Chapter 5 Lecture

Chapter 5
Languages

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Languages: Key Issues

1. Where Are the World’s Languages Distributed?

2. Where Did English and Related Languages Originate and Diffuse?

3. Why Do Individual Languages Vary Among Places?

4. Why Do Local Languages Survive?
Key Issue 1: Where Are the World’s Languages Distributed?

1.1 Introducing Languages
1.2 Language Families
1.3 Two Largest Language Families
1.4 Other Large Language Families
1.1 Introducing Languages

- Language moves with speakers; new languages develop in isolation.
- May be institutional, developing, vigorous, in trouble, or dying, depending on number of speakers and use.
- Organized into families, branches, groups
1.1 Language and Migration

Figure 5-1: Austronesian languages are related to one another but have diverged with the isolation of groups after migration.
Figure 5-2: Institutional and developing languages have literary traditions. The system of writing used for different languages varies across the world.
Figure 5-3: If language families are visualized as tree trunks, the branches are branches, the sub-branches are groups, and the leaves are individual languages.
Figure 5-4: The most diverse sounds in languages are found in western Africa, implying language originated there and became less diverse with diffusion.
Figure 5-5: Nearly half the world’s people speak a language in the Indo-European family, and another fifth speak a Sino-Tibetan language.
1.3 Two Largest Language Families

• Indo-European: largest
  – nearly half of all people
  – includes Indo-Iranian, Germanic, Romance, Balto-Slavic branches

• Sino-Tibetan: second-largest
  – Mandarin majority of this family
1.3 Distribution of Language Families

Figure 5-6: The Indo-European family has the largest spatial extent. All families with at least nine million native speakers are shown with a color.
Figure 5-7: The largest language groups in Indo-European are Germanic, Balto-Slavic, Indo-Iranian, and Romance.
1.4 Africa’s Language Families

Figure 5-9: Africa displays a great diversity of languages. This map displays language families, which can be subdivided into language groups and then individual languages.
Key Issue 2: Where Did English and Related Languages Originate and Diffuse?

2.1 Distribution of Indo-European Branches
2.2 Origin and Distribution of Indo-European
2.3 Origin and Diffusion of English
2.4 Global Importance of English
2.5 Official Languages
Figure 5-10: The Germanic branch is subdivided into North and West Germanic language groups. English is part of the West Germanic group.
2.1 Romance Branch of Indo-European

Figure 5-11: Romance languages developed from Latin, the language of the Roman empire. The most widely used are Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Italian.
2.1 Language Families in India

Figure 5-12: India’s principal language is Hindi, but there are 22 other scheduled languages.
• Indo-European is a family of related languages.
• Linguists suspect the earliest speakers lived inland near the Europe/Asia boundary.
• Two theories:
  – nomadic warrior
  – sedentary farmer
Figure 5-14: The nomadic warrior theory proposes a group known as the Kurgans were the original speakers of an Indo-European language.
2.2 Origin and Diffusion of Indo-European

Figure 5-15: The sedentary farmer theory proposes original speakers of an Indo-European language were farmers from present-day Turkey.
2.3 Invasions of England

Figure 5-16: English has developed from a mix of different language influences from earlier languages already present and those spoken by repeated invasions of different groups.
2.3 Origin of English Words

Figure 5-17: Even though it is classified as a member of the Germanic branch, most English words are from Romance languages.
Figure 5-18: English is sometimes combined with French (Franglais, shown here), Spanish (Spanglish), or German (Denglish).
Figures 5-19 and 5-20: A lingua franca allows speakers to communicate in a common language; English (above) and Russian (right) are studied for their use as lingua franca.
Figures 5-21 and 5-22: More than one-half of websites are written in English (left), but English speakers make up only about a quarter of Internet users (right).
2.5 Europe’s Official and Minority Languages

Figure 5-23: Official EU languages are written in black, bolder font. Purple lettering denotes protected minority languages.
2.5 English-Speaking Countries

Figure 5-24: English is an official language in 58 countries and widely spoken in several others.
Key Issue 3: Why Do Individual Languages Vary Among Places?

3.1 English Dialects
3.2 U.S. Dialects
3.3 Dialect or Language?
3.4 Multilingual Places
### 3.1 U.S. and U.K. Dialects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U.S. Term</th>
<th>U.K. Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lorry</td>
<td>Truck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleeping policeman</td>
<td>Speed bump</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car park</td>
<td>Parking Lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zebra crossing</td>
<td>Crosswalk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorway</td>
<td>Freeway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saloon</td>
<td>Sedan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petrol station</td>
<td>Gas station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonnet</td>
<td>Hood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windscreen</td>
<td>Windshield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boot</td>
<td>Trunk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reversing lights</td>
<td>Back-up lights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual carriageway</td>
<td>Divided highway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petrol</td>
<td>Gas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number plate</td>
<td>License plate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-purpose vehicle</td>
<td>Minivan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flyover</td>
<td>Overpass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-storey car park</td>
<td>Parking garage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat's eye</td>
<td>Raised pavement marker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caravan/campervan</td>
<td>RV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estate car</td>
<td>Station wagon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>Turn signal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amber traffic light</td>
<td>Yellow light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gear Box</td>
<td>Transmission</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 5-26: Car- and driving-related terms indicate dialectical differences between English spoken in the United States and United Kingdom.
3.1 Dialects and Subdialects in England

Figure 5-28: England’s dialects today (b) are expected to change (c) based on demography and migration.
3.2 U.S. Dialects and Subdialects

Figure 5-29: The United States has four major dialect regions and several subdialects.
3.2 Soft Drink Dialects

Figure 5-30: The names used for soft drinks represent regional dialectical differences in the United States.
Figure 5-31: A Miami-Dade County election pamphlet is written in three languages: English (top), Spanish (middle), and Haitian Creole (bottom).
3.3 Dialect or Language?

• Challenge: Is a language distinct or a dialect?
• Dialects may become distinct languages over time.
• Cultural identity plays a role.
• Some governments standardize language for unity.
Figure 5-33: Switzerland has four official languages.
3.4 Language Diversity in Canada

Figure 5-34: Canada’s French speakers are concentrated along the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes.
3.4 Language Diversity in Nigeria

Figure 5-35: Nigeria has 529 languages among several families. Hausa, Igbo, and Yoruba are the most common.
3.4 Language Diversity in Belgium

Figure 5-36: Belgium is divided regionally between the Flemish north and French south, with protected minorities in border areas and a bilingual capital.
Key Issue 4: Why Do Local Languages Survive?

4.1 Endangered Languages
4.2 Preserving Languages
4.3 Isolated and Extinct Languages
4.4 New and Growing Languages
Figure 5-38: Dots are located approximately where recently extinct languages were last spoken.
### 4.1 Why Do Local Languages Survive?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>In Trouble</th>
<th>Dying</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Asia &amp; North Africa</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Asia</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast Asia</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Pacific</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,531</strong></td>
<td><strong>916</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.2 Welsh Language Distribution

Figure 5-40: Welsh becomes less spoken closer to the English-Wales border.
4.2 Irish Language Distribution

Figure 5-43: Irish is far less common in Northern Ireland than in Ireland. Remote areas have the highest proportion of Irish speakers.
Figure 5-45: Isolated languages cannot be tied to any language families. Many isolated languages are endangered or have gone extinct.
4.3 Basque: An Isolated Language

Figure 5-46: Basque is an isolated language considered vigorous because it is used in daily life.
4.4 Hebrew: A Growing Language

Figure 5-48: Hebrew became more widely spoken after 1948 with the creation of Israel.