

# Ch. 5 Vocab

# Standard Language

Def: the form of language used for official government, business, and mass communication

Sig: as with English, it doesn't have to be the official language by law

# Official Language

Def: The language adopted by the government for official documents (e.g. signs & money).

Sig: It often is used to unify a multi-lingual state (e.g. English in Nigeria).

# Dialect

Def: a regional variety of a language distinguished by vocabulary, spelling, and pronunciation

Sig: If isolated enough it may diverge into a separate language

# Mutual Intelligibility

Def: the ability of two people to understand each other when talking

Sig: it determines whether they are speaking two dialects or different languages

# Extinct Language

Def: a language that was once used by people in *daily activities* but is no longer used

Ex: Latin and Cornish

# Backward (Reverse) Reconstruction

Def: the tracking of sound shifts and hardening consonants “backward” toward the original language

Ex: English: father (newest), Dutch: vader, German: vater (oldest)

# Language Divergence & Convergence

Convergence: the combining of 2 languages into one b/c of interaction

Divergence: the splitting of one language into two b/c of isolation



# Gimbutas Hypothesis

Def: theory on how Indo-European spread throughout Eurasia

Hearth: above Caspian Sea (4k b.c.)

How: conquest by horseback by the Kurgans

# Renfrew Hypothesis

Def: theory on how Indo-European spread throughout Eurasia

Hearth: Anatolia (Turkey), 6,700 b.c.

How: through the diffusion of agriculture

# Lingua franca

- a language used among speakers of different languages for the purpose of trade and commerce
- Ex: Bazaar Malay (pidgin) & English

# Pidgin

- combination of 2 or more languages to allow communication across language groups
- Simplified structure and vocabulary (no native speakers)

# Creole language

- a pidgin language that developed a more complex structure and vocabulary & has become a native language
- Ex: Belizean Creole (English/African)

# Monolingual States

Def: countries in which one language is spoken (e.g. South Korea)

Sig: less common due to migration

Should Also Knows

# Dialect Chain

Def: a string of dialects in which the dialects nearest to each other at any place in the chain are most closely related

Sig: dialects on opposite ends may no longer be mutually intelligible



# Sino-Tibetan Family

- Family that includes Mandarin Chinese (845 million native speakers)
- Second largest language family (21%)

# Ideograms

- Def: a graphic symbol that represents a concept or idea
- Ex: Chinese characters

# Ebonics

- Def: African American vernacular English (non-standard English)

# Esperanto

- Def: easy to learn, politically neutral language created to help people of different languages communicate
- Sig: relatively few native speakers

# Franglais/Spanglish

- Def: a combination, or interlanguage, between French/English and Spanish/English

# Monoglot/polyglot

- Def: monolingual/multilingual

# Toponym

- Def: place names
- Sig: they can help us see migration patterns (e.g. New England & San Francisco)