the Phonological Atlas of North America





# Why else are there dialects?

- **different occupations**
- **social stratification (economic opportunity)**
- **social interactions across speech communities**
- **group (and individual) identity**

# Linguistic reasons for the existence of dialects

- **Internal language changes**
  - **regularization (dreamed)**
  - **rule extension (me and John)**
  - **pronunciation (garage)**

# More examples of surveys of regional American English

- **Modern examples of how we study dialects - and food**
- **Computationally generated dialect maps**

# Pop versus Soda:

- **The “Pop vs Soda” page is a web-based project used to plot the regional variations in the use of the terms “Pop” and “Soda” (for a sweet carbonated soft drink)**

# Pop versus Soda: THE question...

- **What general word do you use to describe carbonated soft drinks?**
- **If you have changed the word you use at some point in your life, what term did you use as a child?**



# *soda/ pop/ coke variation*

<http://popvssoda.com/>

State / Province	<u>Total</u>	pop	soda	coke	other
100%	<u>401,414</u>	157,659	164,145	58,490	21,120

**Next week - Class #3**  
**Region dialects continued**  
**The meaning of what we say**  
**Talking about eating, drinking, and cooking**