Homework assignment #7: Models of linguistic change

Due Monday, December 3

Reminders:
- You may complete and turn in a homework assignment in groups of up to 4 members
- Make sure you understand the material yourself, even if you are working in a group
- You/your group may discuss the assignment with other people/groups, but if you do, please acknowledge your collaborators

(1)   Here is a dialect map taken from *IHL*, Ch 9 (p 176). **Note that for full credit on this question, you need to explain and justify your answers.**
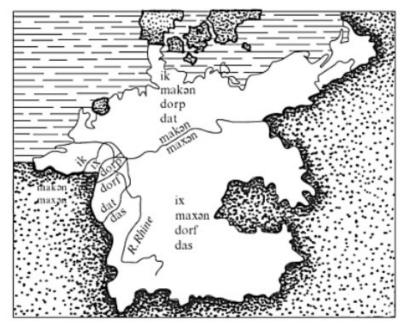

FIGURE 9.2 German dialect differences

(a)   Does this map show evidence that is consistent with the family-tree model of linguistic change? Explain your answer, referring to concrete details from the map.

(b)   Does this map show evidence that is consistent with the wave model of linguistic change? Explain your answer, referring to concrete details from the map.

(2)   For this question, refer to Labov (2007), "Transmission and diffusion."

Consider the 'short-*a*' system of New Orleans speaker Sybil P., which is illustrated in Figure 13 and described in the text in section 3.4.

(a)   Describe the ways in which Sybil P.'s 'short-*a*' system is similar to the New York City pattern, and the ways in which it is different.

(b)   According to Labov's analysis, would we want to say that Sybil P.'s 'short-*a*' system is a result of diffusion? Defend your answer.