# Lecture 1: Myth 2: “Scots is a dialect of English”

Varieties of language fade into one another like a spectrum of colours

There’s no checklist for the definition of a “language”

Intelligibility criterion:

* English vs Dutch vs Spanish
* Cockney vs Geordie vs Scouse
* But
  + Dutch vs Flemish
  + Danish vs Norwegian – speaking is similar
  + Czech vs Slovak
  + **English vs Scots**

“A language…”

* “is a dialect with an army and a navy” (political power)
* is a variety which has a cultural, ethnic, and historical significance
* is different enough from surrounding – potentially intelligible – varieties
* is a useful shortcut label:
  + Old English, Middle English, Early Modern English
    - …English

The family tree of Scots (LARGE): Scots -> Anglo-Danish -> Old Northumbrian -> Anglian -> Old English -> West -> Germanic

Standard English -> East Midland Middle English -> Mercian -> Anglian -> …

Kopaczyk’s revised Scots history: Old Northumbrian (-1100) -> Early Middle scots ->

Difference of Middle Scots (dialects) and Middle English (dialects) linguistically

* **linguistic variables** (diagnostic variants) (features of languages which can have multiple realisations in different related varieties (languages/dialects))
  + orthographic: <sch> in the north and <sh> in the south
  + phonological: /u/ in the north and /au/ in the south, e.g. *house* ([hu:s] or [haus])*, toun*
  + grammatical: *speik****and*** in the north and *speik****ing*** in the south
  + lexical: *burn* in the north and *stream* in the south (flowing water)
* Diagnostic variants
  + Spelling
    - <i>-digraphs for long vowels (deid, deil, befoir instead of deed, deal, before)
    - no additional marking for long vowels (ded, del, befor, get, throt compared to throat, great)
    - <ch> in dochtir, nocht compared to <gh> in daughter, nought
    - <quh><qhw> etc in quhene, qhwyte compared to <wh> [hw] in whene, whyte
    - <y> in yat, oyir compared to <th> in that, other
    - <u> interchanged with <v> and <w> in leue, vyir, ws compared to <u> and <w> in leaue, comvne, us
    - Shared variant: <VCe> (vowel, consonant, e) for long vowels in time, dede (Latin)
    - Phonological implications
      * <ui><u> in guid, buke compared to <oo> in good, book
      * <a> in stane, hame compared to <o> in stone, home
      * <aw> in knaw compared to <ow> in know
      * /k/,/g/ in kirk, kist, brig compared to /tj//dz/ in church, chest, bridge
  + Grammar
    - indicative pronouns in thir-tha-yon compared to these, those
    - 3sg feminine scho compared to she
    - inflection
      * possessive -is/-ys in kingis quair compared to -es in kings booke
      * plural nouns -is/-ys in kirkis, tounis compared to -es in churches, townes
      * present tense
      * present participle
      * past tense
      * past participle
    - syntax
      * negation na, nocht compared to shal not
  + Lexis
    - derivation
      * deverbal noun -ar(e) in makar, baxtar compared to -er
      * adjective -abill in deltabill compared to -able in delightable

Scots doesn’t have a standard (as English does), so it’s more of on a spectrum of dialects