

## About the final project

### Final project: Choose one topic

(1) *Language variation*. Come up with an hypothesis about language variation (region, age, gender, register, audience, etc.) and confirm it with your own data.

(2) *Word in discourse*. Discuss the role of a linguistic item (such as “uh”, “well”, “you know”, “んー”, “やっぱ”, “-じゃん”) in discourse with your own data.

## Attitudes towards dialects in Japan

### When dialects were a shame

In May 1964, a 19-year-old man from Akita Prefecture was arrested in Tokyo from fatal assault. Newspapers reported that his accent was being laughed at.

## When dialects were a shame

A passage from Shiro Hattori (1960), a renowned Japanese linguist

方言が絶滅して了うのが理想であることはい  
うまでもない [Needless to say, our ideal is  
that dialects go extinct.]

## “Dialect card”

You have to carry this if you use a dialect in school. When you find someone else uses a dialect, you can pass it to him/her.

This was not forced by the central government; it was an effort of local people to catch up.

## From “dialect complex” to “dialect prestige”

As almost everyone became able to communicate in Standard Japanese, people came to realize the value of dialects as a symbol of their identity and solidarity.

Dialects are now actively used as tourist resources too.

## “Dialect cosplay”

Each dialect has its impression

The same person might use multiple dialects to obtain particular effects

Tohoku: rustic, warm, ..

Kyoto: cute, feminine, ..

Osaka: funny, stingy, ..

Kyushu: masculine, ..

Language variation in  
social class, ethnicity,  
and age

## Social dialects

Dialects are most often defined by geographical areas, but dialects can also be defined by:

- *Social class*
- *Ethnicity*

Language can also vary across *age*.

We will discuss *gender* later this semester.

Social class

## Labov's experiment

"Where are the women's shoes?"

"Fourth floor."

"What did you say?"

"FOURTH FLOOR."

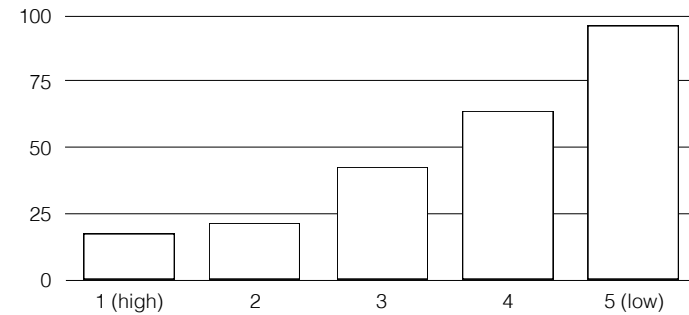
(At the fourth floor) "Excuse me, what floor is this?"

"Fourth floor."

# Labov's experiment

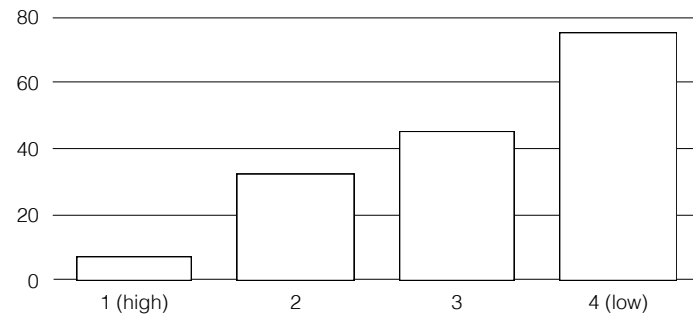
He collected data from 264 people in three department stores in NYC (Saks, Macy's, and S. Klein)

# Silent /h/ in West Yorkshire, England



(based on Petyt 1985)

# *-ing* and *-in'* in NYC



(based on Labov 1972)

# Hypercorrection

## Hypercorrection

*Hypercorrection* occurs when someone tries to use a standard or prestigious form and go too far.

“I really likes..” by a speaker by AAVE

カイベツ in Hokkaido

## Hypercorrection

*Hypercorrection* also occurs when people try to use borrowed words.

デビュー (debut)、ディアゴスティーニ (deAgostini)、バン格拉ディッシュ (Bangladesh)、マスイーン (machine) etc.

## Ethnicity

## African American Vernacular English (AAVE)

*It's a girl name Shirley Jones live in Washington. 'most everybody on her street like her, 'cause she a nice girl. Shirley like a boy name Charles. But she keep away from him and Charles don't hardly say nothing to her neither.*

# Characteristics of AAVE

## Phonology

*dis* 'this', *mouf* 'mouth', *bik* 'big'

*tes* 'test'

*Ca'ol* 'Carol', *inte'ested* 'interested'

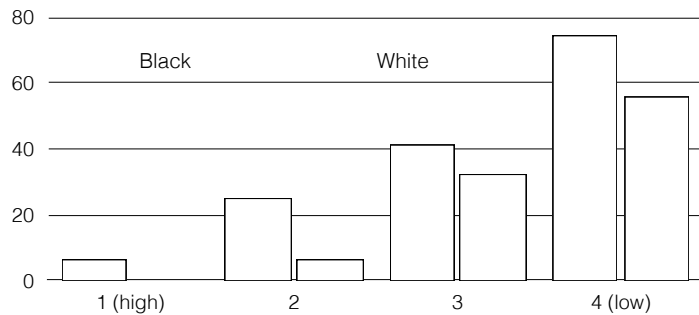
# Multiple negation

*He didn't give me no food.* - "He didn't give me (any) food." or "He gave me no food."

Is multiple negation illogical?

cf. *It ain nobody I can't trust.* - "There is nobody I can't trust." (i.e. "I can trust everyone.")

# Multiple negation



(Based on Shuy, Wolfram & Riley 1967)

# AAVE *be*

*He sick today.*

*The coffee cold.*

*She be late every day.*

*I see her when I bees on my way to school.*

*They usually be tired when they come home.*

*\*They be tired right now.*

What does *be/bees* mean in AAVE?

## Age

## Age and vernacular speech

Adolescents more often use non-standard, vernacular speech, probably because they have peer pressure *not* to conform to society's norms.

Middle-aged people are more responsible in the society, and they use fewer vernacular speech.

Retired people use vernacular forms again.

## Standard vs. vernacular

*Yesterday, I went to the store. I couldn't find what I wanted. I was frustrated.*

*Dude, yesterday I went to this store and, man, I couldn't find the shit I wanted anywhere, man, it sucked!*

## Reaction paper

Can you think of newest slang words in your language? Give an example and explain what it means.

ガン見, スルー, とりま, 激おこ, パない, リア充, 普通に, 変くね? etc.