QUESTIONS

• What’s a ‘dialect’? Who speaks one? What is a ‘standard’? A ‘vernacular’? What’s the relationship among these?

• What varieties of your language(s) do you think you can reliably recognize? What features give them away? What kinds of features? Pronunciation? Words? Word forms? Sentence structures?

• Why study dialects?
A CLASSIC

- map
DETAIL OF ONE MAP
THE PLAN FOR TODAY AND THE COURSE

• Introductions
• Planning, practical stuff
• Readings, discussion questions
• Projects: Brainstorming (all together and then groups)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Yacking</th>
<th>Hands-on</th>
<th>Reading(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Th</td>
<td>July 6</td>
<td>Dialects in socio-historical context</td>
<td>Brainstorm topics</td>
<td>Labov, Organization; Wolfram &amp; Shilling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mo</td>
<td>July 10</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>DQ, brief introduction</td>
<td>Labov, Yankee cultural imperialism</td>
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<td>Th</td>
<td>July 13</td>
<td>Prehistory</td>
<td>DQ, first exercise</td>
<td>Mencken, ch. II</td>
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<td>July 17</td>
<td>Hearing</td>
<td>DQ</td>
<td>Clopper &amp; Pisoni</td>
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<td>Th</td>
<td>July 20</td>
<td>Enregisterment</td>
<td>DQ, second exercise</td>
<td>Johnstone et al.</td>
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<td>Mo</td>
<td>July 24</td>
<td>Koiné formation</td>
<td>DQ, proposal</td>
<td>Schreier</td>
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<td>Th</td>
<td>July 27</td>
<td>Boomerangs and such</td>
<td>DQ</td>
<td>Dubois &amp; Horvath</td>
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<td>Mo</td>
<td>July 31</td>
<td>Brief presentations, discussion</td>
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TOPICS AND DATA

• What kinds of questions can we ask?
  • History and change
  • Perceptions and attitudes
  • Variability within a community
• What can of data can we get to test them?
  • Corpora
  • Recordings
AN OLDER VIEW

THE REGIONS OF AMERICAN ENGLISH: A vast country more than 35 times the size of the United Kingdom, the United States has far fewer regional varieties of English. As the first Americans headed westwards, their speech merged into the accents of “General American”, the flat-vowelled speech of the Mid-West, the voice most of the world knows as American.
THE MAPS

What’s the same? What’s different?
Why so much variability?
• not very distinct?
• not getting the right features?
• getting different features with different patterns?
• changing?
• only now emerging?
• not just regional variation?