

Cultural Geography

Language and the Landscape

Linguistic Geography

Geography



Objectives

- Students will recall common linguistic and dialect patterns in the United States.



Introduction

- Language is a powerful shaper of who we are, commonly considered the central core of cultural identity.
- Where is this evident in a recent “cultural war”?
 - “Illegal Alien vs. _____?”
- Geolinguistics is a growing subdiscipline in geography.
- In the last decade, cultural theory has increasingly argued that language and the *control of systems of meaning* as the primary source of political power.

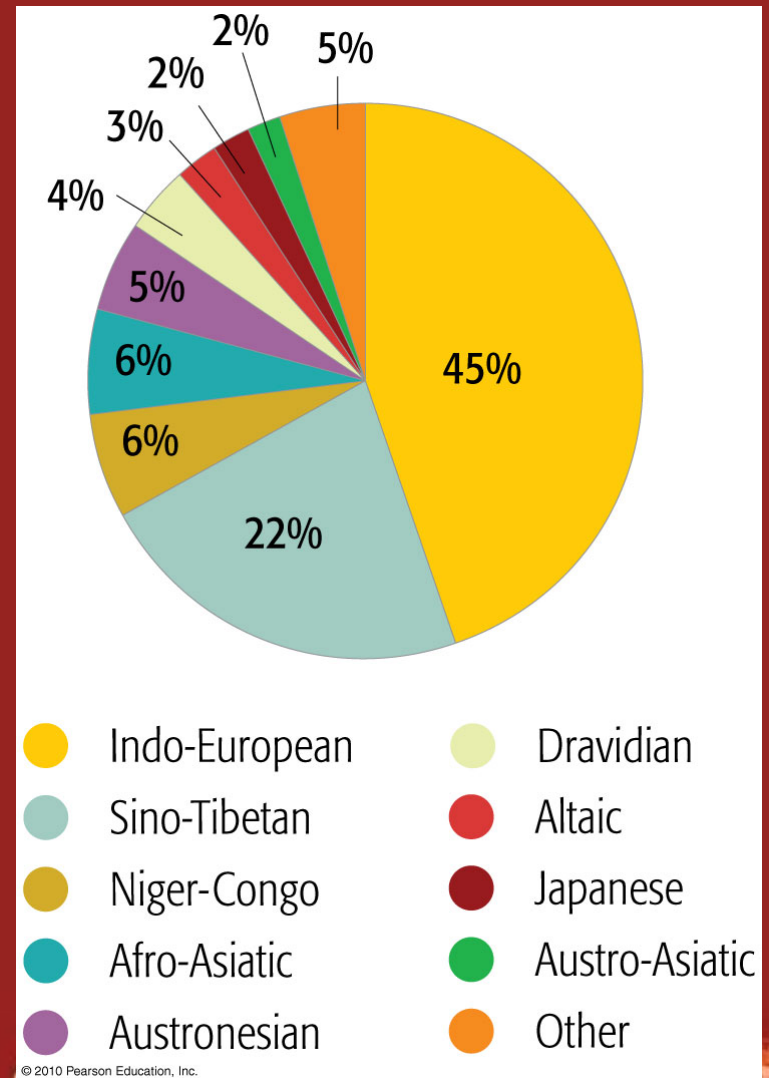
Some Definitions

- What is a language?
- Language families are large and old
- Language branches are smaller and formed more recently
- Language groups are more closely related and aren't that old

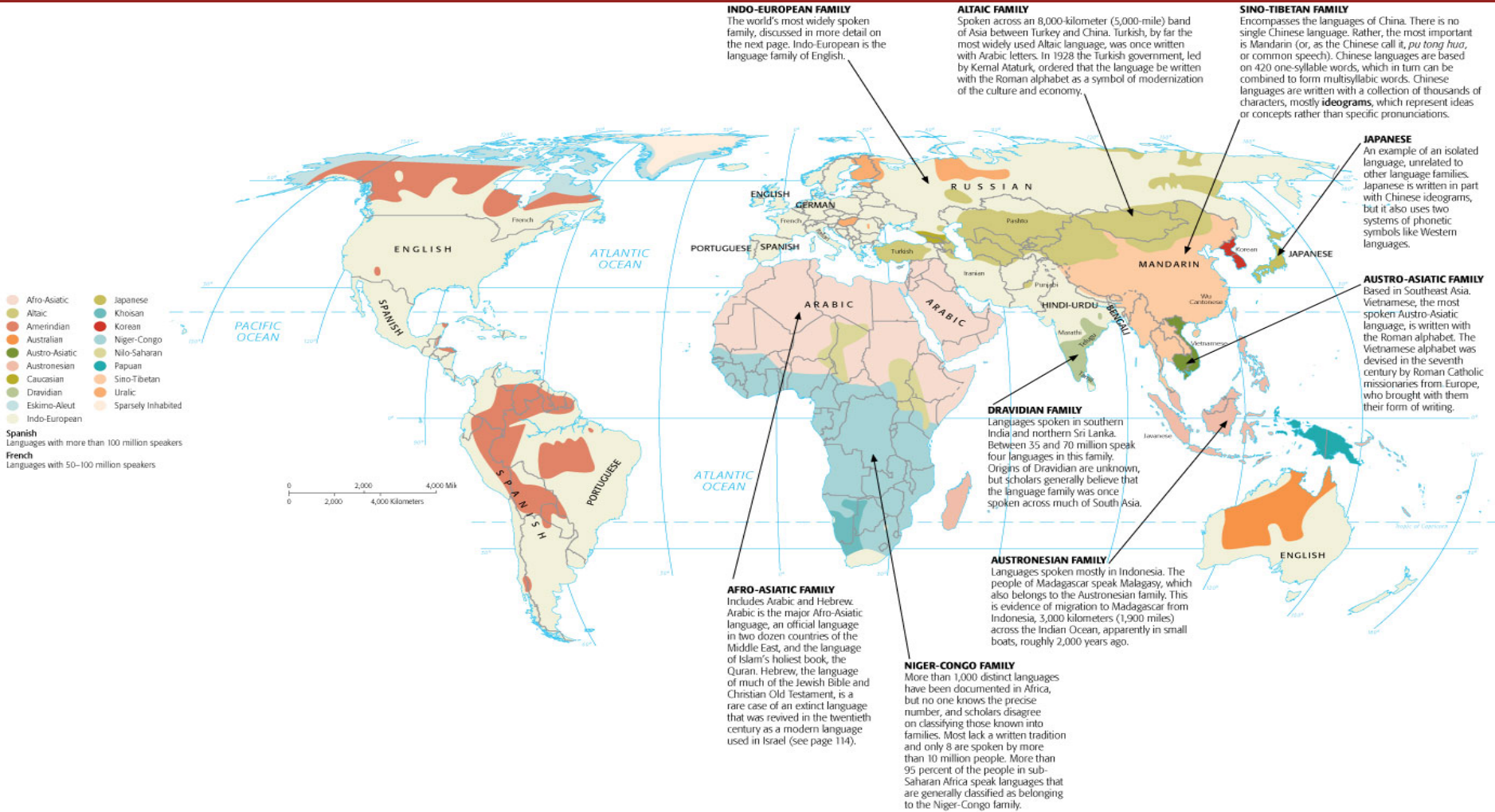


Chart

- Note the large percentage of Indo-European speakers.
- Includes?
- What about Sino-Tibetan?



Map of Languages



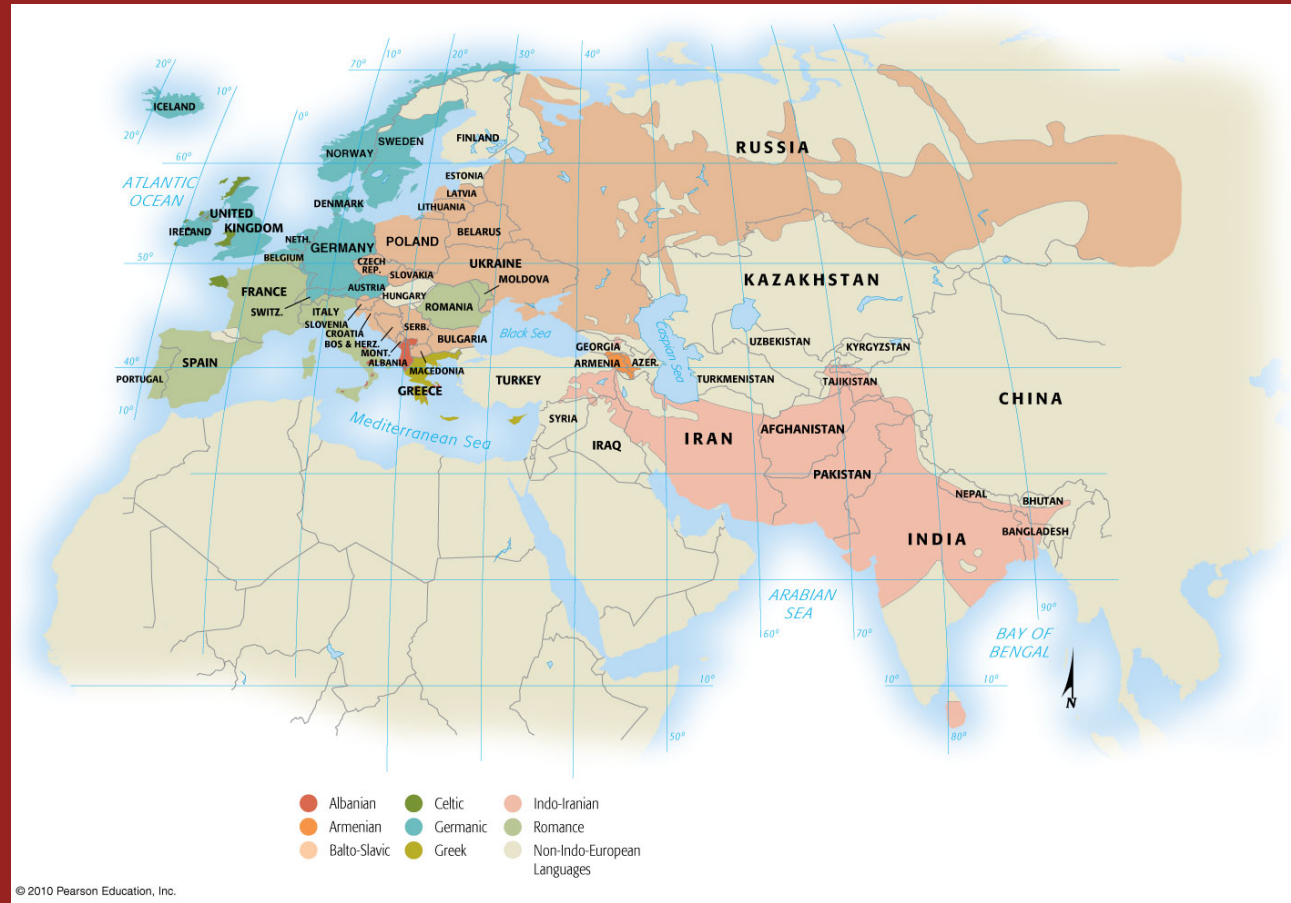
Language Families- West



Geography

Indo-European Speakers Worldwide

- Note the main groups.
- English is closely related to what other language?



Germanic Languages

- Share both common words and structural similarities.



North Germanic

- Danish
- Faeroese
- Icelandic
- Norwegian
- Swedish

West Germanic

- English
- Frisian
- German
- Netherlandish (Dutch)
- Mixed with non-Germanic

Romance Languages

- Evolved from Latin
- Notice the gray patches on the map.
- To what do they correspond?



Indo-Iranian Languages

| Indo-European | Families other than Indo-European |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ● Dialect of Hindi | ● Sino-Tibetan |
| ● Other Indo-European | ● Austro-Asiatic |
| ● HINDI Official language of India | ● Dravidian |
| ● Kachi Other language | ● Burushaski |

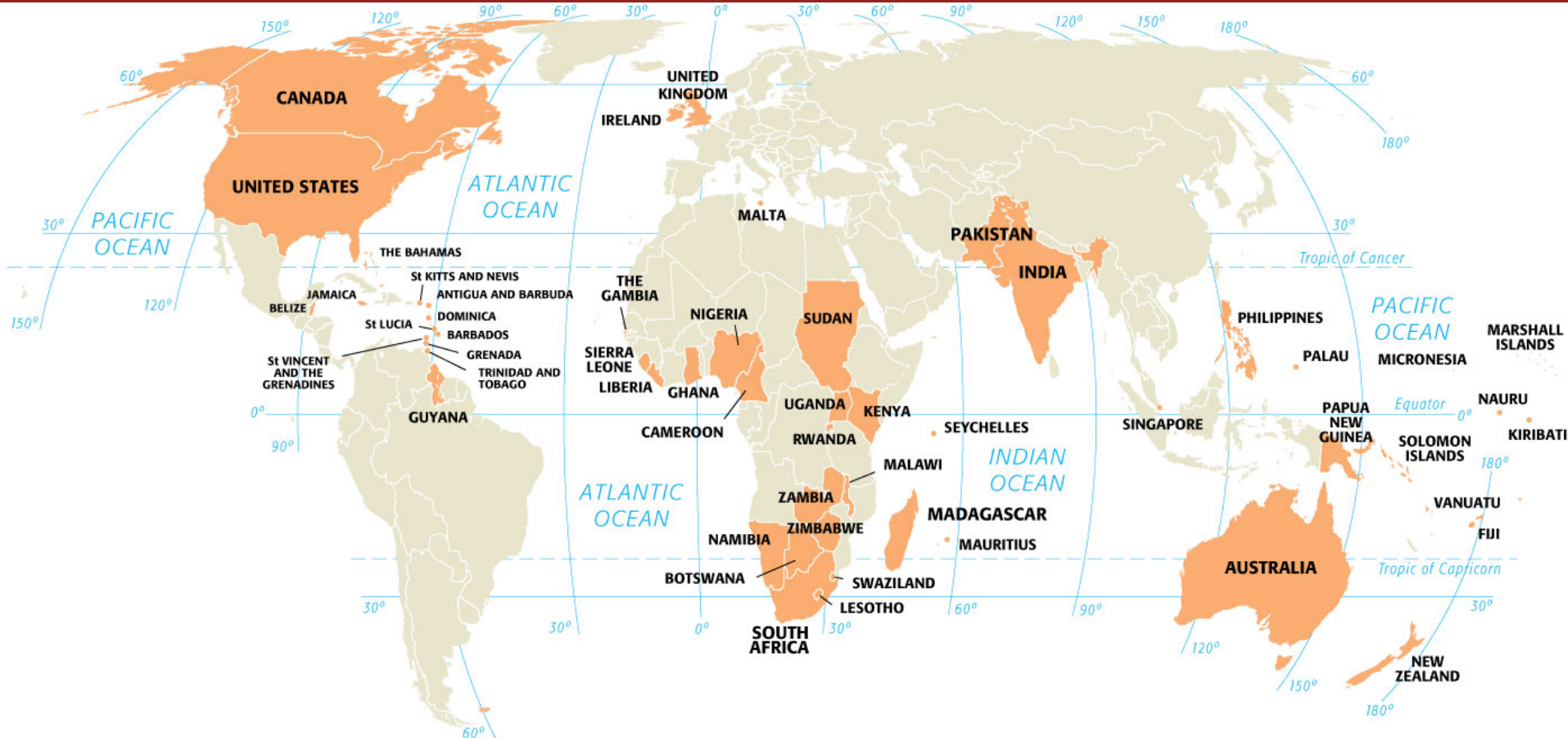
- More speakers than other branches.
- Very confusing mix of languages and alphabets.
- Dravidian?
- Hindi



Which of the following languages is LEAST related to English?

- A. German
- B. Farsi
- C. Hindi
- D. French

English



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- Why is English so widespread?

Geography

Technology

- English is used for a variety of technical and legal matters world wide.
- It's also good for business!
- How did it get this way?



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Geography

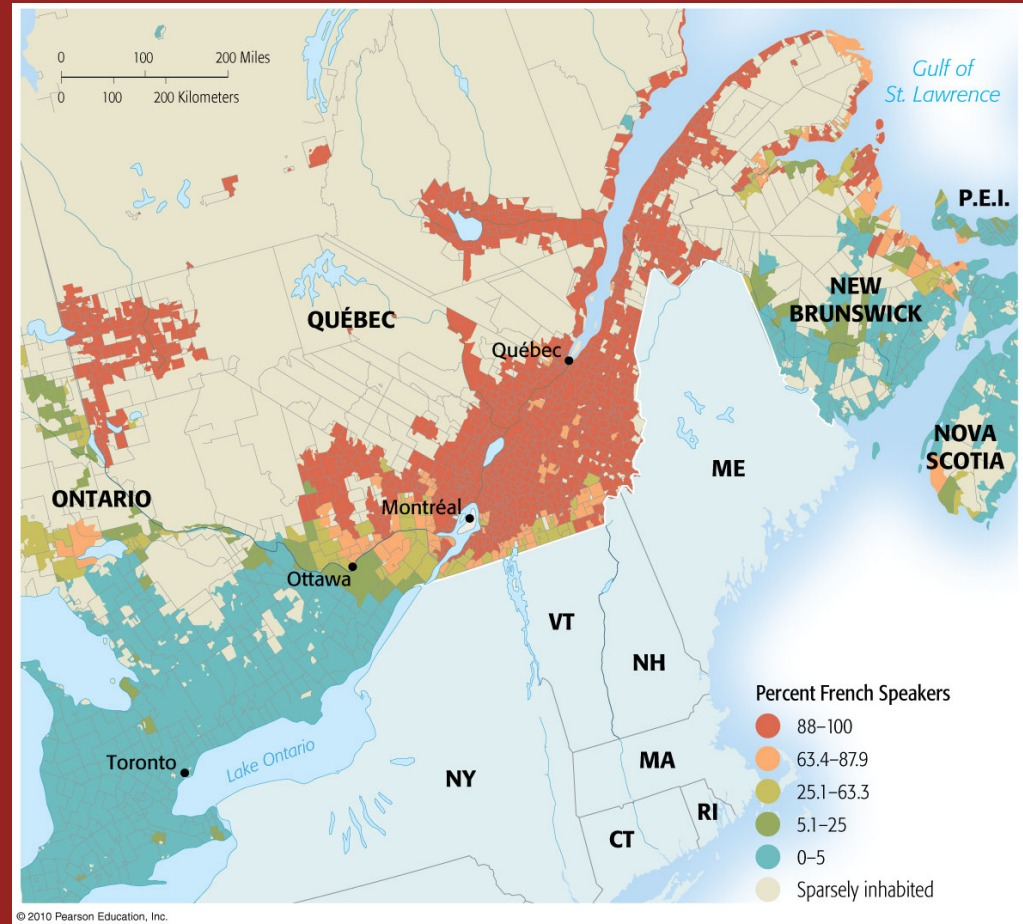
Preservation

- Many languages are becoming extinct.
- Canada?
- United States?
- What language was resurrected from the dead?



Quebecois

- Two separatist referenda failed during the last 20 years.
- Arête!



Quebec City (Ville de Quebec?)

- The irony of the sign?



Basque

- What do you know about this linguistic minority here in California?



Spanglish

- The US has a number of linguistic challenges as well.
- Difficult to preserve culture without language.
- Difficult to enter mainstream without language.
- Irony?



LA!

- How does the size of Los Angeles permit this phenomena?



LA!

- The challenge and beauty of living in Los Angeles represented on a sign in Northridge.
- Bladerunner?

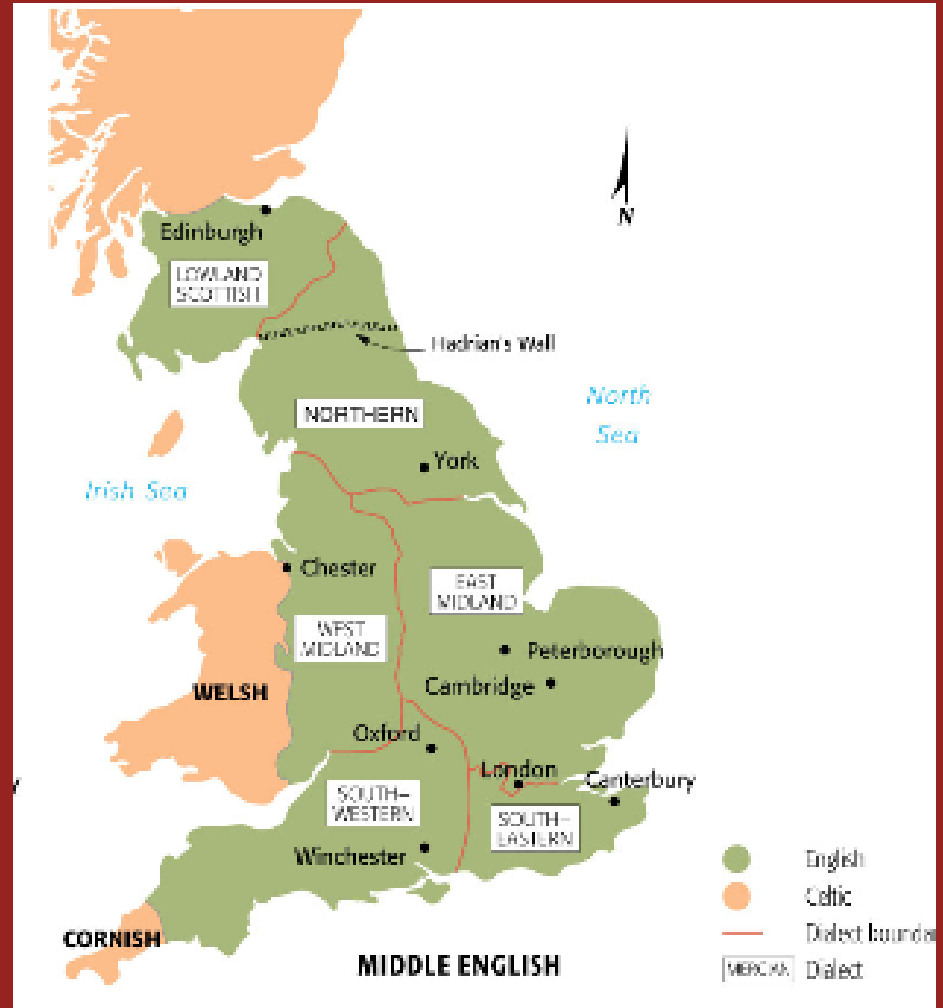


Which language is nearly extinct in South Louisiana?

- A. French Creole
- B. Cajun French
- C. Cajun Spanish
- D. Gullah/Geechy French

Dialects

- What is a dialect?
- What is an accent?
- In addition to region, what other factors contribute to dialect?

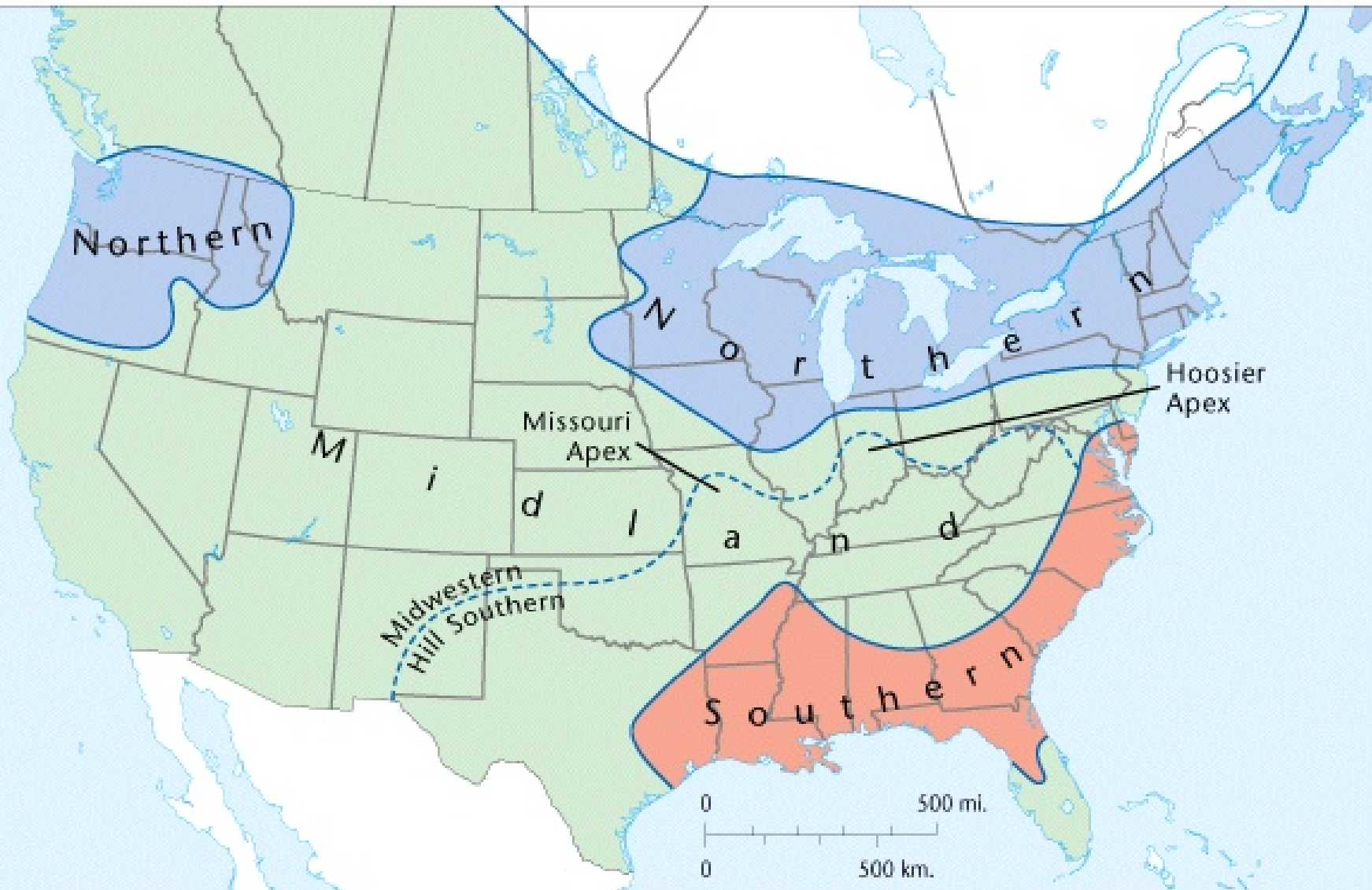


English Dialects in the United States

- Three major dialects are spoken by three major subcultural groups.
 - Northern
 - Midland
 - Southern
- Consider the various expressions for “highway”
- What other words or terms are used in one part of the country but not in others?



Major US Dialect Regions (fig)

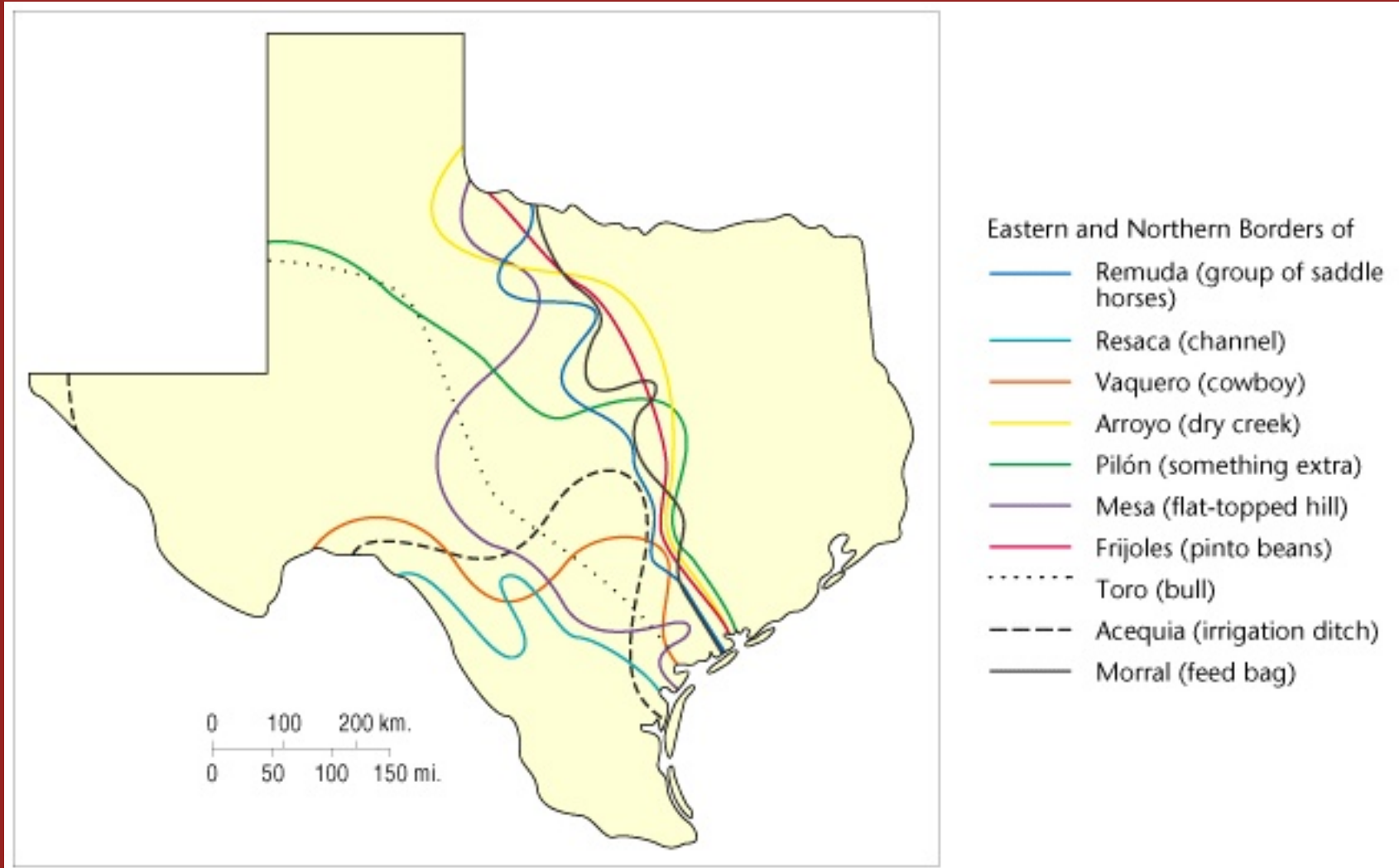


Massive Dialect Map

- <http://aschmann.net/AmEng/#SmallMapCanada>



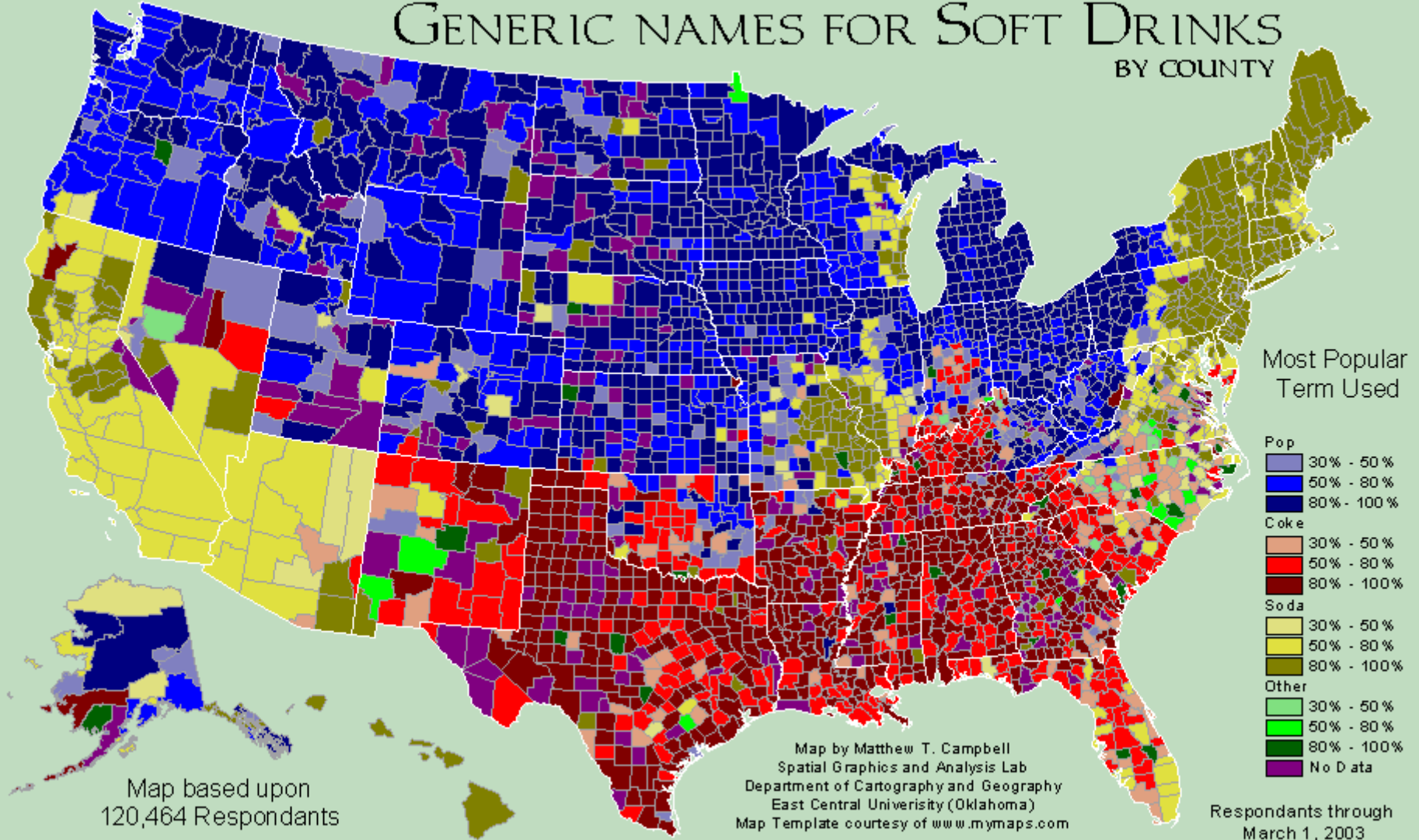
Linguistic Isoglosses (fig)



What is the underlying meaning of the words on this water tower, just south of Cincinnati in Northern Kentucky on I-75, a major North-South passageway?



GENERIC NAMES FOR SOFT DRINKS BY COUNTY



Another Version

- <http://www.popvssoda.com/>
- A website where you once could vote...
- An outstanding data collection device.
- Or based on tweets:
- <http://blog.echen.me/2012/07/06/soda-vs-pop-with-twitter/>
- Are there other terms that you can think of that you could set up a website about?.



Ebonics

- Partly a variant of the Southern Dialect
- Many Southerners now speaking Midland English.
- Center of a controversy in early 1990s when Oakland school board suggested Ebonics a “language”.
- Partly a pidginized English
- Why is this geographic?

Ebonics

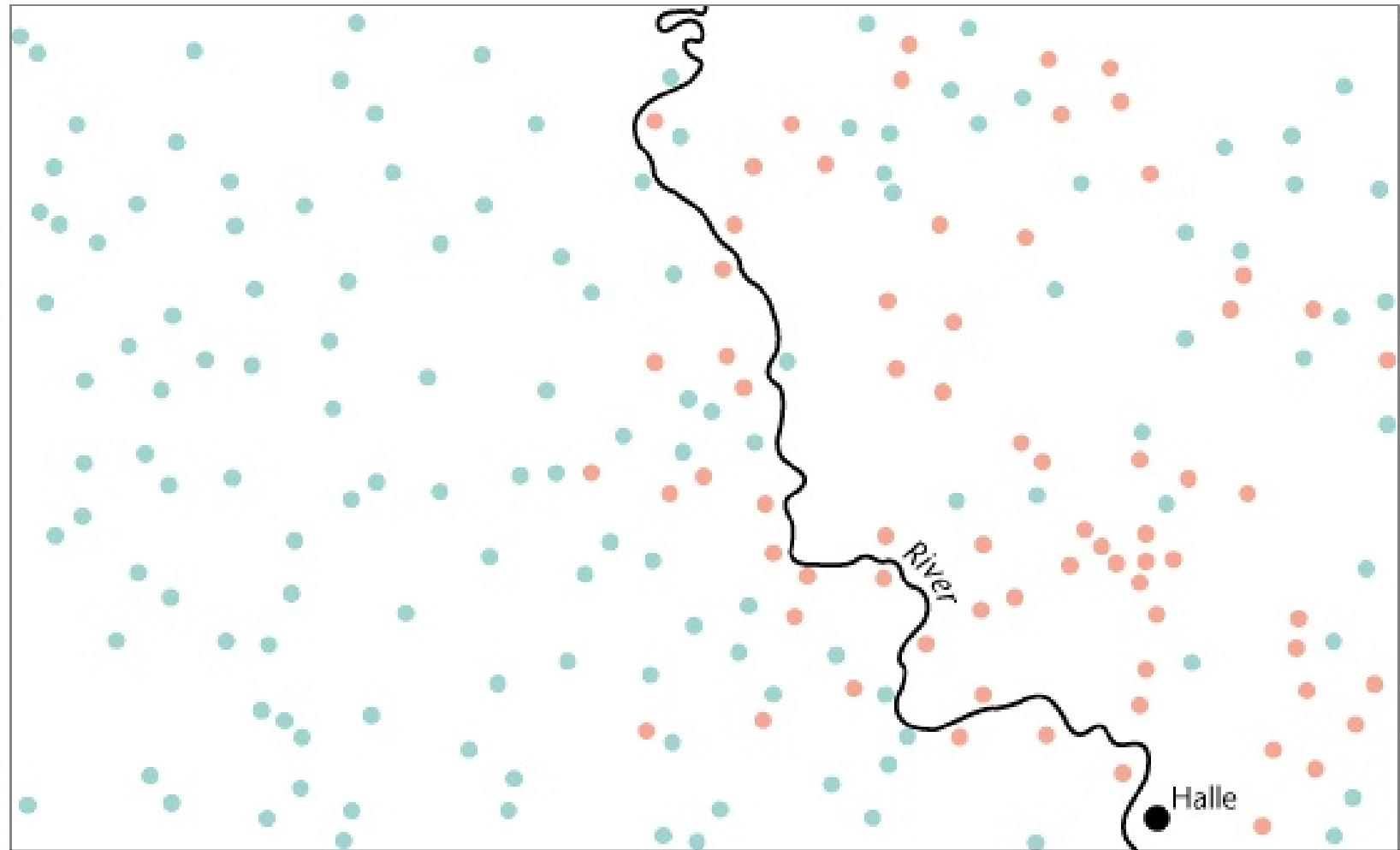
- Multiple Varieties of Ebonics-not just slang
- Pulpit Ebonics: the linguistic style of the black churches
- Sports Ebonics: the linguistic style of black athletes
- Musical Ebonics: the linguistic style of black musicians and singers.
- Consider “the dozens” and Hip Hop
- Georgia’s Gullah Islanders

Cultural Ecology of Language

- The way we speak is also affected by the natural environment in which we live.
- Dialects and languages face many of the same barriers other cultural practices do.



Diffusion Barrier (fig)

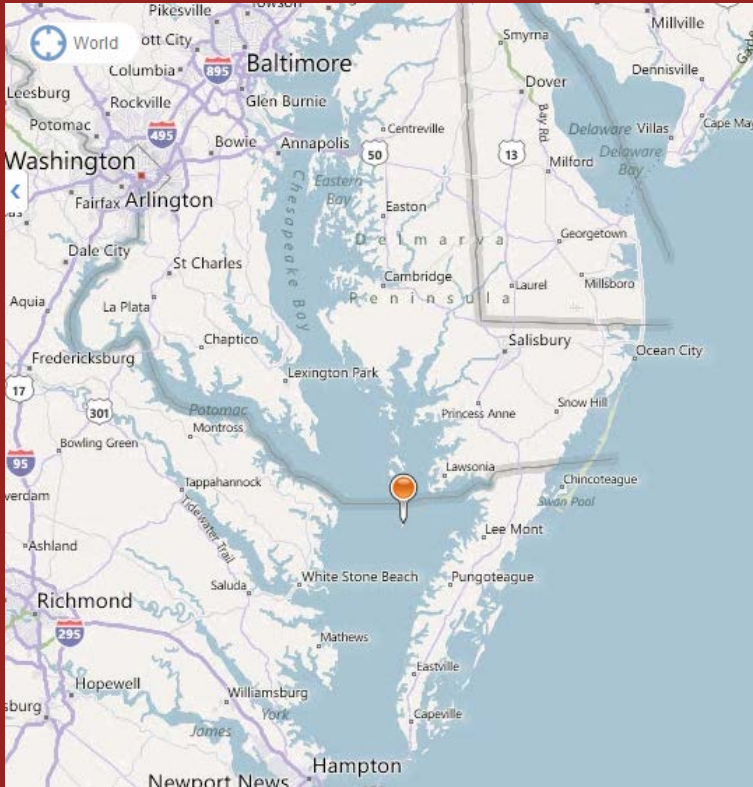


Village or town name
● with German suffix
● with Slavic suffix

0 6 mi.
0 5 10 km.

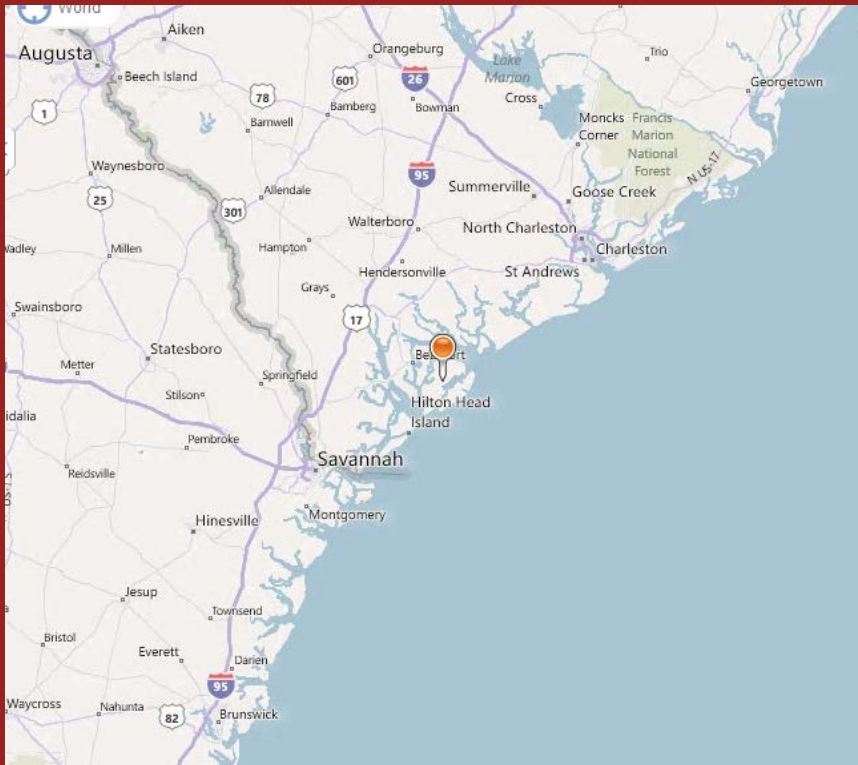


Tangiers, Virginia



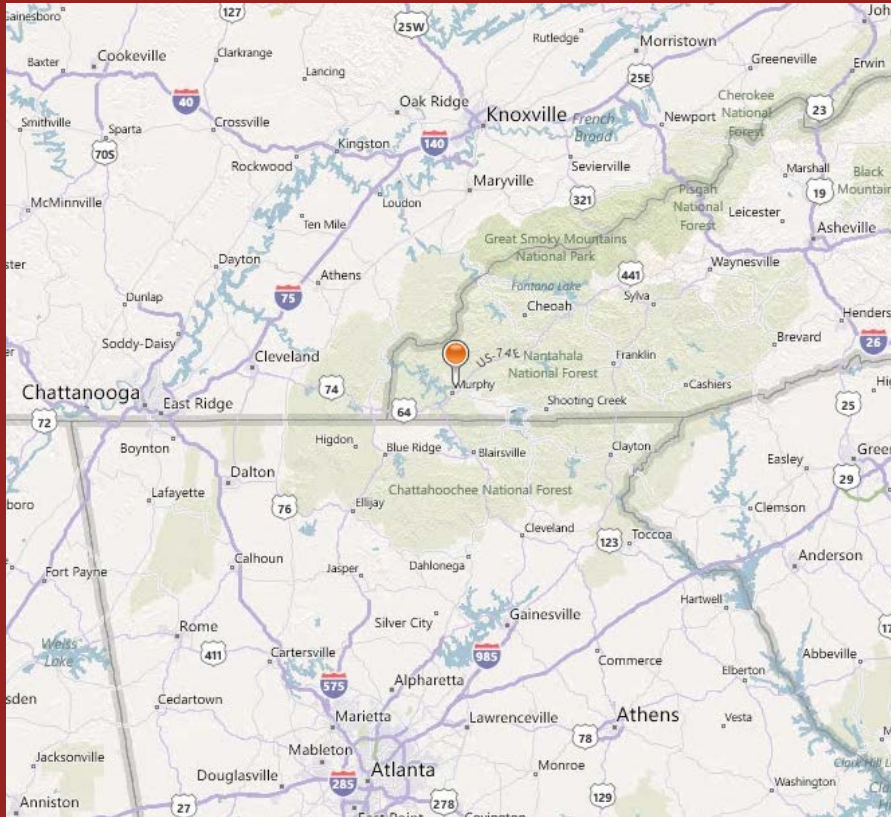
- <http://youtu.be/AIZgw09CG9E>

Gullah Islands



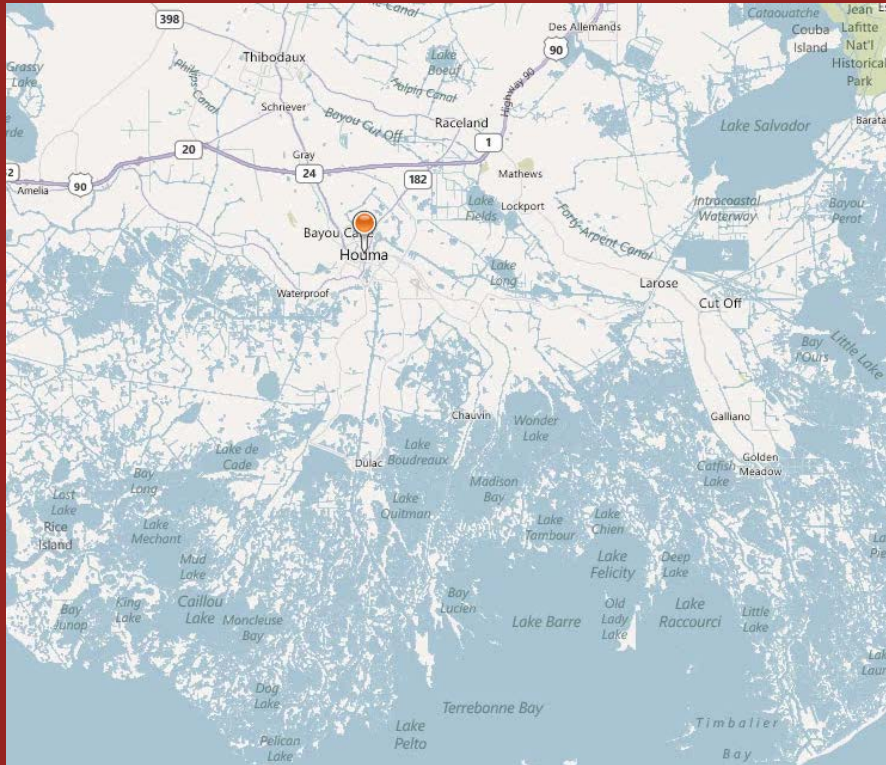
- <http://youtu.be/rCYBf-1yHml?t=27s>

Appalachian Mountains



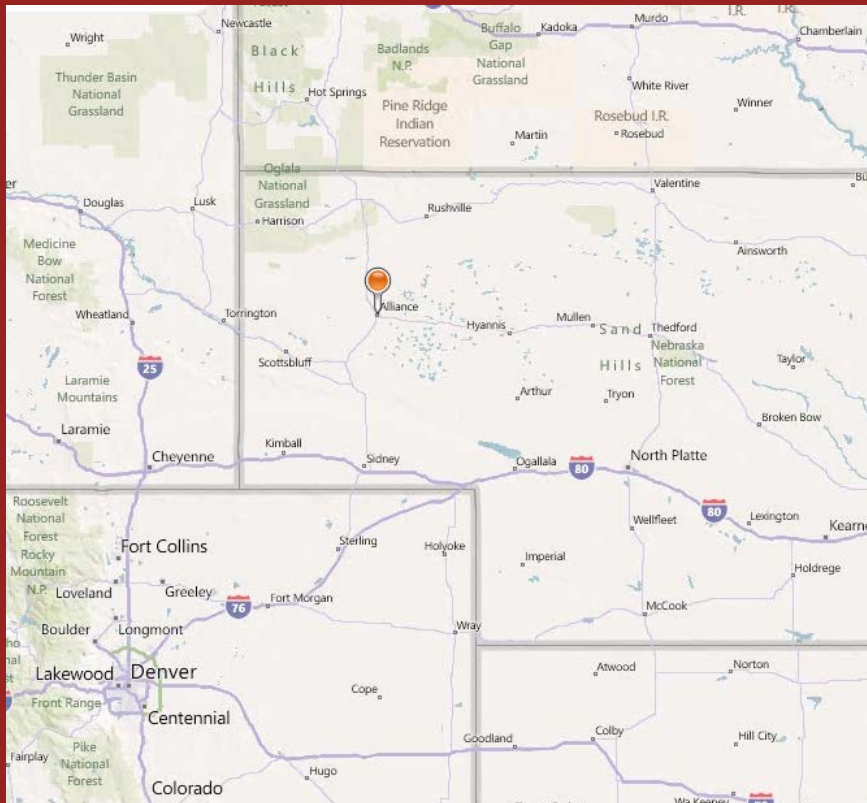
- <http://youtu.be/03iwAY4KIIU?t=4s>

Louisiana Swamp



- <http://youtu.be/BRXcpBlteEM?t=28s>

American Plains



- http://youtu.be/5tbsiqagh_4

L.A. Dialect?

- What sort of “accent” do Los Angelenos have?
- What would account for the dialect of Los Angeles?

Culturo-Linguistic Integration

- Language is an important indicator of the health, status and changing nature of wider cultural issues.
- Politics, economics, social and cultural movement are all reflected in the linguistic changes of a society



How Does a Language Achieve Dominance or Die Out?

A. Technology (military)

B. Social Morale

-Doesn't always happen (Greek, Chinese)

C. The Economic Development Model

-migration out (clearance)

-migration in (changeover).

D. Language and Religion

Do rainforest languages even have a term for “desert”?



Language and Power

-language is a powerful tool in the maintenance of political arrangements (on both sides of the coin)

Consider the evolution of the term “mugging” in the British press.



Geography

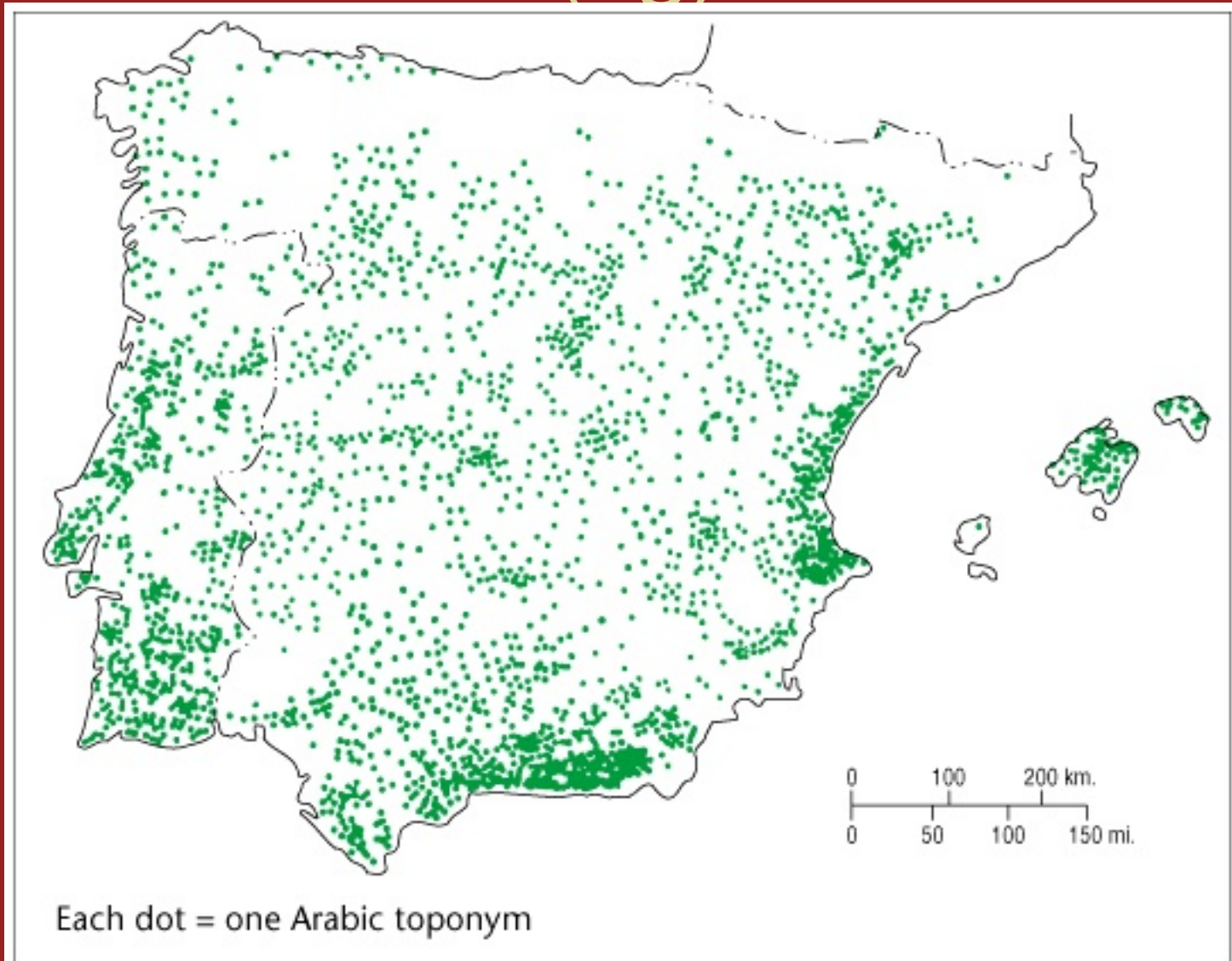
Linguistic Landscapes

Toponyms (place names)

- serve as reminders of migration patterns, ethnicity and religion.
- lots of places have Indian names
- what place names in California serve as indicators of past political arrangements?
- can you name any?



Toponyms as Clue to the Past (fig)



Linguistic Landscape of PA (fig)



Geography



Penn-German Forebay Barn

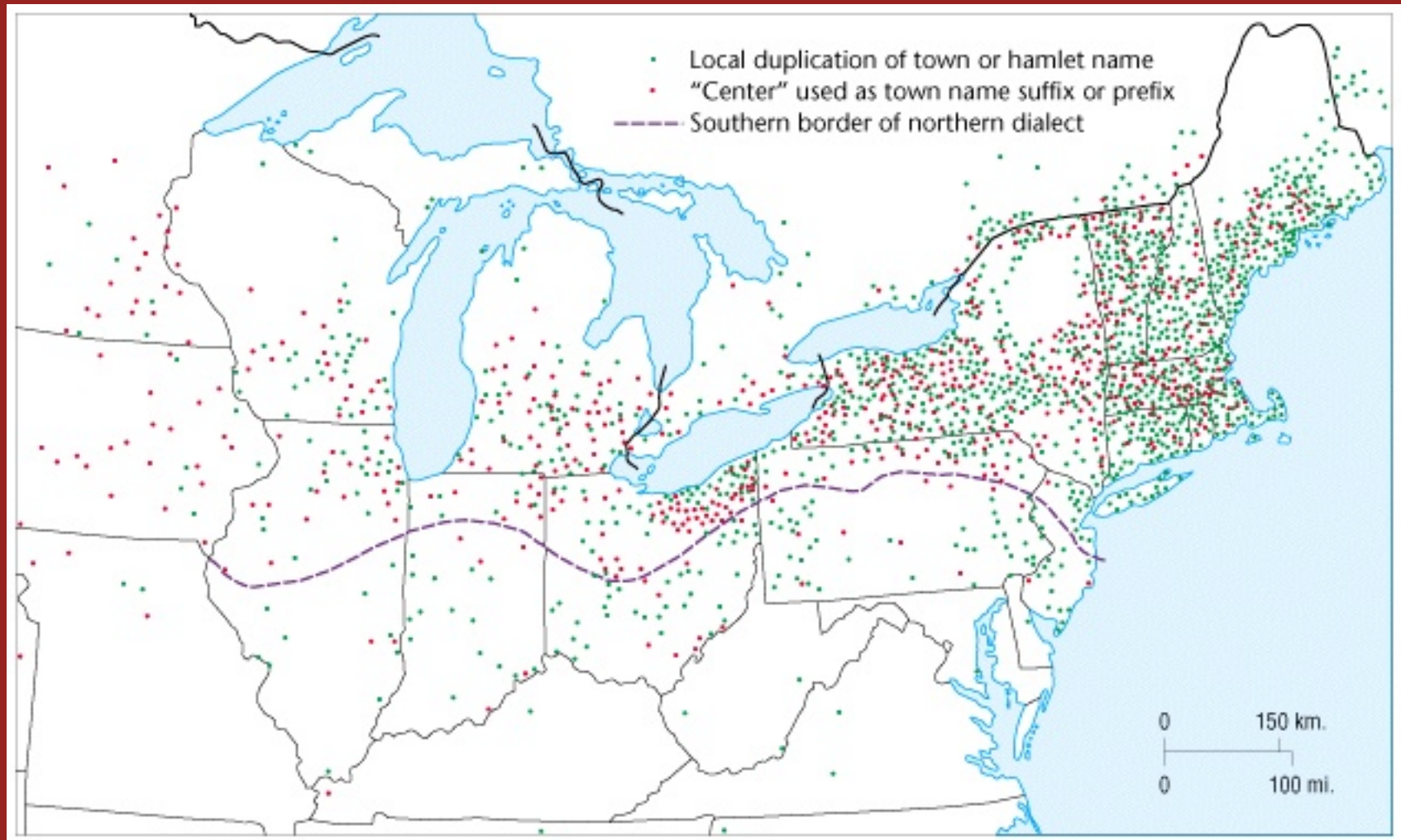
(fig)



What American term did British newspapers begin using in the late 1970s, that sparked British fears about crime?

- A. Rolling
- B. Mugging
- C. Pillaging
- D. Busking

“Center” and duplicate names (fig)



If you drove into a town called
“Woodstock Center”, the first
house you would see would
most like be a(n):

- A. Saltbox
- B. Dog Trot
- C. Shotgun
- D. I-house



American landscape Project

- <https://picasaweb.google.com/AmericanLandscapeProject>

