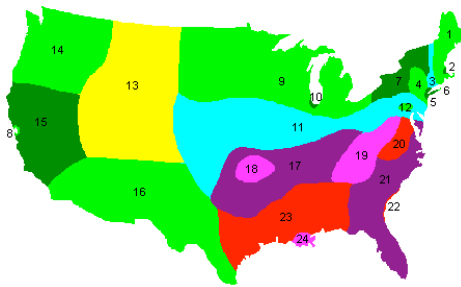


Dialects

- Not all people who speak a language speak it the same way.
- A language can be subdivided into any number of dialects which each vary in some way from the parent language.

Dialects in the USA



Source: <http://www.geocities.com/Broadway/1906/dialects.html>

Dialects - bought



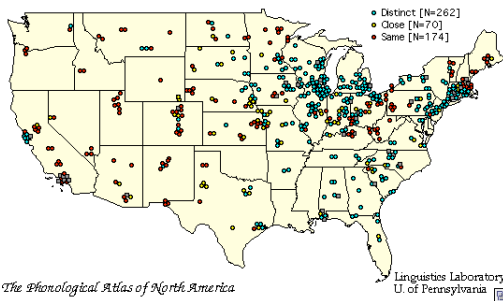
Source: www.utexas.edu/courses/linguistics/resources/socioling/boughtmap

Examples of phonology changes

- Bostonian lack of “r”
- NYC: ir becomes oi and vice versa; substitution of “t” and “d” for initial “th”
 - “Dey sell dem on doity-doid street”
- South – ay (hide) is monophthong
- News vs. nyews
- Mergers:
 - wh and w (whale vs. wail; which vs. witch)
 - /I/ and /E/ before nasals (pin vs. pen)
 - /c/ and /a/ (cot, caught; don dawn)

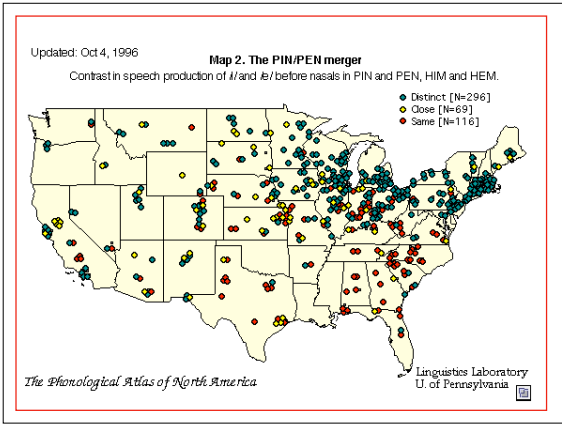
Updated: Oct 4, 1996

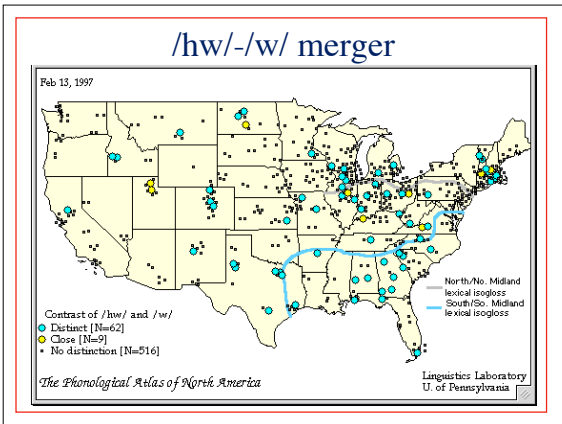
Map 1. The Merger of /o/ and /oh/:
Contrast in production of /o/ and /oh/ before /m/ in COT vs. CAUGHT.



Do you think these words rhyme?







- Examples of lexical changes**
- Soda/pop/tonic
 - Frappes/milkshakes
 - Donuts/bismarks
 - Lorry vs truck
 - Boot
 - Sub/hero/hoagie/torpedo/zeppelin
 - The last letter in the alphabet (zee vs. zed)

Examples of syntactic changes

- Indicating agreement with someone in Southern New England English
 - “*So don’t I*”
- Regularization of past tense markers (“*goed*”)
- Additional tenses:
 - A. Completive (“*I done tried*”)
 - B. Remote past (“*I been paid last month*”)
 - C. Invariant be (“*I be worrying about that boy*”)

Other changes changes

- Pragmatic/discourse
 - different styles of narrative, argumentation, etc.
- Eye-gaze and proxemic variability

Prestige vs. non-prestige dialects

- No one dialect is more correct than another.
- Certain dialects have more prestige in a given culture
 - In American English, southern dialects tend to carry a lower prestige among northerners.
 - NYC dialect tends to have the lowest prestige.
 - Received Standard, a dialect of British English used by the BBC and the royal family, carries the highest prestige - even among Americans.
