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
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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eastern Yiddish (Israel)</th>
<th>Poland</th>
<th>Latvia</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Russia</td>
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<td>Netherlands</td>
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| 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’
  \[\text{park } \theta \text{ kah in havehd jad}\]

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

*note: this is a stereotyped perception. Deletion of [j] 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’t 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] → [I] / ___ nasals
  - ‘t[I]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’
  - ‘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*