

Part I. Key Terms & Notes:

Make sure you understand the following terms with proper examples and/or counter-examples, though they may not be tested directly in the exams.

- Language (How to define a *language*?)
 - Invariant System Hypothesis
 - Mutual Intelligibility Hypothesis
- Dialect - Regional/ Religious/ Social/ Ethnic
- Idiolect
- Isogloss
- Dialect Boundary
- Dialect continuum

Part II. Group Activities:

Below are four activities on various topics. Please work in groups, do some research, discuss the questions, and then present your results in our collective google doc. For many of the questions, there are no right or wrong answers, so be creative, and present any thoughts or findings you have. You can refer to any resources online, but please provide the links below your work.

1. Let's talk about the variety you speak. Think about your native 'language', and try to name the specific variety of that language, such as 'Californian English', 'New England English', 'Milanese Dialect', 'Suzhou Wu Chinese', etc. Work in groups, share your mother tongue with the other group members, and discuss the following questions:
 - a. Does the variety have a dictionary?
 - b. Does the variety have a well-established grammar system?
 - c. Is the variety the medium of education (e.g. school lectures are delivered *in* this variety)?
 - d. Does the variety have a writing system of its own?
 - e. Is the variety associated with a population in a geographic location that speaks the language?
 - f. Does the variety have any other varieties associated with it?
 - g. Is the variety considered a dialect of some language? Or does it have dialects of its own? - Consider mutual intelligibility with associated varieties.
 - h. Based on answers to the given questions would you define your variety as a 'language' or a 'dialect'?

2. Compare Australian English to American English:
 - a. Vocabulary: Please list ten vocabulary items that are different in these varieties.
 - b. Pronunciation: Please find at least three different features of pronunciation.
 - You can also look for some videos on Youtube or other online resources to demonstrate the differences, if time permits. Please provide the link to our class google doc, if there is any.
 - c. Grammar: Please list three different grammatical features between Australian English and American English.

3. Valleyspeak is a variety of English that originated from the San Fernando Valley in California. It has many special features and has become influential in North America, as well as other parts of the world. Please discuss the following questions based on your own experience and/or online resources:
 - a. Note at least five characteristics of Valleyspeak (they can be either vocabulary, pronunciation, or grammar).
 - b. Do you think it is a dialect of English? If so, what kind of dialect is it - regional, social, or religious?

4. In our lecture, we have seen an example of dialect continuum. Here is another example: Western Romance Dialect Continuum - Portuguese - Spanish - French - Italian



Do some research online, and find two more dialect continuums. If time permits, you can roughly locate the regions of the dialects on google map and take a screenshot.

Part III. Review Questions

1. Look at the following terminology differences for different varieties of Tamil:

<i>Brahmins</i>	<i>Non-Brahmins</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
jalo	tanni	'water'
sooru	saado	'food'
puuje	pusse	'worship'

There are differences in vocabulary depending on which caste speakers belong to. This can be classified as a _____ dialect.

2. T/F: Everyone who speaks the same language should have the same vocabulary and grammar.
3. How does the **Mutual Intelligibility Hypothesis** (MIH) define language? (two aspects)
- a)
- b)
4. Give one case study which supports MIH and one which is an exception to it?
5. What are the factors that can influence speakers to identify themselves as speakers of a certain language?
- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| a. Socio-economic class | c. Religion |
| b. Ethnicity | d. All of the above |

Some Resources for Language Research

<https://www-ethnologue-com.libproxy1.usc.edu/>

<https://wals.info/>