Chapter 5: Language

The Cultural Landscape:
An Introduction to Human Geography
Chapter 5
(pg 134-167)
Language

• pg 135
• What is one of the most obvious examples of cultural diversity on earth?
• About how many languages are there?
• pg 136
  – Language
  – literary tradition
  – official language
Chapter 5
(pgs 134-167)
Language

• pg 137
• What are the causes of the global distribution of language?
Key Issue 1
Where Are English Language Speakers Distributed?

• Origin and diffusion of English
  – English is spoken by 328 million as a first language
  – English colonies
    • how important was English colonization to the English language in North America?
  – Origins of English in England
    • German invasions (which tribes?) originated from where?
    • Norman invasions
Figure 5-2

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Invasions of England

Figure 5-3

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Key Issue 1
Where Are English Language Speakers Distributed?

• Dialects of English
  – Dialect = a regional variation of a language
  – Isogloss = a word-usage boundary
  – Standard language = a well-established dialect
  – Dialects
    • In England
    • Differences between British and American English
English Dialects

Figure 5-5

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Key Issue 1
Where Are English Language Speakers Distributed?

• Dialects of English
  – Dialects in the United States
    • Settlement in the eastern United States
      » New England
      » Southeastern
      » Middle Atlantic
    – Current differences in the eastern United States
      » Pronunciation differences
Dialects in the Eastern United States

Figure 5-7

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Soft Drink Differences

Figure 5-8

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Key Issue 2
Why Is English Related to Other Languages? (pg 143)

- **Language family** - ??

  - **Indo-European branches**
    - **Language branch** = collected of related languages
    - Indo-European Branches = eight branches
      - Four branches have a large number of speakers:
        - Germanic
          » **Language group**
          - Indo-Iranian
          - Balto-Slavic
            » what are the most widely used Slavic languages
        - Romance
Key Issue 2
Why Is English Related to Other Languages? (pg 143)

• Origin and Diffusion of Romance Languages
  – Romance – what are some of these languages?
    » Vulgar Latin: ??

• Romance Language Dialects

• Distinguishing Between Dialects and Languages
  – creole or creolized language: ??
Branches of the Indo-European Family

Figure 5-9

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Linguistic Differences in Europe and India

Figure 5-10

Figure 5-11
Romance Branch

Figure 5-12

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Key Issue 2
Why Is English Related to Other Languages? (pg 143)

• **Origin and diffusion of Indo-European**
  - A “Proto-Indo-European” language?
    • Internal evidence
    • Nomadic warrior theory
      - Marija Gimbutas
      - Kurgans - what were these invader like?
    • Sedentary farmer theory (Anatolia)
      - Colin Renfrew
Nomadic Warrior Theory

Figure 5-14

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Sedentary Farmer Theory

Figure 5-15

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key Issue 3
Where Are Other Language Families Distributed?

• Classification of languages
  – Indo-European = the largest language family
    • 46 percent of the world’s population speaks an Indo-European language
  – Sino-Tibetan = the second-largest language family
    • 21 percent of the world’s population speaks a Sino-Tibetan language
      – Mandarin = the most used language in the world
        » ideograms - ??
Language Families

Figure 5-16
key Issue 3
Where Are Other Language Families Distributed?

• Languages of the Middle East and Central Asia
  – Afro-Asiatic
    • Arabic = most widely spoken
  – Altaic
    • Turkish = most widely spoken
  – Uralic
    • Estonian, Hungarian, and Finnish
Language Family Tree

Figure 5-17

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Where Are Other Language Families Distributed?

- African language families
  - Extensive linguistic diversity -
    - 1,000 distinct languages + thousands of dialects
      - why so many distinct languages
  - Niger-Congo
    - 95 percent of sub-Saharan Africans speak a Niger-Congo language
  - Nilo-Saharan
  - Khoisan
    - “Click” languages
Nigeria’s Main Languages

Figure 5-20

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Key Issue 4
Why Do People Preserve Languages?

• Preserving language diversity
  – Extinct languages
    • 473 “endangered” languages today
  – Examples
    • Reviving extinct languages: Hebrew
    • Preserving endangered languages: Celtic
  – Multilingual states
    • Walloons and Flemings in Belgium
  – Isolated languages
    • Basque
    • Icelandic
Languages in Belgium

Figure 5-23
Key Issue 4
Why Do People Preserve Languages?

• Global dominance of English
  – English: An example of a lingua franca
    • Lingua franca = an international language
    • Pidgin language = a simplified version of a language
    • Expansion diffusion of English
    • Ebonics
Why Do People Preserve Languages?

- Global dominance of English
  - Diffusion to other languages
    - Franglais
      - The French Academy (1635) = the supreme arbiter of the French language
    - Spanglish
    - Denglish
English–French Language Boundary

Figure 5-27

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The End.

Up next: Religion