

Sociolinguistics

- The study of language in relation to social factors(region, age, gender, situation, etc...)
- Some examples ...

Sociolinguistics

The study of language in relation to social factors

- region
- age
- gender
- situation
- etc

Some examples ...



Variation by region: Dialects

- When the speakers of one dialect group can no longer understand the speakers of another dialect group—these dialects become different languages.
- However, ... it is also determined by political and social considerations.
- For example: Danish/Swedish/Norwegian or Hindi/Urdu
- For example: Regional dialects in France
 - Atlas linguistique de France
 - Atlas sonore
 - Petit prince
 - etc...

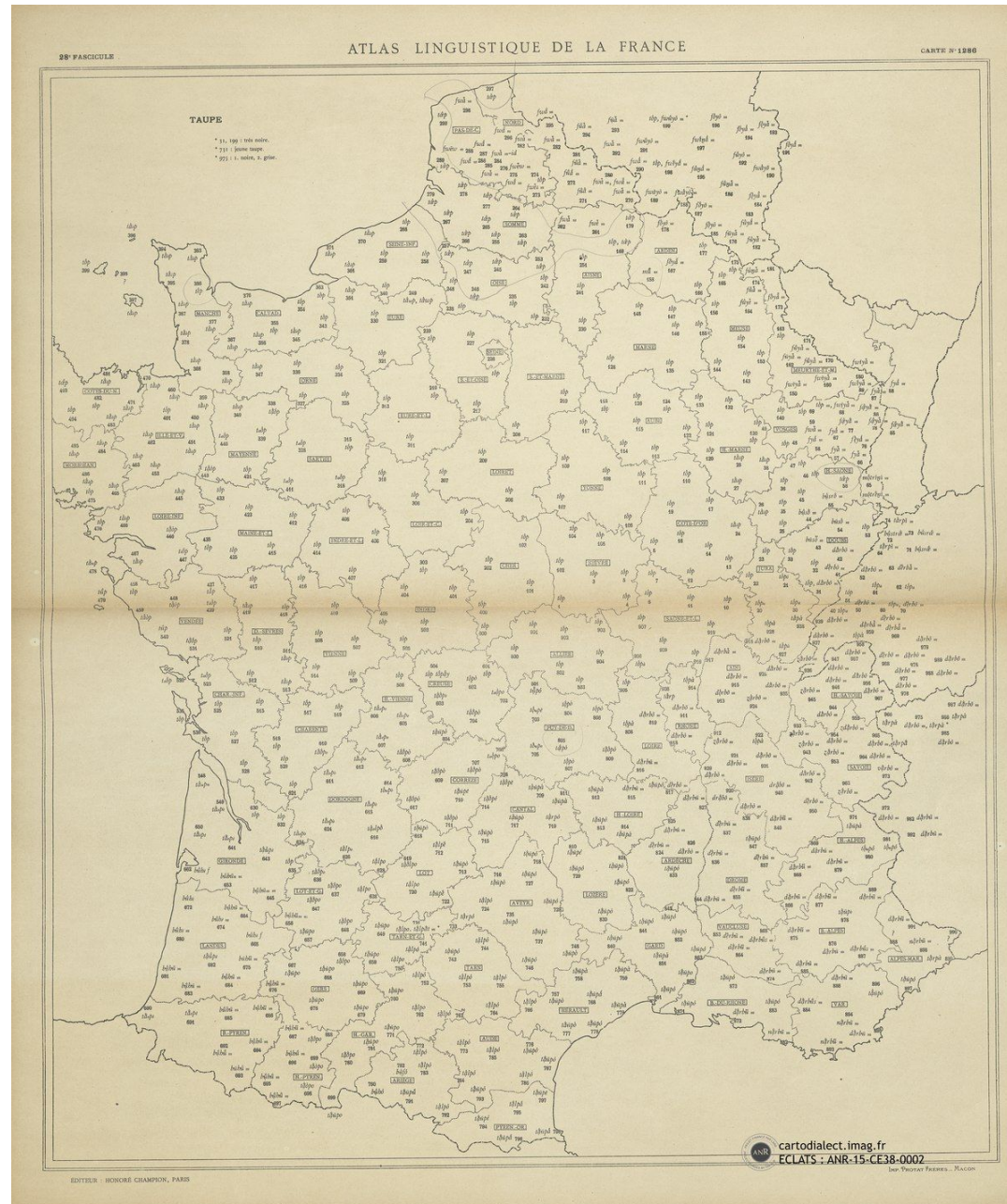
Dialects

Atlas linguistique de la France

1897 et 1900

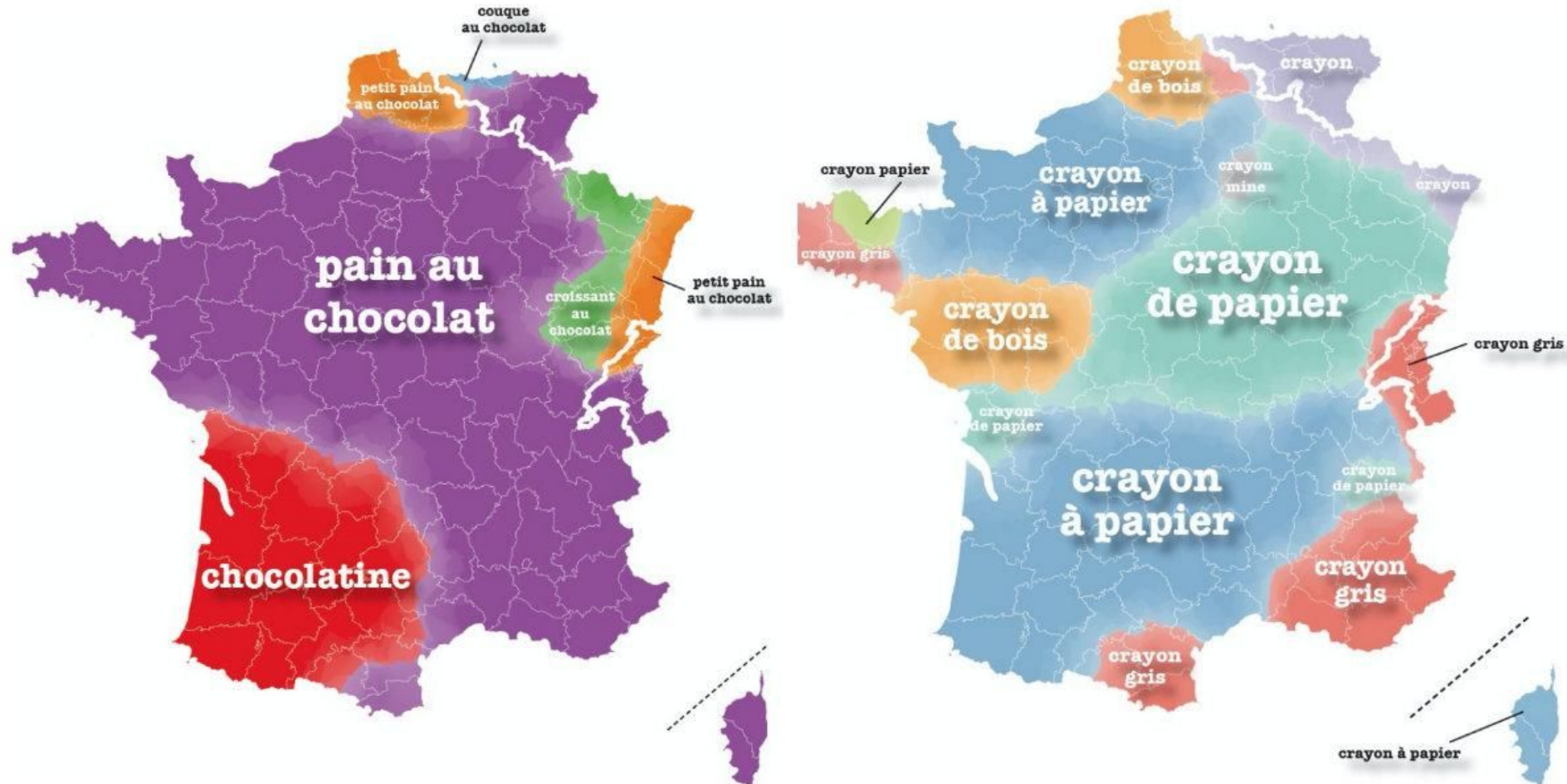


https://parlersducroissant.huma-nu-m.fr/docs/Croissant_Questionnaire_Lexique-fondamental_Noms.pdf



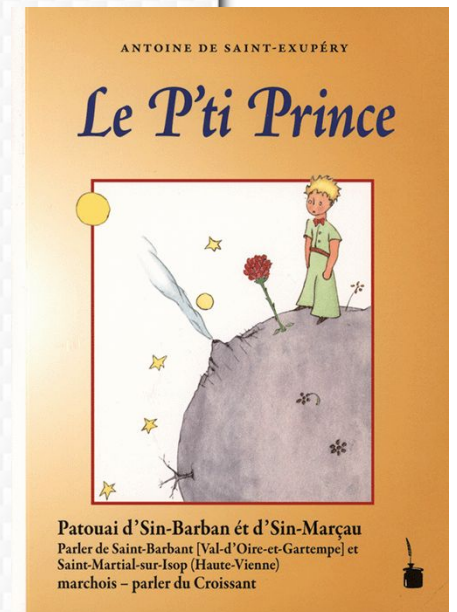
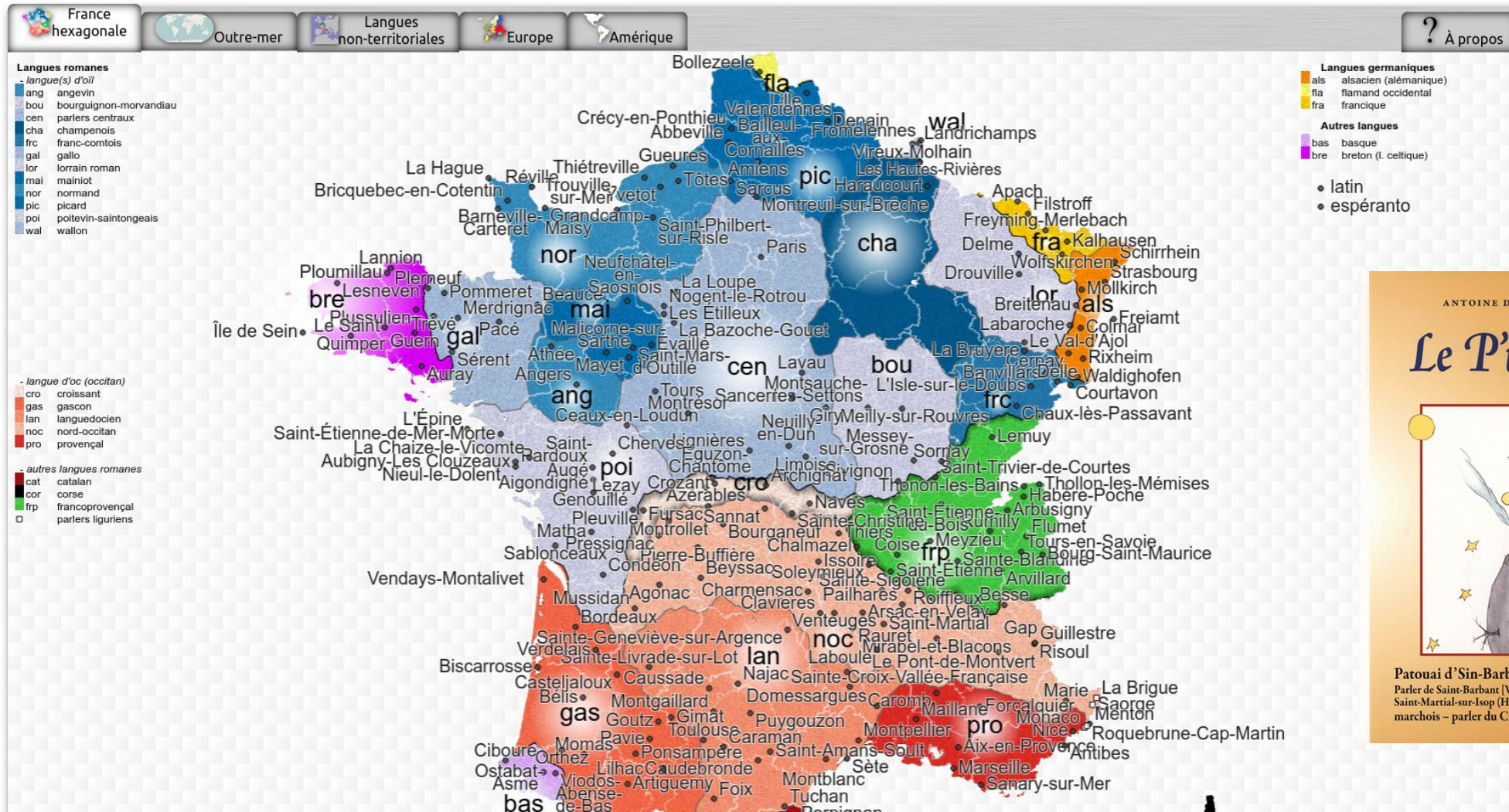
Dialects: Atlas linguistique de France

- Isogloss: an area having a distinct linguistic feature



Dialects: Atlas sonore des langues régionales de France

<https://atlas.limsi.fr/>



Variation by age:

- Example with apps
- Example with language
 - verlan?
 - other examples?

Pedant writing in Latin, 63 A.D.

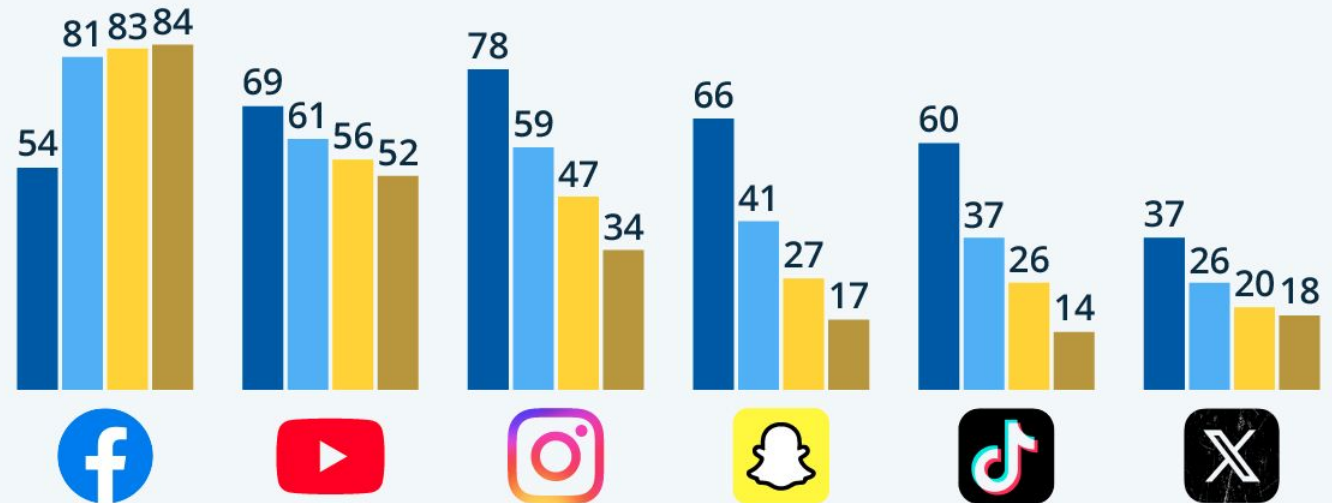
Spoken Latin has picked up a passel of words considered too casual for written Latin, and the grammar people use when speaking has broken down. The masses barely use anything but the nominative and the accusative ... it's gotten to the point that the student of Latin is writing in what is to them an artificial language, and it is an effort for him to recite in it decently.

https://youtu.be/VrQLDT_1Q_k?t=589

Le fossé générationnel se creuse sur les réseaux sociaux

Part des internautes déclarant utiliser régulièrement les plateformes suivantes, selon l'année de naissance (en %)

■ Génération Z (1995-2005) ■ Millenials (1980-1994) ■ Génération X (1965-1979) ■ Baby Boomer (1959-1964)



Base : 6 199 personnes (18-64 ans) interrogées en France entre juillet 2022 et juin 2023. Messageries instantanées, telles WhatsApp, non incluses.

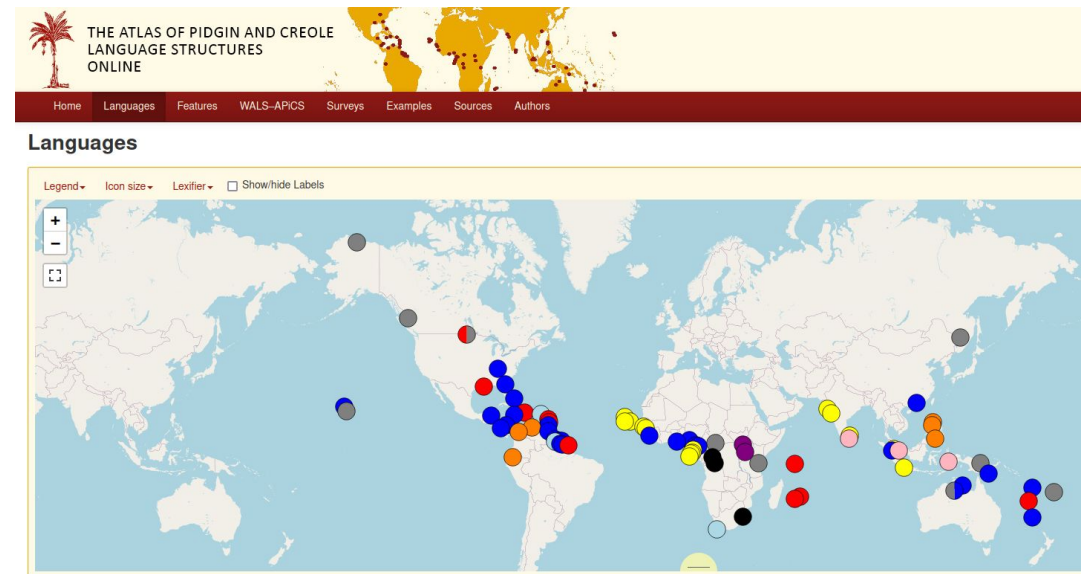
Source : Statista Consumer Insights

Variation by gender: Genderlects

- A number of features that occurred more frequently in women's speech than in men's (Lakoff 1973)
- lower pitched voices signal physical strength, dominance and leadership capacity, whereas high-pitched voices –typically those of female speakers– are associated with lower degree of social dominance, not to say docility and submissiveness
 - 2007 Men's voices as dominance signals: vocal fundamental and formant frequencies influence dominance attributions among men
<https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2007-12698-005>
 - 2012 Sounds like a winner: voice pitch influences perception of leadership capacity in both men
<https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2012.0311>
 - 2016 Listen, follow me: Dynamic vocal signals of dominance predict emergent social rank in humans.
<https://psycnet.apa.org/doiLanding?doi=10.1037%2Fxxg0000166>
- difference of context: casual vs formal. For example, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher reportedly lowered her voice pitch when delivering political speeches <https://repository.londonmet.ac.uk/1276/>
- BUT... culture specific <https://link.springer.com/article/10.3758/s13423-023-02333-y>

Variation by context: Pidgin and creole

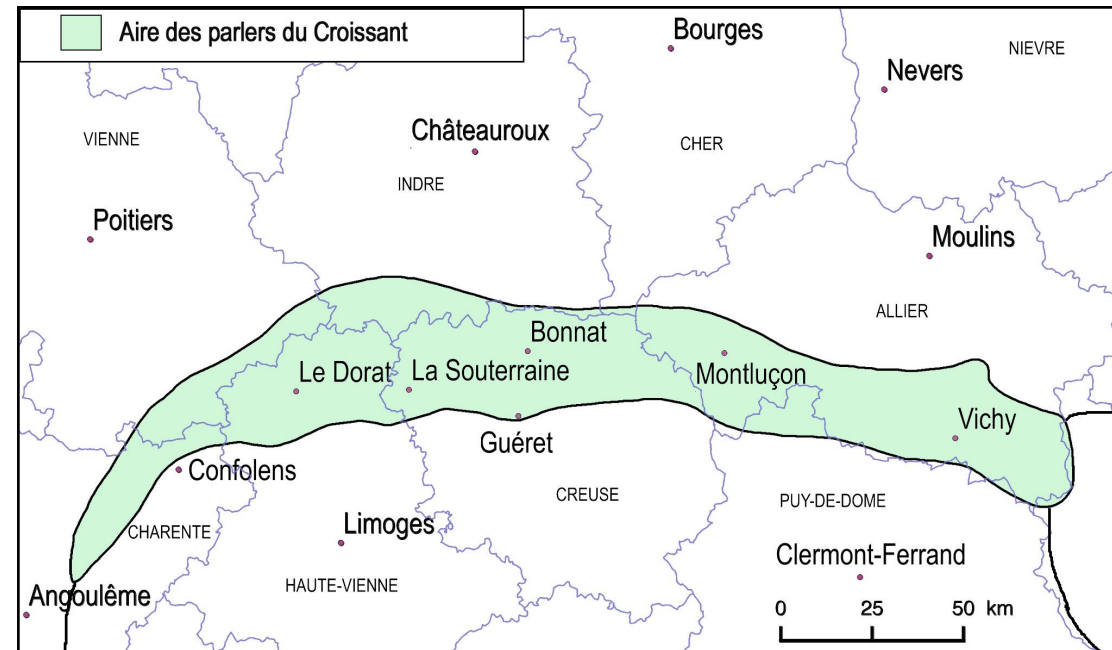
- **Lingua Franca**: one language is often used by common agreement where groups desire social or commercial communication.
- **Pidgin** (simplification): when speakers from different communities have developed a language to communicate with one another that is not native to anyone.
 - Superstrate language: Most of the lexical items of the pidgin
 - Substrate: contribute to the lexicon and grammar, but in a less obvious way.
- **Creole** (expansion): a language that has evolved in a contact situation to become the native language of a generation of speakers.



<https://apics-online.info/>

Variation by context: Multilingualism

- What happens when people speak different languages every day ?
- For example: French regional dialects vs Standard French
- For example: Children learning different languages from their parents and speaking a different language at school (e.g., Mandarin and French but speak English at school)
- Codeswitching: *I mean, c'est un idiot, ce mec-la.*



<https://parlersducroissant.huma-num.fr/participer.html>

Building our own surveys

- Form groups (~4 people)
- Discuss which topic you would like: age, gender, region, context, etc
- Create your questionnaire
 - (if want to take one by default?
<https://ssaquebec.ca/nouvelles/questionnaire-pour-mesurer-le-genre-en-recherche-sur-les-humains/>)
- Make people fill your questionnaire
- Show the results to the class (one week? two weeks?)

Can do it in R :-D

- <https://shinysurveys.jdtrat.com/articles/get-survey-data.html>
- <https://medium.com/@joyplumeri/using-r-shiny-to-create-web-surveys-display-instant-feedback-and-store-data-on-google-drive-68f46eea0f8b>