

Today's topics:

- Dialect chains
- The wave model

Language varieties—Differentiation

- Suppose a single, uniform speech community takes the first step toward dividing into two distinct languages
 - What would this first step be?

Language varieties—Differentiation

- What would be a basis for saying that the language varieties of two communities are two different **dialects**?
- What would be a basis for saying that the language varieties of two communities are two different **languages**?

Language varieties—Differentiation

- What would be a basis for saying that the language varieties of two communities are two different **dialects**?
 - (Systematic) linguistic differences
- What would be a basis for saying that the language varieties of two communities are two different **languages**?
 - Not mutually intelligible
- How do we draw the boundary between two dialects?

Dialects

- **Isogloss:**
A dividing line on a map that shows the boundary between two different versions of a particular linguistic characteristic
 - Lexical items ('pop' / 'soda' / 'coke')
 - Phonological characteristics (ANAE web site)
 - Morphological, syntactic characteristics
- An **isogloss bundle** indicates a boundary between two dialect areas
 - See Japanese example on data handout

Dialects

- Do isoglosses always form bundles?
 - Examples on data handout: Japanese (along the southern coast on map), Dutch

Dialect chains

- What is a **dialect chain**?
(also called **dialect continuum**)
- Do the members of a dialect chain form a single language?
 - Imagine a dialect chain A - B - C - D - E
 - What if A and E are not mutually intelligible, but all “neighbor pairs” of dialects are?

Crucial question for discussion

- What are the implications of the existence of dialect continua for the family-tree model of language change?
 - In your discussion, consider the Paamese example discussed in the reading and the question raised there for reconstructing proto-phonemes for the sound correspondences involving [m] and [m^w]
 - See data handout for a reminder

An alternative model of language change: The wave model

- Catch-phrase: “Every word has its own history” (Gilliéron)
- The wave model (*IHL*, p 178)
“The wave model implies that, instead of sharp linguistic splits, changes take place like waves spreading outward from the place where a stone is dropped into the water...crossing with waves caused by other stones”

The wave model

- What would a wave model approach to the Paamese [m], [m^w] situation say?
- Dataset 14: Cypriot Arabic – any conclusions to be drawn here?

The tree model vs. the wave model

- What kind of evidence about language change would support the tree model?
 - Could the wave model also explain it?
- What kind of evidence would support the wave model?
 - Could the tree model also explain it?
- Where do we stand at this point?

Preparation for discussion: Labov (2007)

- So: Are sound changes regular, or not? If not always, under what conditions?
- Next time: We will discuss Labov (2007), an article which addresses this question
- Some discussion in Labov (2007) is based on *The Atlas of North American English* (Labov, Ash, & Boberg 2006)
 - [Publicly available web site](#)
 - The [e-book version of ANAE](#) is available through the UNC library