Korean perceptual dialectology

October 10, 2016

Announcements

- If you/your group did not meet with me yet to talk about your course project, I strongly suggest you try to set up a meeting as soon as possible.

Review

- What are linguistic prescription and description?
- Are the following statements *prescriptive* or *descriptive*?
  - "People in Seoul raise their intonation at the end of sentences."
  - "Jeju speech is more of a language than a dialect."
  - "Chungcheong people speak very slowly."
  - "Gyeongsang speech sounds a bit harsh and aggressive."

What is perceptual dialectology?

- Perceptual dialectology is the study of people's subjectively held beliefs about different dialects or linguistic varieties.

- How is this scientific?
  - Not all linguists agree that it is, although those who don't seem to be older, i.e. it could be a generational difference.
  - See this discussion between Geoffrey Sampson and Patrick Honeybone regarding whether perceptual dialectology counts as "linguistics" http://linguistlist.org/sp/get-discussion.cfm?SubmissionID=36209717

- It's possible to be unscientific about it, but if the data is collected and analyzed properly, it can tell us a lot about how language is connected to human interaction, which *is* a legitimate object of scientific inquiry.

Perceptual dialectology and prescriptivism

- Be careful: Perceptual dialectology is not just the study of prescriptive beliefs. While prescriptive beliefs are included, it is also includes people's descriptive beliefs.

- It is the study of what people think about language, whether those thoughts are prescriptive or descriptive.

How to do perceptual dialectology?

- One of the most common methods is the **map task**.

- Give people a blank map and ask them to:
  - Draw where people speak differently
  - Label the areas
  - Optional: Describe the speech from the areas
  - Optional: Rank the areas in terms of pleasantness

- Why bother with a map? And why a blank map?

Perceptual dialectology in Korea

- Two somewhat recent studies:
  - Daniel Long & Young-Cheol Yim (2002). Regional differences in the perception of Korean dialects.
  - Lisa Jeon & Patricia Cukor-Avila (2015). One country, one language: Mappings perceptions of dialects in South Korea.
- One older study on dialect attitudes:
  - 이정민 (1981). 한국어의 표준어 및 방언들 사이의 상호 접촉과 태도. [Chungmin Lee (1981). Mutual contact and attitudes among pyojuneo and other varieties of Korean.]

Lee 1981: Overview

- Surveyed 784 Koreans
  - Seoul/Gyeonggi: 386
  - Gyeongsang: 119
  - Jeolla: 95
  - Chungcheong: 85
  - Gangwon: 52
  - Jeju: 44
  - North Korea: 3
- Both men and women, over a wide range of ages.
- Asked them 15 questions about Korean dialects.

What are the dialects?

- Subjects were given 9 administrative regions (서울/경기, 강원, 충청, 전라, 경상, 제주, 함경, 평안, 황해).
- Which ones can you tell apart?
  - More than 50% of people said they can recognize Seoul/Gyeonggi, Gyeongsang, Jeolla, and Chungcheong.
  - 93% of Jeju respondents said they can recognize Jeju dialect.
  - 85% of Gangwon respondents said they can recognize Gangwon dialect.
- Which ones have you heard the most?
  - Top 4 responses were: Seoul/Gyeonggi, Gyeongsang, Jeolla, Chungcheong.

What are the dialects?

- Which ones are hard to understand?
  - 75% responded Jeju, followed by Gyeongsang
- Which ones can't you understand when those dialect speakers are talking amongst each other?
 - Jeju, Gyeongsang, and Jeolla

What do people think about their own dialect?

	경상 Gyeongsang		전라 Jeolla		제주 Jeju		충청 Chungcheong		서울 Seoul	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
믿음직스럽다 Trustworthy	70	52	65	41	25	20	20	50	24	23
듣기좋다 Sounds nice	60	19	47	29	55	20	25	15	92	92
씩씩하다 Brave	75	29	41	23	20	10	15	10		
점잖다 Refined	20	19	11			10	50	65	46	27
상냥하다 Gentle				29			25	10	52	38
촌스럽다 Country-ish		14	24	53	15		30	70		
무뚝뚝하다 Curt or brusque	70	81	29		55	65	50			

Long & Yim 2002: Overview

- 471 Korean university students completed a map task
  - Draw lines to indicate where people speak differently
  - Label the areas
  - Describe the characteristics of the speech from the areas
  - Rank the areas in terms of pleasantness
- All of them drew maps
  - Only 371 (79%) ranked pleasantness – Why?
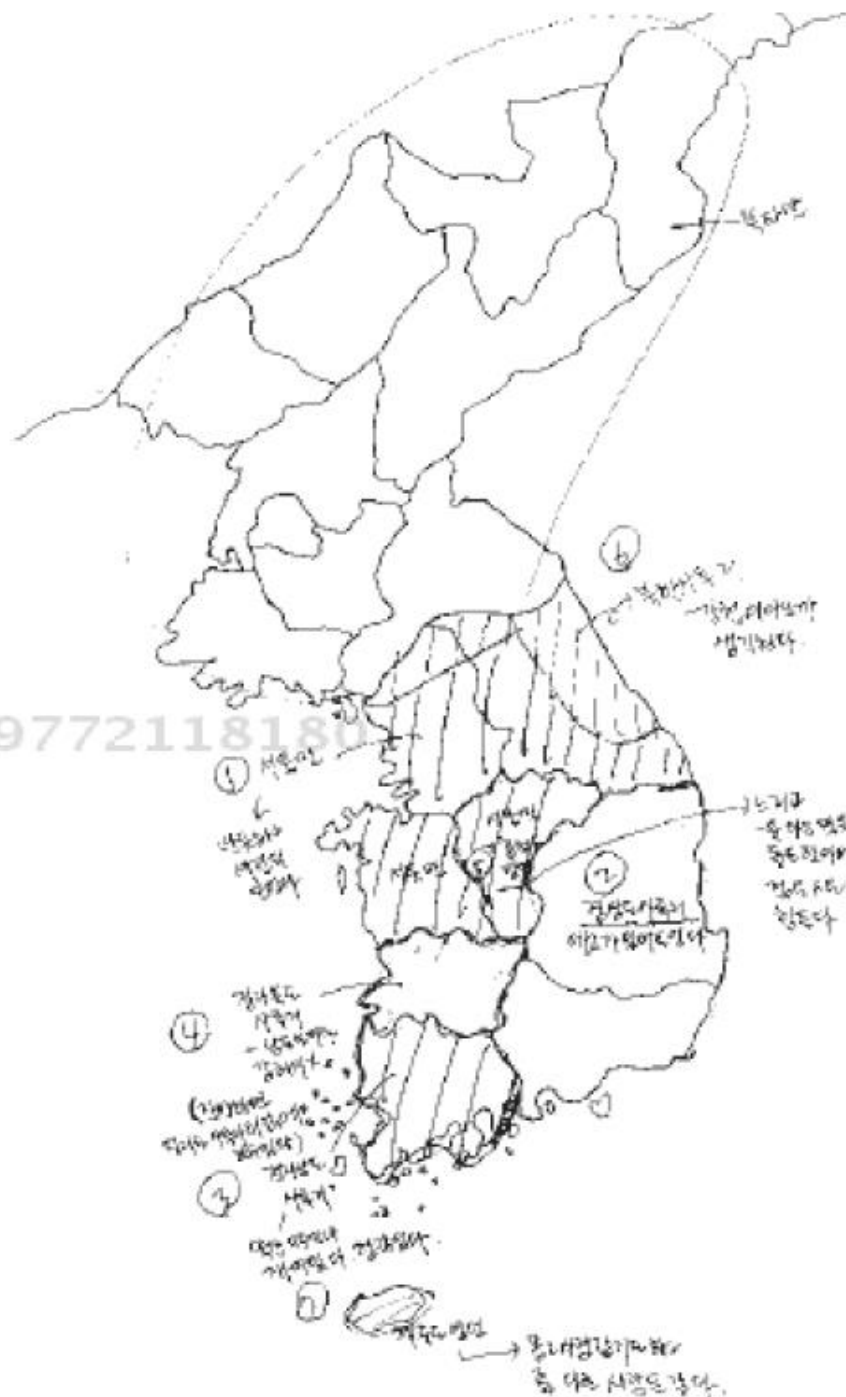
Where do people speak differently?

- Most responses corresponded to political units, for both areas and labels
  - Seoul, Gangwon, Chungcheong, Jeolla, Gyeongsang, Jeju
  - Some made North-South provincial divisions
  - 254 students labeled the city "Seoul", but only 16 labeled the city "Busan", and no one mentioned any other city – Why?
- Very different from US English and Japanese

Where do people speak differently?

- US English (Preston, 1989)
  - "South", "Midwest", "New England", "NYC", "Texas"
  - 3 regions, 1 city, 1 state
- Japanese (Long, 1999)
  - "Tohoku", "Kansai", "Kyushu", "Nagoya", "Standard"
  - 3 regions, 1 city, plus standard

Table 14.2. *Combinations of locative descriptors and variety descriptors in speech variety labels.*

Variety descriptor Locative descriptor	–*mal* (speech, words)	-*sat'uri* (accent)	-*bang'ŏn* (dialect)	Place name only	Total
Seoul	**203** **79.9%**	0	51 20.1%	0	254
Kyŏnggi	12 40.0%	6 20.0%	12 40.0%	13	43
Kangwŏn	70 27.7%	**85** **34.8%**	89 36.5%	42	286
Ch'ungch'ŏng	87 28.6%	**103** **33.9%**	114 37.5%	50	354
Chŏlla	86 25.4%	**109** **32.2%**	143 42.3%	60	398
Kyŏngsang	75 22.8%	**125** **38.0%**	129 39.2%	58	387
Cheju	50 21.5%	48 20.6%	**135** **57.9%**	28	261
North Korea	**33** **75%**	3 6.8%	8 18.2%	0	44
Total	616	479	681	251	2027

How often did people label somewhere "Standard" or "Seoul"?

Table 14.3. *Frequency of "Standard" and "Seoul" maps by informant region.*

Informants' home region	Percentage who drew "Standard" maps	Percentage who drew "Seoul" maps
Seoul	18.2	69.1
Kyŏnggi	14.3	71.4
Kangwŏn	22.7	50.0
N. and S. Ch'ungch'ŏng	22.3	61.4
N. and S. Chŏlla	18.9	65.1
N. and S. Kyŏngsang	13.0	72.0
Cheju	11.8	55.9
Total	17.9	64.8

What do people think about their dialect and others?

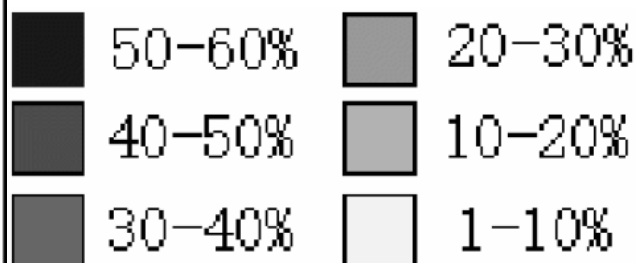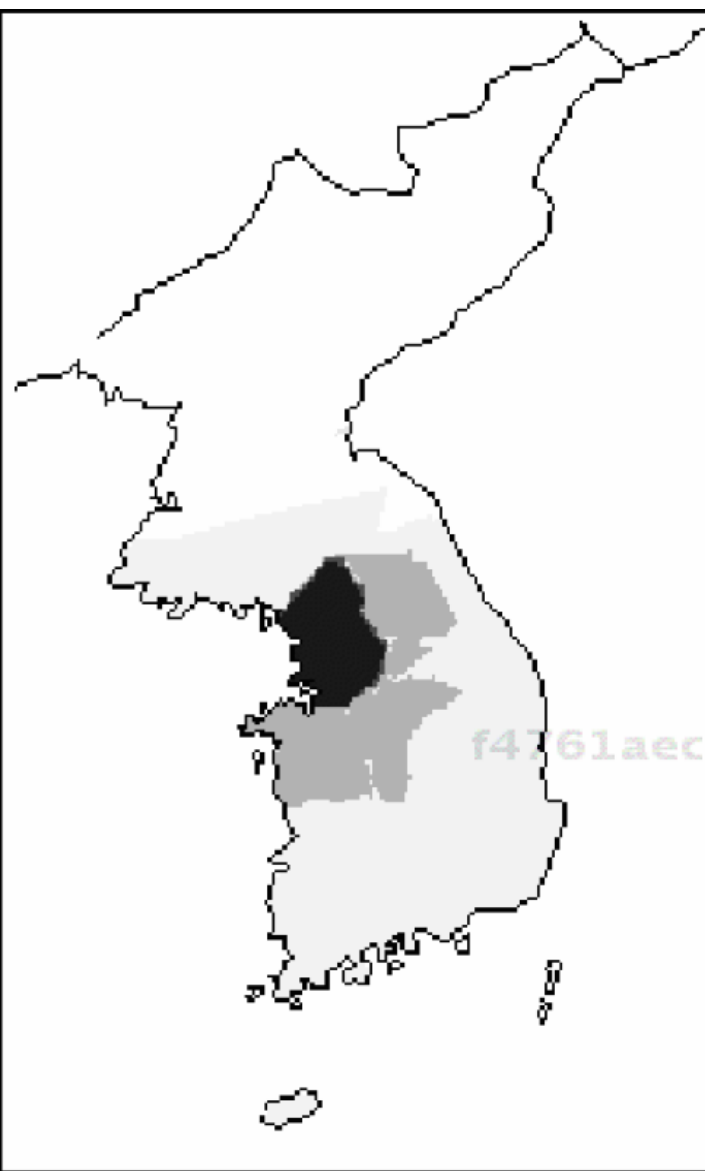Table 14.4. *Dialect Attitudes by Informant Region.*

Home Region of Informant	My dialect is not intelligible	Not proud of my dialect	Proud of my dialect	Dislike my dialect	Like my dialect	Want to speak Standard	Don't want to speak Standard
Seoul	9.4	6.1	54.0	4.3	64.7	62.8	27.9
Kyŏnggi	2.9	4.4	58.3	1.4	70.2	60.9	31.9
Kangwŏn	9.8	7.3	68.2	12.2	60.9	58.5	36.6
Ch'ungch'ŏng	5.9	3.8	62.7	1.9	62.7	56.8	33.3
Chŏlla	17.4	6.8	57.9	4.2	68.7	54.8	39.5
Kyŏngsang	12.1	**12.0**	**48.1**	**13.2**	**59.1**	63.9	30.1
Cheju	**36.8**	2.6	55.3	10.5	55.2	65.8	31.6

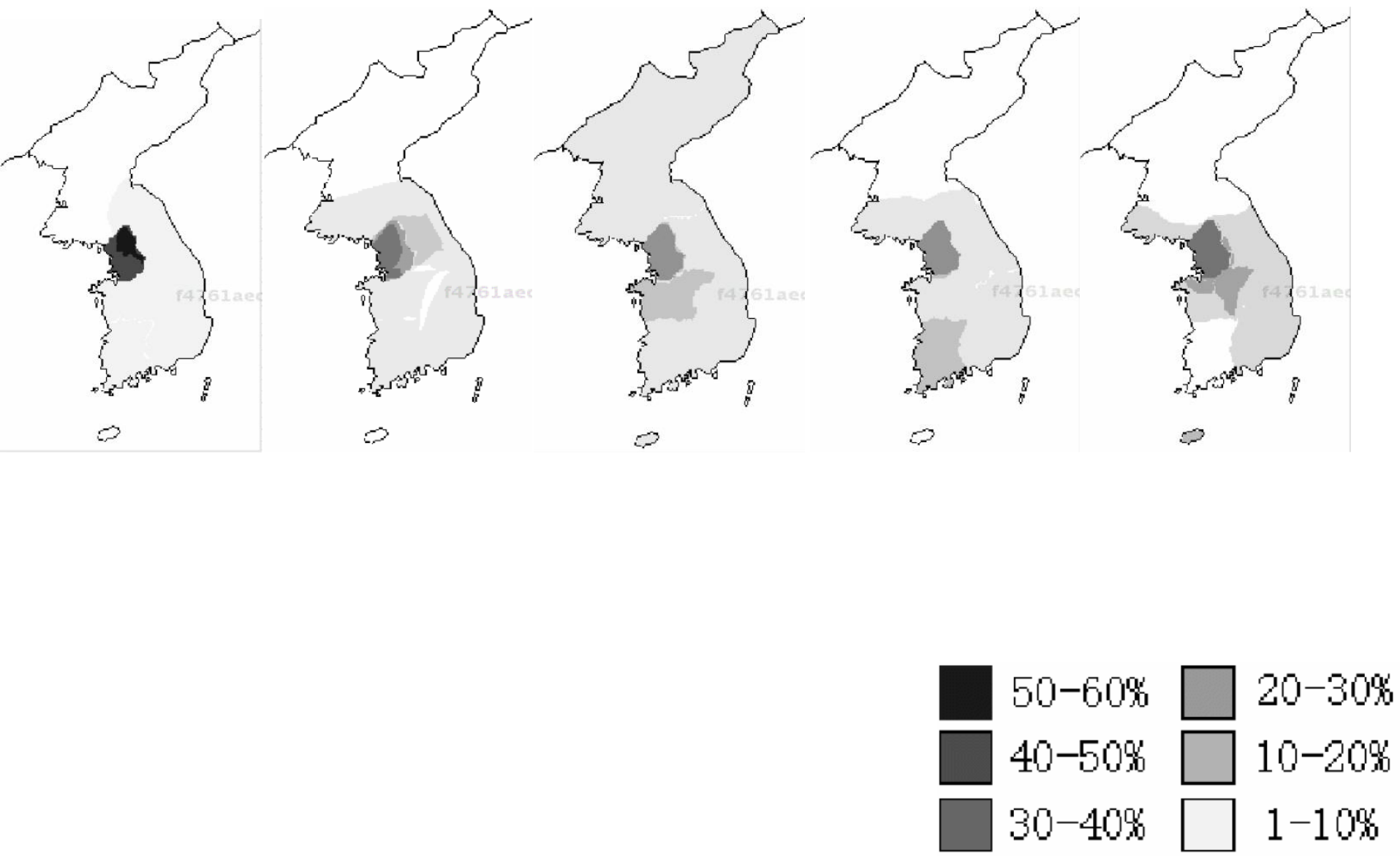# What area has the most "pleasant" speech?

Table 14.5. *Areas given as "Most Pleasant" by Informant Region.*

Informant Region	Seoul as "most pleasant"	Standard as "most pleasant"	Home Dialect as "most pleasant"	Other as "most pleasant"	Total no. of Inf.
Seoul	0	**19.6**	**56.9**	23.5	51
Kyŏnggi	**65.7**	11.4	5.7	17.1	35
Kangwŏn	31.8	18.2	13.6	36.4	22
N. and S. Ch'ungch'ŏng	32.1	14.3	**39.3**	14.3	84
N. and S. Chŏlla	33	17	**44.7**	5.3	94
N. and S. Kyŏngsang	49.0	13.7	**13.7**	23.5	51
Cheju	26.5	2.9	**47.1**	23.5	34
Total					371

Where is the "most pleasant" speech?

■	50-60%	▓	20-30%
▒	40-50%	░	10-20%
▒	30-40%	□	1-10%

Where is the "most pleasant" speech?

■ 50-60%	▨ 20-30%	
▨ 40-50%	□ 10-20%	
▨ 30-40%	□ 1-10%	

Where is the "most pleasant" speech?

Seoul   Gangwon   Chungcheong   Jeolla   Gyeongsang

It depends
who you ask!

■ 50–60%	▨ 20–30%
■ 40–50%	▨ 10–20%
▨ 30–40%	□ 1–10%
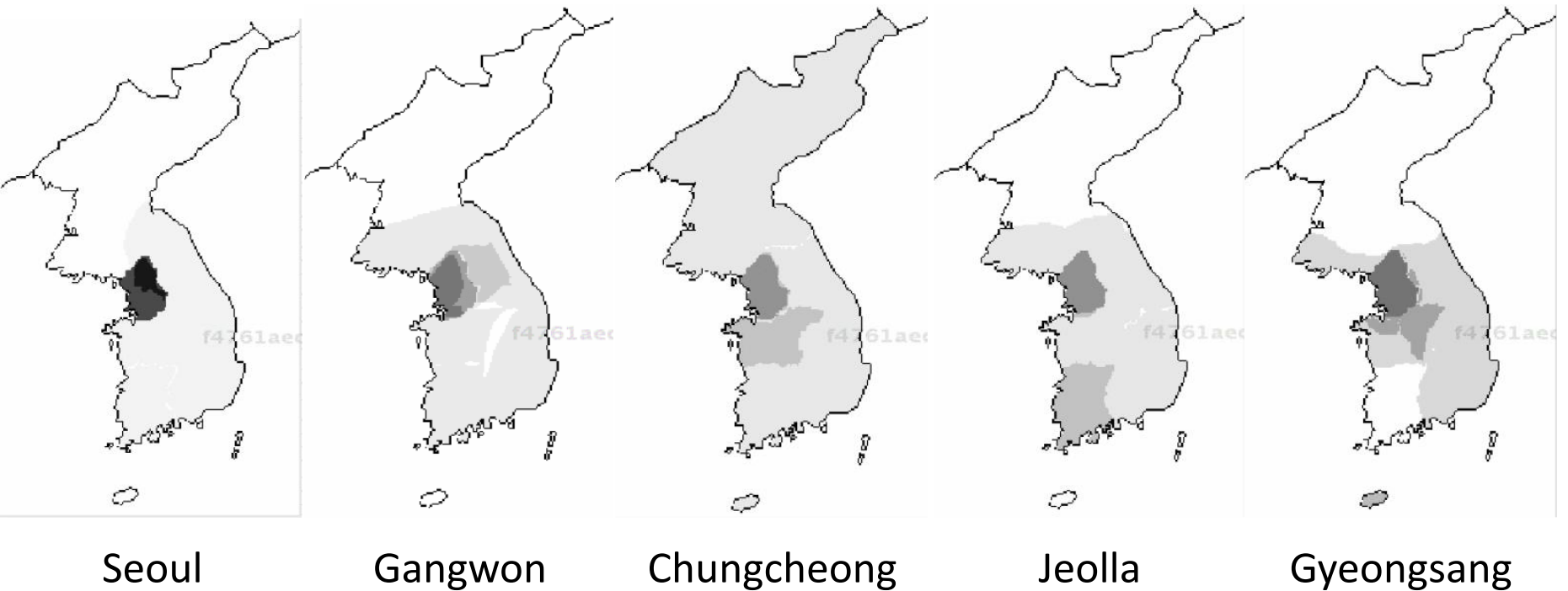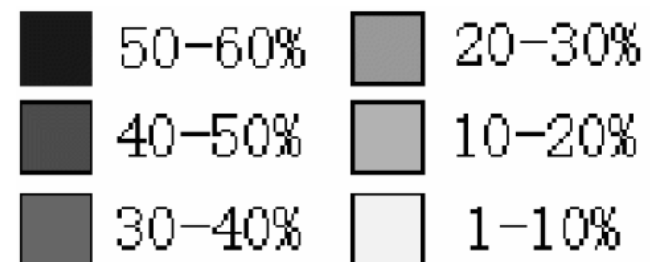
Standardized pleasantness maps

Seoul   Gangwon   Chungcheong   Jeolla   Gyeongsang

Jeju
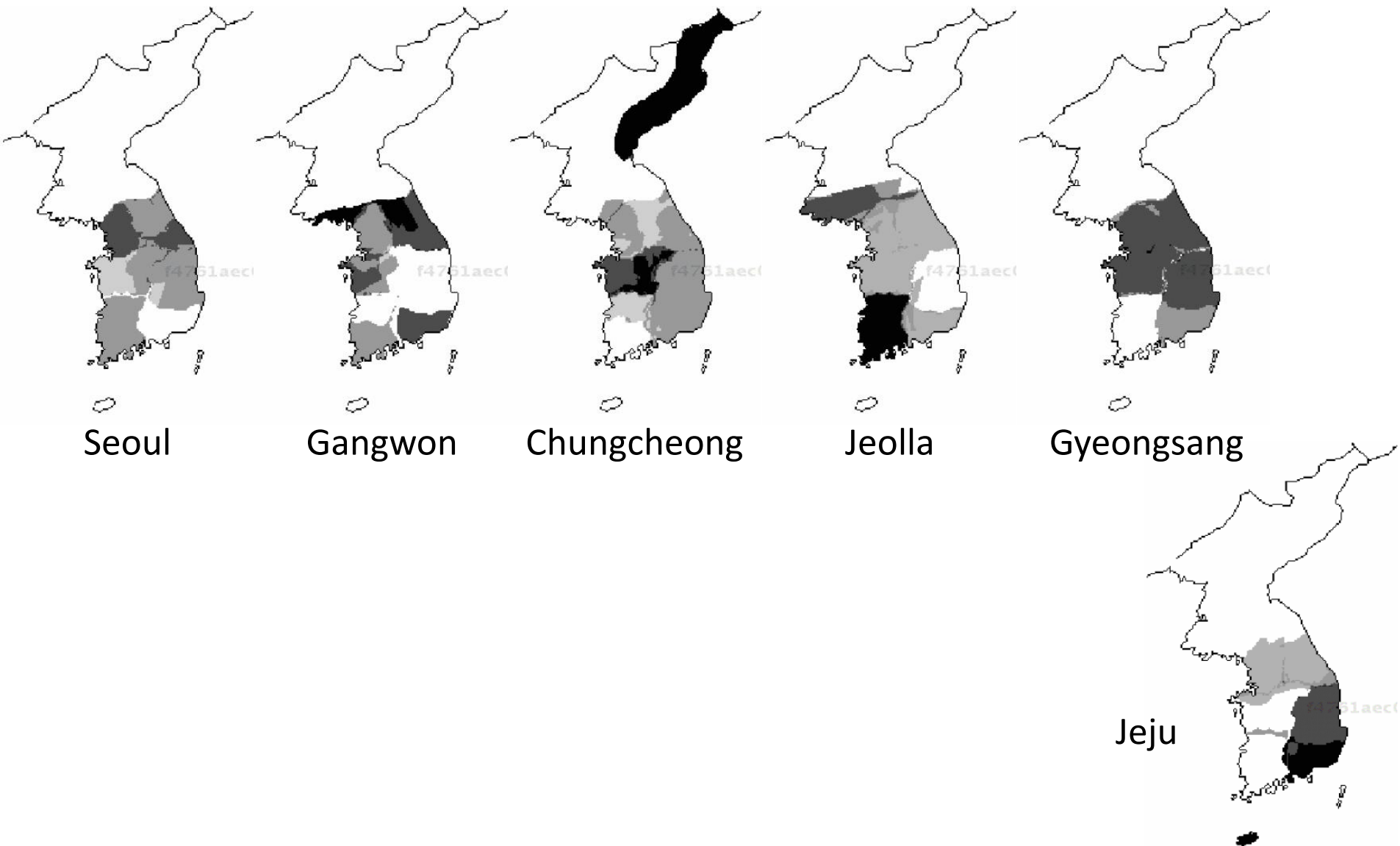
Homework

- Survey <u>at least</u> two native Korean speakers:
  - One from Seoul
  - One not from Seoul
    - If you can't find someone who's not from Seoul, try to find someone whose family is not from Seoul.
- Ask them this question:
  - "서울말은 다른 지역 말이랑 어떻게 달라요?"
  - "How is Seoul speech different from the speech of other regions?"
- Write down their responses and bring them to class on Wednesday. We will put our responses together and discuss them as a class.