

# Do Americans really speak “English”?

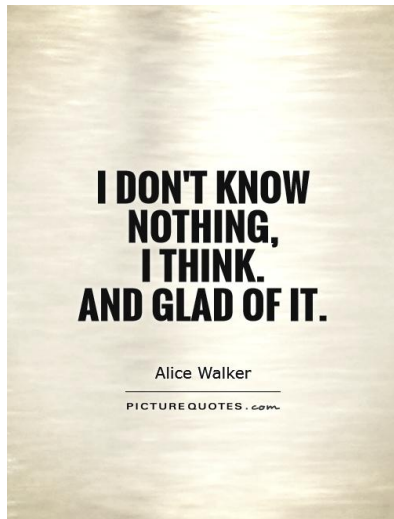
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November 16, 2022

# Variation of English

Besides English as we know it, what do Americans speak?

- Spanish?
- Englishes!



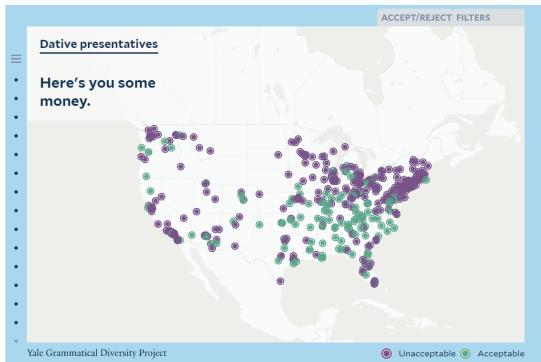
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<sup>0</sup>Picture from Picture Quotes.

# Variation of English

Yale is famous for its humanities, and thanks to a bunch of people in this building, we have <https://ygdp.yale.edu/>:

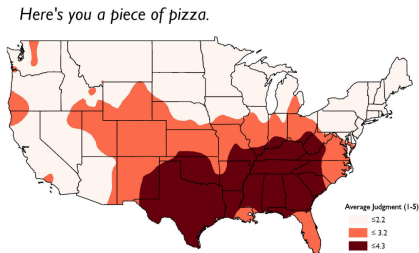
## Yale Grammatical Diversity Project English in North America



# Example: *Here's you a piece of pizza*

On the page about dative presentatives:

**Who says it**



## Syntactic environments

- [*Here's [John/you]<sub>dative:NP</sub> a glass of iced-tea*]<sub>existential, declarative</sub>
- [*Where's [me]<sub>dative</sub> a screwdriver*]<sub>existential, interrogative</sub>

# Example: negative concord

On the page about negative concord:

## Who says this

- 1) I *ain't never* been drunk.  
'I've never been drunk.'  
(Alabama English; Feagin 1979)
- 2) *Nobody ain't doin' nothing'* wrong.  
'Nobody is doing anything wrong.'  
(West Texas English; Foreman 1999)
- 3) I *don't never* have *no* problems.  
'I don't ever have any problems.'  
(African American English; Green 2002)

## Types of negative concord

- Negative adverb after negated auxiliary: *I ain't never lost a fight*
- Negative pronoun with negated auxiliary: *Nobody couldn't handle him*
- Even in complement clause: *I don't feel like [nobody pets me]*

# Why recording these

- General linguistics:
  - Providing evidences for universal constraints on *possible* natural languages
  - Providing evidences for typological *tendencies* (not absolute)
- English philology:
  - Simply for fun: stamp collecting is also interesting!
  - More expressive language

# Conclusion

- English dialects have exotic constructions
- They can be found in <https://ygdp.yale.edu/>!