

Languages and Communities **Languages, Dialects and Varieties**



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In the previous lessons we talk about

- Sociolinguistics
- Language and society
- Variation in language
- Dialects, sociolects etc.
- and the methodology employed by sociolinguists.

But “what is language”?

- What do you think language is?
- What is a dialect?
- What is accent?

language

→ noun

- 1 **[mass noun] the method of human communication, either spoken or written, consisting of the use of words in a structured and conventional way:** *a study of the way children learn language[as modifier]: language development* ■ a non-verbal method of expression or communication: *body language*.
 - 2 **a system of communication used by a particular country or community:** *the book was translated into twenty-five languages* ■ *Computing* a system of symbols and rules for writing programs or algorithms.
 - 3 **[mass noun] the style of a piece of writing or speech:** *he explained the procedure in simple, everyday language* ■ the phraseology and vocabulary of a particular profession, domain, or group: *legal language*
- (usu. as **bad/foul/strong language**) coarse or offensive language: *the film contains some violence and bad language*

Haugen (1966)

- There is a great confusion in the use of the terms *Language* and *Dialect*.
- Ordinary people use these terms quite freely in speech; for them a dialect is almost certainly no more than a local non-prestigious (therefore powerless) variety of a real language.
- There are no linguistic criteria to differentiate between *language* and *dialect*.

Languages and Varieties



Greek Dialects

Classical Greece

Western group:

- **Doric proper**
- **Northwest Doric Greek**

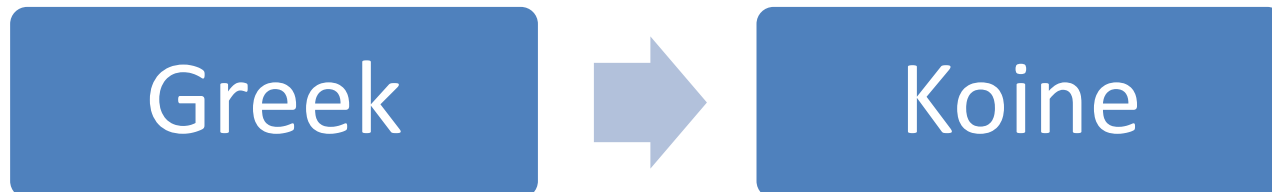
- **Aeolic**
- **Arcado-Cypriot**

Eastern group:

- **Attic**
- **Ionic**
- **Achaean Doric Greek**

Central group:

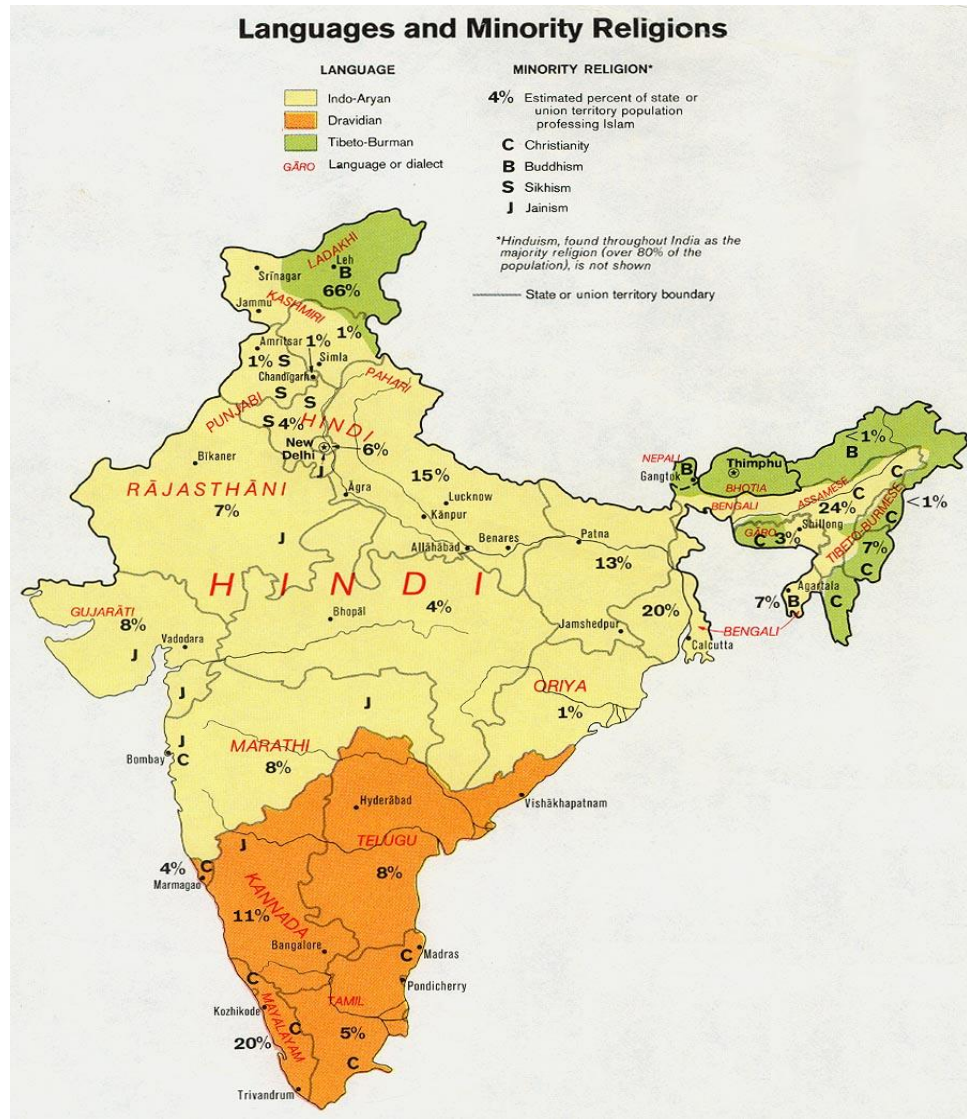
Hellenistic and Roman Times



**The same—in most cases mutually intelligible—
varieties are considered different languages.**

India

- A country with great linguistic diversity.



Aariya	Adi	Adi, Galo	Agariya	Ahirani	Ahom
Aimol	Aiton	Aka-Bea	Aka-Bo	Aka-Cari	Aka-Jeru
Aka-Kede	Aka-Kol	Aka-Kora	Akar-Bale	Allar	Amri Karbi
Anal	Andaman Creole Hindi	Andh	Angika	Apatani	A-Pucikwar
Aranadan	Assamese	Asuri	A'tong	Awadhi	Badaga
Bagheli	Bagri	Balochi, Eastern	Balti	Bareli, Palya	Bareli, Pauri
Bareli, Rathwi	Bateri	Bauria	Bazigar	Bellari	Bengali
Bhadrawahi	Bhalay	Bharia	Bhatola	Bhatri	Bhattiyali
Bhilali	Bhili	Bhojpuri	Bhunja	Biete	Bijori
Bilaspuri	Birhor	Bishnupriya	Bodo	Bodo Parja	Bondo
Braj Bhasha	Brokskat	Bugun	Buksa	Bundeli	Byangsi

Chakma	Chamari	Chambeali	Changthang	Chaudangsi	Chaura
Chenchu	Chetti, Wayanad	Chhattisgarh i	Chin, Bawm	Chin, Falam	Chin, Haka
Chin, Khumi	Chin, Mara	Chin, Matu	Chin, Paite	Chin, Tedim	Chin, Thado
Chinali	Chiru	Chodri	Chug	Churahi	Darlong
Darmiya	Deccan	Degar	Deori	Desiya	Dhanki
Dhanwar	Dhatki	Dhimal	Dhodia	Dhundari	Digaro- Mishmi
Dimasa	Dogri	Dogri	Domari	Dubli	Dungra Bhil
Duruwa	Dzongkha	English	Eravallan	French	Gadaba, Bodo
Gadaba, Mudhili	Gadaba, Pottangi Ollar	Gaddi	Gahri	Gamit	Gangte

Garasia, Adiwasi	Garasia, Rajput	Garhwali	Garo	Gata'	Godwari
Gondi	Gondi, Northern	Gondi, Southern	Gowlan	Gowli	Groma
Gujarati	Gujari	Gurung, Western	Hadothi	Hajong	Halbi
Haryanvi	Hindi	Hinduri	Hmar	Ho	Holiya
Hrangkhol	Hruso	Idu-Mishmi	Indian Sign Language	Indo- Portuguese	Irula
Jad	Jangshung	Jarawa	Jaunsari	Juang	Juray
Kachari	Kachchi	Kadar	Kaikadi	Kalanadi	Kamar
Kamta	Kanashi	Kanauji	Kangri	Kanikkaran	Kanjari
Kannada	Karbi	Kashmiri	Katkari	Khaling	Khamba
Khamti	Khamyang	Khandesi	Kharia	Kharia Thar	Khasi
Khirwar	Khowar	Kinnauri	Kinnauri, Bhoti	Kinnauri, Chitkuli	Kinnauri, Harijan
Koch	Koda	Kodaku	Kodava	Koireng	Kok Borok
Kolami, Northwestern	Kolami, Southeastern	Koli, Kachi	Koli, Wadiyara	Kom	Konda-Dora
Konkani	Konkani	Konkani, Goan	Koraga, Korra	Koraga, Mudu	Korku

Korlai Creole Portuguese	Korwa	Kota	Koya	Kudiya	Kudmali
Kui	Kukna	Kulung	Kumaoni	Kumarbhag Paharia	Kumbaran
Kunduvadi	Kupia	Kurichiya	Kurmukar	Kurumba, Alu	Kurumba, Attapady
Kurumba, Betta	Kurumba, Jennu	Kurumba, Kannada	Kurumba, Mullu	Kurux	Kuvi
Ladakhi	Lambadi	Lamkang	Lepcha	Lhomi	Limbu
Lish	Lisu	Lodhi	Lohar, Gade	Lohar, Lahul	Lyngngam
Magahi	Magar, Eastern	Mahali	Maithili	Majhi	Majhwar
Mal Paharia	Mala Malasar	Malankuravan	Malapandaram	Malaryan	Malasar
Malavedan	Malayalam	Maldivian	Malvi	Manda	Mandeali
Manna-Dora	Mannan	Marathi	Maria	Maria, Dandami	Marma
Marwari	Marwari	Mawchi	Meitei	Merwari	Mewari
Mewati	Miji	Miju-Mishmi	Mina	Mirgan	Miri
Mizo	Monpa, Kalaktang	Monpa, Tawang	Mru	Muduga	Mugom
Mukha-Dora	Munda	Mundari	Muria, Eastern	Muria, Far Western	Muria, Western
Muthuvan	Na	Naga Pidgin	Naga, Angami	Naga, Ao	Naga, Chang
Naga, Chokri	Naga, Chothe	Naga, Inpui	Naga, Kharam	Naga, Khezha	Naga, Khamniungan

Naga, Khoibu	Naga, Konyak	Naga, Liangmai	Naga, Lotha	Naga, Makuri	Naga, Mao
Naga, Maram	Naga, Maring	Naga, Monsang	Naga, Moyon	Naga, Mzieme	Naga, Nocte
Naga, Northern Rengma	Naga, Phom	Naga, Pochuri	Naga, Poumei	Naga, Puimei	Naga, Purum
Naga, Rongmei	Naga, Sangtam	Naga, Southern Rengma	Naga, Sumi	Naga, Tangkhul	Naga, Tarao
Naga, Tase	Naga, Thangal	Naga, Tutsa	Naga, Wancho	Naga, Yimchungru	Naga, Zeme
Nagarchal	Nahali	Nahari	Nefamese	Nepali	Newar
Nicobarese, Car	Nicobarese, Central	Nicobarese, Southern	Nihali	Nimadi	Nisi
Noiri	Oko-Juwoi	Öñge	Oriya	Oriya, Adivasi	Pahari, Kullu
Pahari, Mahasu	Pali	Paliyan	Panchpargani a	Pangwali	Paniya
Panjabi, Eastern	Panjabi, Mirpur	Panjabi, Western	Pankhu	Pao	Pardhan

Pardhi	Parenga	Parsi	Pathiya	Pattani	Pengo
Phake	Phudagi	Pnar	Portuguese	Powari	Purik
Rabha	Rajasthani	Ralte	Rangkas	Ranglong	Rathawi
Ravula	Rawang	Rawat	Reli	Riang	Rongpo
Ruga	Sadri	Sakachep	Samvedi	Sansi	Sanskrit
Santali	Sartang	Saurashtra	Sauria Paharia	Savara	Sentinel
Seraiki	Shekhawati	Shendu	Sherdukpen	Sherpa	Shina
Sholaga	Shom Peng	Shumcho	Sikkimese	Simte	Sindhi
Singpho	Sirmauri	Sora	Spiti Bhoti	Stod Bhoti	Sulung
Sunam	Surjapuri	Sylheti	Tamang, Eastern	Tamil	Telugu
Teressa	Thachanadan	Thangmi	Tharu, Chitwania	Tharu, Dangaura	Tharu, Kathoriya
Tharu, Kochila	Tharu, Rana	Thulung	Tibetan	Tinani	Tiwa
Toda	Toto	Tshangla	Tukpa	Tulu	Turi
Turung	Ullatan	Urali	Urdu	Vaagri Booli	Vaiphei
Varhadi- Nagpuri	Varli	Vasavi	Vishavan	Waddar	Wagdi
War-Jaintia	Yakha	Yerukula	Zakhring	Zangskari	Zou
Zyphe					

- The number of individual languages listed for India is 452. Of those, 438 are living languages and 14 have no known speakers.
- http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=in

Hindi-Urdu

	Urdu	Hindi
total number of speakers	104 million people (0.91% of world population) (rank: 14 th)	490 million people (7.3% of world population) (rank: 3 rd)
number of native speakers	59 million people	181 million people
place with most speakers	India	India
primary location	Pakistan	India
writing systems	Arabic alphabet	Devanagari alphabet
language codes	ur urd	hi hin



Hindi and Urdu politics Gumperz

- Hindi and Urdu are the same language but for political and religious reasons their differences are magnified.
- Hindi is written in the Devanagari script vs. Urdu is written in the Arabic-Persian script from left to right.
- Hindi draws borrowings from Sanskrit while Urdu from Arabic.

and 11th centuries, after which it was dominated by the Hungarian kingdom. In the 1400s Venice gained control of Dalmatia and ruled it for four centuries.

President Tito (1953 to 1980) promoted greater self-rule for the provinces of Vojvodina and Kosovo, although they remained subordinate to the Republic of Serbia. Though Serbs are the largest group in Vojvodina, ethnic Hungarians constitute a large minority.

extended Serbian rule in the Balkans. Fierce fighters, the Serbs defied Turkish control and preserved the Serbian Orthodox faith through centuries of occupation.

KOSOVO (Province)

The heartland of medieval Serbia — dirt poor but mineral rich — Kosovo is home to some 1.7 million ethnic Albanians. Predominately Islamic in faith, they are Yugoslavia's fastest growing population and a source of enmity to Serbian nationalists who view Kosovo as a kind of Serbian Palestine.



BOSNIA and HERCEGOVINA

Religious mavericks, Bosnians once incurred the wrath of popes by following a heretical sect known as Bogomils. Later they and the people of Hercegovina provided the largest number of Slavic converts to Islam during Ottoman rule. Muslims were recognized as an ethnic nationality in 1969. Today the republic is 40 percent Islamic.

MONTENEGRO

Once a part of the Serbian empire, this isolated mountainous kingdom gained fame as a sanctuary for Serbian freedom fighters after the Battle of Kosovo Field. For centuries a theocracy ruled by bishops, Montenegro



Σημ. Παράκλητος

ΕΚΔΟΣΕΙΣ
ΕΙΚΟΣΤΟΥ
ΠΡΩΤΟΥ

Yugoslavia

- The war in Yugoslavia “begun because of language and should end this way”.
- Serbs and Croats speak the same language the “Serbo-Croatian language”.
- After the war they begun to use different words.
- The two ethic groups use different alphabets. The Croats the Latin and the Serbs the Cyrillic (cf. Croats are Catholics, Serbs are Orthodox Slavs).

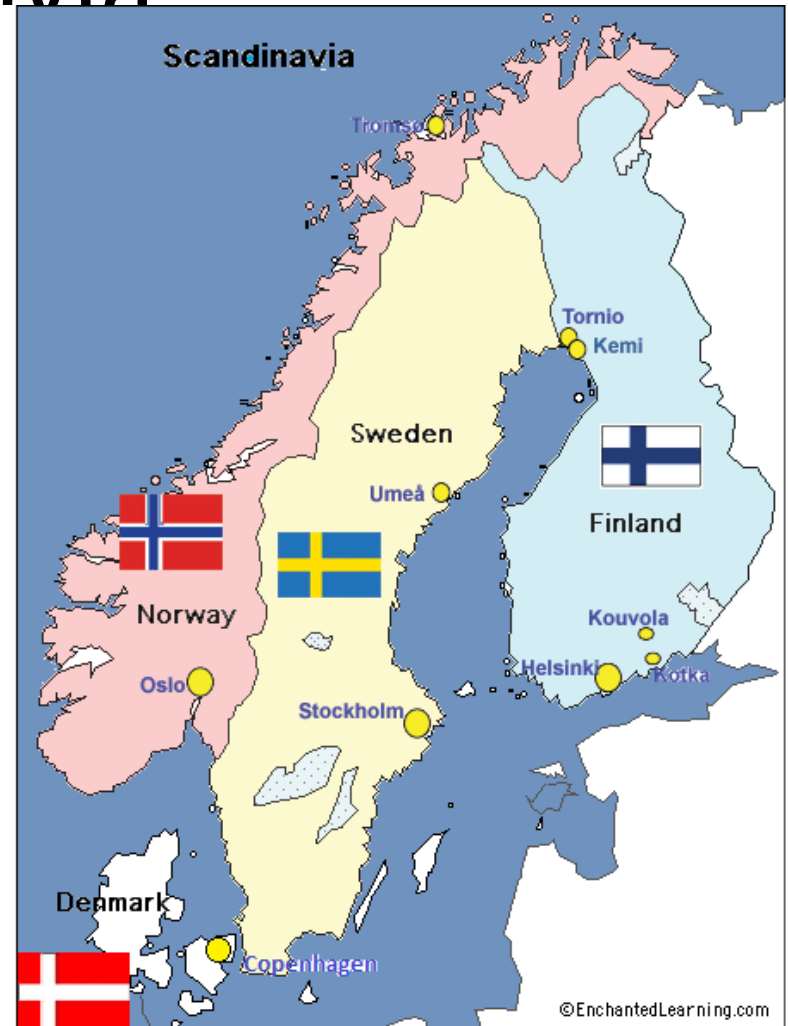


Scandinavia

- Danish
- Norwegian
- Swedish

Are considered three distinct languages but in fact are one language.

Mutually intelligible (not in the same degree though see the book p. 31).



road signs!



This means that you are still in Denmark going to Sweden. In Denmark the same vowel is written with the grapheme [ø] and in Sweden with the grapheme [ö]. Clearly you know it's the same language by changing the radio station.

Languages and Varieties



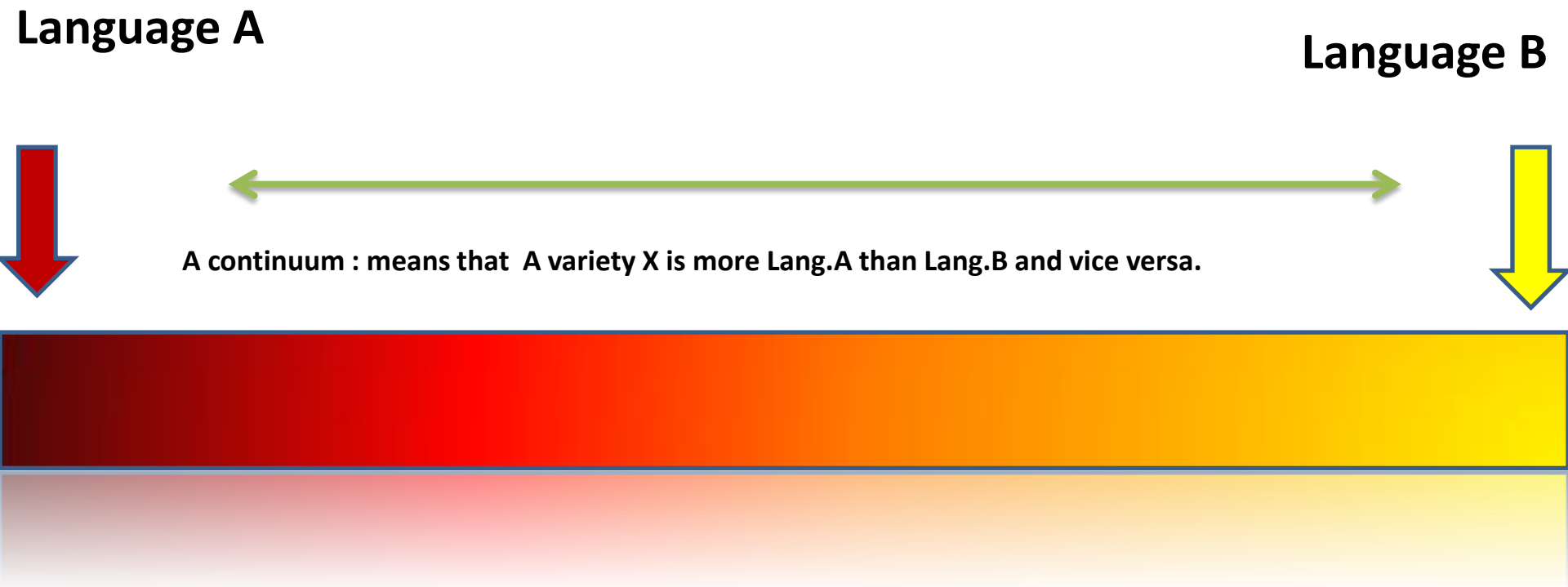
Pavement in Malmö centrum.

Dutch and German



There is a continuum of German dialects: Dutch are closer to western German than Western German to Eastern German.

Linguistic Continuum



ex. German and Dutch is such a case.

- **Mutual intelligibility** is not a reason to say that this variety belongs to Language A rather than Language B.
- This is the case of the German varieties near the Dutch borders or the language of the Swedes living near Denmark, comparing to the Swedes living in Kiruna!



Different varieties are considered the same language.

France

People in Alsace speak a variety—Alsatian—that is closer to German than to French but their variety is considered by the speakers to be French.



China



China

Cantonese
Mandarin

Different Languages but their speakers say they use the same.

The spoken varieties of Chinese are mutually unintelligible to their respective speakers. They differ from each other to about the same extent as the modern Romance languages. Most of the differences among them occur in pronunciation and vocabulary; there are few grammatical differences. These languages include **Mandarin** in the northern, central, and western parts of China; **Wu**; Northern and Southern **Min**; **Gan** (Kan); **Hakka** (Kejia); and **Xiang**; and **Cantonese** (Yue) in the southeastern part of the country.

- **Wenyan:** All the Chinese languages share a common literary language (*wenyan*), written in characters and based on a common body of literature. This literary language has no single standard of pronunciation; a speaker of a language reads texts according to the rules of pronunciation of his own language.
- **Baihua:** Before 1917 the *wenyan* was used for almost all writing; since that date it has become increasingly acceptable to write in the vernacular style (*baihua*) instead, and the old literary language is dying out in the daily life of modern China. (Its use continues in certain literary and scholarly circles.)
- **Modern Standard Chinese:** In the early 1900s a program for the unification of the national language, which is based on **Mandarin**, was launched; this resulted in Modern Standard Chinese.
- **Pinyin:** In 1956 a new system of romanization called Pinyin, based on the pronunciation of the characters in the Beijing dialect, was adopted as an educational instrument to help in the spread of the modern standard language. Modified in 1958, the system was formally prescribed (1979) for use in all diplomatic documents and foreign-language publications in English-speaking countries.
- [See the comments there: http://www.economist.com/blogs/johnson/2011/12/chinese](http://www.economist.com/blogs/johnson/2011/12/chinese)

Languages, Dialects and Viarieties

Bart B.

Bell's criteria...

- Is there any way to distinguish a *Language* from a *Dialect*?
- Bell (1976) has listed seven criteria that may be useful in discussing different kinds of languages.
- According to Bell, we may use his criteria to distinguish certain languages from others.
- We can use Bell's criteria to say that some languages are more developed in certain ways than others, thus addressing a key issue in the language-dialect distinction, since speakers usually feel that languages are generally 'better' than dialects in some sense.

Bell's Criteria

- **Standardization.**

- Vitality

- Historicity

- Autonomy

- Reduction

- Mixture

- *De facto* forms

Standardization

- Is the process by which a language has been codified in some way. This process involves the development of such things as grammars, spelling books and dictionaries, and possibly a literature.
- The translation of the Bible from Greek or Latin played a crucial role for the standardisation of Modern Languages.



Scots and language

Wycliffe's Bible (app. 1380)

- **Latin Vulgate:** Dixitque Deus fiat lux et facta est lux
- **Wycliffe:** And God seide, Be maad lizt; and maad is lizt
- **Luther's** translation in German .

Haugen (1966) on Standardization!!!

A. Formal Matters

- **Codification:** Grammars, dictionaries.
- **Elaboration:** The use of the variety in literature, in the courts, in education, in administration, and in commerce.

B. Function

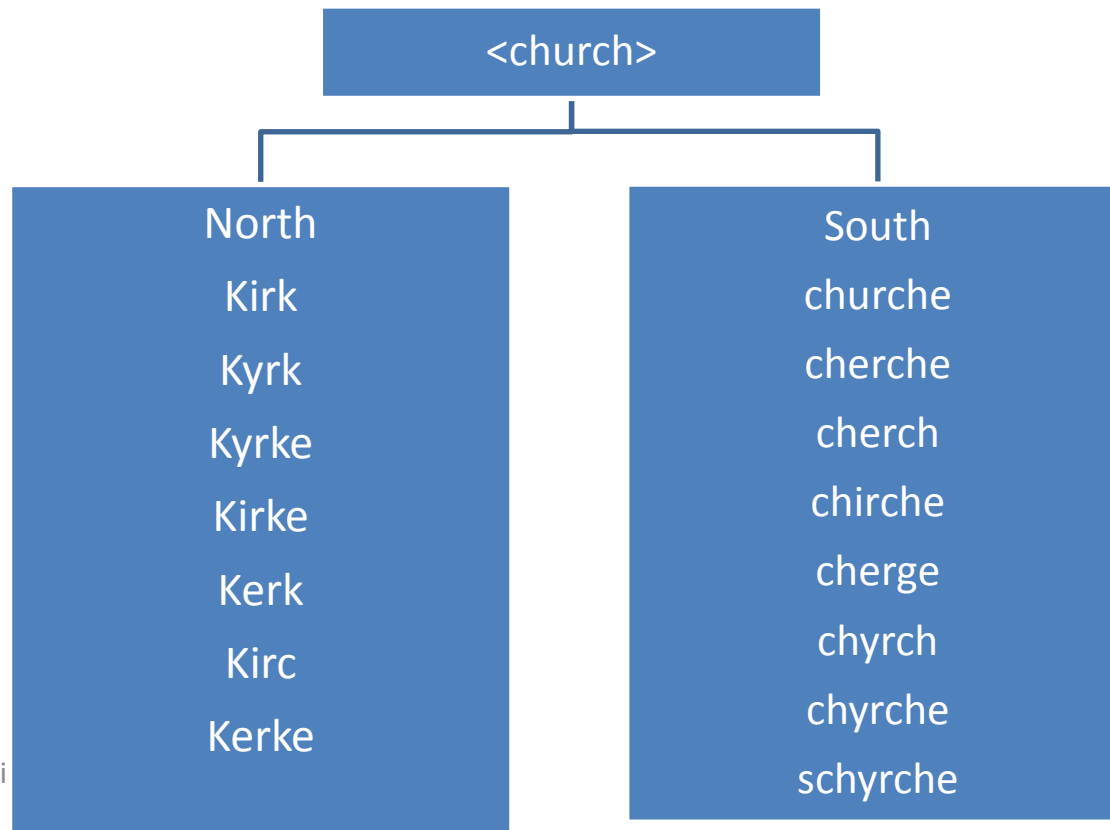
The community must accept it as such.

Which variety should be standardised?

- Selection of the norm is difficult because choosing one vernacular as a norm means favoring those who speak this variety.
- It diminishes all the other varieties.
- The chosen variety becomes associated with power and all the alternatives with lack of power.
- Belgium is such a complicated case: French speaking community and Flemish (Dutch). Historically, French was the dominating language, and Flemish just a variety, things changed and cause now a linguistic and political war in Belgium.

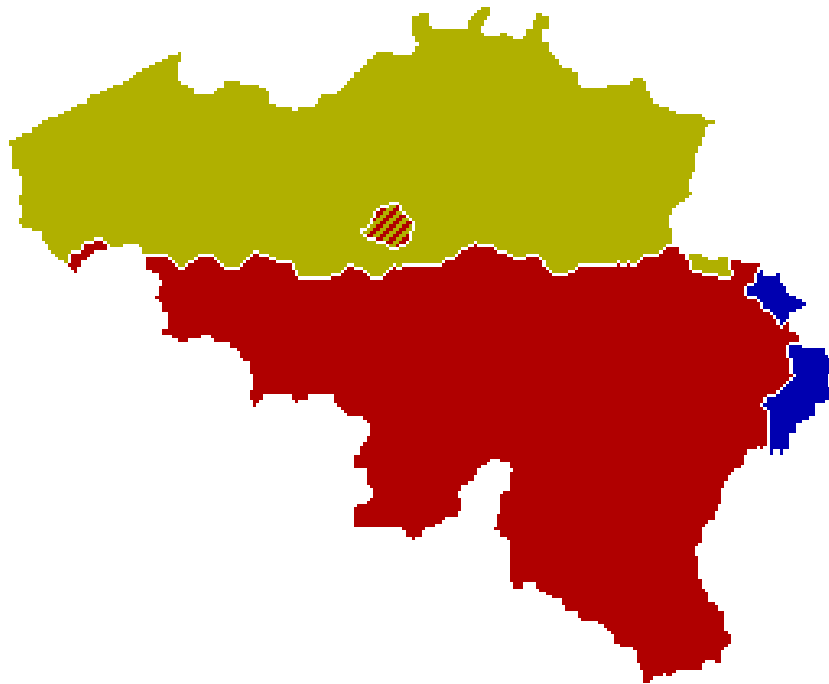
English

- King Henri 14th century → A standard English, (French and Latin were the official languages before Henri). However there was a problem which English to choose: there were different pronunciations and spellings ex.



Belgium

The Language problem in Belgium is a very serious especially for the Flemish (Dutch) community.



Flemish
French
German

Standard English (Wardhaugh, 1986:35)

- Standard English is based in the dialect of English that developed after the Norman Conquest that resulted in the permanent removal of the Court from Winchester to London.
- This dialect became the one preferred by the educated, and it was developed and promoted as a model, or norm, for wider and wider segments of society.
- It was also the norm that was carried overseas, but not one unaffected by such export.

Standard English (Wardhaugh, 1986:35)

- Today, Standard English is codified to the extent that the grammar and vocabulary of English are much the same everywhere in the world: Variation among local standards is really quite minor.
- Many long-established varieties of English and Lowlands of Scotland have lost much of their vigour.
- There is considerable pressure on them to converge toward the standard.

Standard Greek

- **Katharevousa:** heavily archaized form of modern Greek used in traditional literary writing.
- **Demotic:** the form of modern Greek used in everyday speech and writing.
- In 1976, Dimotiki was made the official language.



Governments-Institutions involved in the Standardization Procedure

- **France:** Académie française 1635 aimed at the codification of French spelling, vocabulary and Grammar.
- **Greece:** Greek Academy “Academia” tried similar things with little success.
- **Finland:** Fins try to codify their language as a means to assert their independence from both Swedes and Russians.
- **Turkey:** the Turkish Language Association (TDK) was established in 1932 under the patronage of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk to initiate a language reform to replace loanwords of Arabic and Persian origin with Turkish equivalents. They also replaced the Arabic script with a modified version of the Latin alphabet.
- **Other attempts:** India (Hindi), Israel (Hebrew), Benin (Fon), Nigeria (Yoruba), etc.



Bell's Criteria

- **Standardization.**

- **Vitality**

- Historicity

- Autonomy

- Reduction

- Mixture

- *De facto* forms

Vitality

- Vitality refers to the existence of a living community of speakers.

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Ancient tribal language becomes extinct as last speaker dies

Death of Boa Sr, last person fluent in the Bo language of the Andaman Islands, breaks link with 65,000-year-old culture

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Jonathan Watts
guardian.co.uk, Thursday 4 February 2010 16:28 GMT



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Boa Sr, the last speaker of the Bo language of the Andaman Islands, has died.
Photograph: Alok Das/Survival/Survival

Boa Sr, the last speaker of the Bo language of the Andaman Islands, has died.

TheGuardian.com varieties



- Classical Greek
- Latin
- Hebrew: The revival of the Hebrew language, not spoken since biblical times, has been of great importance in the development of Israel's modern culture.

Bell's Criteria

- **Standardization.**
- **Vitality**
- **Historicity**
- Autonomy
- Reduction
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Historicity

A particular group of people finds a sense of ***identity*** through using a particular language.

- Social bonds
- Political bonds
- Religious bonds
- Ethic bonds

A German Nation or a Russian Nation is unified
around the German or the Russian language

Bell's Criteria

- **Standardization.**
- **Vitality**
- **Historicity**
- **Autonomy**
- Reduction
- Mixture
- *De facto* forms

Autonomy

- A language must be felt by its speakers to be different from other languages → A subjective criterion.
- Ukrainians say their language is quite different from Russian.
- Some speakers of African American Vernacular English (AAVE) say they speak a different language not English.
- BUT: The speakers of Mandarin and Cantonese say they speak the same language “Chinese”.

Bell's Criteria

- **Standardization.**
- **Vitality**
- **Historicity**
- **Autonomy**
- **Reduction**
- Mixture
- *De facto* forms

Reduction

- A particular variety may be regarded as a sub-variety rather than as an independent entity.
- The reduction may exist in different spheres, e.g., lacking a writing system, restrictions as to its functions, a smaller lexicon (cf. use in science, literature etc.). In these cases, the speakers would be aware that they are not speaking a 'full' language.

Bell's Criteria

- **Standardization.**
- **Vitality**
- **Historicity**
- **Autonomy**
- **Reduction**
- **Mixture**
- *De facto* forms

Mixture

- ‘Mixture’ refers to the feelings speakers have about the ‘purity’ of their language. Bell (1976) explains that this involves knowing whether the language makes use mostly of its own items and structures, rather than having extensive borrowing or adaptation.
- Purity is more important to some language speakers (e.g. French, German) than others (e.g. English); it may be a symbol of uniqueness (Romaine 2000).
- One obvious example of mixture is creoles and pidgins, whose speakers often feel that the varieties are ‘neither one thing nor another, but rather are debased, deficient, degenerate, or marginal varieties of some other standard language’ (Wardhaugh 2000:35).

Bell's Criteria

- **Standardization.**
- **Vitality**
- **Historicity**
- **Autonomy**
- **Reduction**
- **Mixture**
- ***De facto* forms**

De facto Norms

- Having de facto norms refers to the feeling that many speakers have that there are both ‘**good**’ speakers and ‘**poor**’ speakers and that the good speakers represent the norms of proper usage. Sometimes this means focusing on one particular sub-variety as representing the ‘best’ usage. (Wardhaugh 2000:35) .
- This factor is an attempt to account for the ‘**informal**’ or ‘**partial**’ standardization found in some language varieties that have not achieved full language status. In these cases, there are norms which may not be codified, but which are accepted by the community at large (or vice versa). This leads to ‘increased uniformity of usage through dialect levelling’ (Stewart 1968:534).

- Language and Dialect when used show something:

Power and Solidarity

- And have a kind of a **prestige**:

Overt and Covert

koiné and *Vernacular*

- A *koiné* is ‘a form of speech shared by people of different vernacular—though for some of them the *koiné* itself may be their vernacular.’
- Hindi
- Vulgar Latin
- Greek *koiné*

variety


- Hudson ‘a set of linguistic items with *similar* distribution’.
- Similar is unspecified so we can use the term to refer to the following diverse voices as varieties:
- Standard English, Cockney, lower-class New York City speech, legalese, cocktail party talk, English of football commentaries etc.
- We can treat even all the languages of some multilingual speaker, or community a single variety, since all the linguistic items concerned have a similar social distribution.

Variety Fergusson

Any body of human speech patterns which is sufficiently ***homogeneous*** to be analyzed by available techniques of synchronic description and which has a sufficiently large repertory of elements and their arrangements or processes with broad enough semantic scope to function in all formal contexts of communication.

- Just use the term in the broad meaning without further specifications:

”speech which differs in some way from others of the same general class or sort”.

 Ronald Wardhaugh (1986). An Introduction to Sociolinguistics. Oxford: Blackwell. *p.* 25-48

Thank you