1. Language (Cont)
   1. Productivity
      1. Language uses a limited set of elements to produce:
         1. New Words
         2. Sentences
         3. Larger Linguistic Units (lexicons, grammar)
         4. Larger performances (discourse)
      2. Language builds or constructs
         1. From individual units of sounds (phonemes)…
         2. To units of meaning (morphemes)…
         3. To intelligible utterances…
         4. To socially appropriate speech
            1. Stories
            2. Sentences
      3. Other terms
         1. Phonology
            1. How language sounds
         2. Morphology/Semantics
            1. How meaning is achieved through the combination or manipulation of sounds
      4. Tonal Languages
         1. Use tone to establish semantic meaning
            1. Aja-gbe language of Benin)

E (flat tone) = third person singular pronoun “it’

É (rising tone) = third person singular pronoun “she/he”

È (falling tone) = second person singular “you”

Ê (falling-then-rising tone) = third person singular pronoun (“it”) as indirect object

English is NOT a tonal language

* + 1. The Social Effectiveness of Speech
       1. Three functions of language:
          1. Convey factual information
          2. Convey social information
          3. Construct social relations – make, perform, comment on, and negotiate statuses
       2. Language encodes and reveals:
          1. Social relations
          2. Concepts
          3. Values
          4. Familiarity or intimacy
          5. Status/power differences and respect
          6. Age and gender differences
          7. Class differences
          8. Regional, racial, and ethnic differences
    2. Language is performative
       1. Language is a form of social action
       2. Often has real effects on social world
       3. Often calls for an active response
          1. “I pronounce you man and wife”
          2. “I knight thee”
          3. “I find you not guilty”
          4. “You are under arrest”
          5. “I apologize”
    3. Language changes over time
       1. Through contact between language communities
       2. Diglossia = co-existence of two language forms, usually one “high” or prestigious and one “low” (Think of Pymalion / My Fair Lady). Academic/educated “talk” vs. slang
       3. Jargon: Technical and sub-cultural
       4. “Anti-languages” in opposition to society
          1. Hip hop language
       5. Pidgin (Simplified Version)
          1. A simplified language derived from two or more languages
          2. ?v=DM97CJWOGvs
       6. Creole
          1. Adopt new words into native language
          2. When a pidgin language gains a large number of native speakers(first language) it is considered a creole
          3. ?v=vSHrbGktpl4
       7. Language also includes a variety of non-verbal and non-semantic verbal practices
          1. Kinesics or “body language”
          2. Proxemics

?v=tg08V6TdAKM

* + - * 1. Sign languages
        2. Gestures
      1. Consider this…
         1. How does language shape thought and experience?
         2. Do people think differently when they think in different languages?
      2. The linguistic relativity hypothesis (a.k.a. Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis)
         1. A language is more than a list of words for things, but a set of verbal concepts, ideas, relations, values, meanings, categories, etc.
         2. Humans are born without any particular language
         3. As humans acquire a language, they acquire its particular set of verbal concepts, ideas, relations, values, meanings, categories, etc.
         4. Humans who speak different languages would thus think and experience different concepts, ideas, relations, etc.
         5. The hypothesis….

Is Controversial

Language *influences* thought and experience (weak version)

Language *determines* thought and experience (strong version)

Or do language and culture work in a more cyclical way? What do you think?

* + - * 1. Food for thought

How does text-messaging or email language shape how you think?

“OMG”,”LOL”, and some others added to Oxford Dictionary. But not “WTP”?

Other types of texting language:

French

Spanish