Chapter Twelve: Language in Society

1. DIALECT

 # Idiolect → the speech of a particular individual

 # Dialects → mutually intelligible forms of a language that differ in systematic ways → *grammar / vocabulary / pronunciation*

> ➤ **Note:** Phonological or phonetic distinctions → **accent**
> ➤ **Note:** Intercommunication:
> (a) the number of speakers involved, (b) geographical or natural features, and (c) social barriers
> (a) population mobility, (b) mass communication, and (c) ease of travel

1.1. Regional Dialect

when enough linguistic differences accumulate in a particular region, the language spoken has its own character

> ➤ **Note:** NORMS
> ➤ **Note:** A line which separates two areas → **isogloss**
> ➤ **Note:** A number of isoglosses coincide → **dialect boundary**

1.2. Social Dialect

dialect differences that seem to come about because of social factors → socioeconomic status, ethnic or racial differences, education, occupation, religion, gender and age

> ➤ **Note:** What distinguishes people as belonging to one group or another is the use of **social markers**
> ➤ **Note:** Standard dialect vs. non-standard dialect // bases for classification is non-linguistic
> ➤ **Note:** Hyper-correction → deviations from the norm thought to be proper English

2. LANGUAGE IN USE

2.1. Register

a conventional way of using language that is appropriate in a specific context:

Tenor, i.e., the relationship of speakers or familiarity with one another;
Setting, i.e., the relative formality of the occasion;
Field, i.e., subject matter and functions/purposes of communication;
Mode, i.e., the means by which communication takes place – notably, by speech or writing
Channel, i.e., the technical means (e.g., phone, radio, face-to-face)

2.2. Speech Styles

variations in formality:

> ➤ **Note:** A change from one style to the other style → **style-shifting**
> ➤ **Note: Speech accommodation** → ability to modify speech style toward (**convergence**) or away from (**divergence**) the perceived style of the person(s) we're talking to.

2.3. Jargon

a defining features of a register is the use of **jargon** – the special words peculiar to the members of a profession or group

2.4. Epithet

an offensive word or phrase used to refer to a person or group, nationality, race, etc.

2.5. Obscenity

words and phrases that people avoid for reasons related to religion, politeness and prohibited behavior

2.6. Euphemism

a word or phrase that replaces a taboo word or serves to avoid frightening or unpleasant subjects
  ➤ **Note:** Euphemism reveals that words have a *connotative meaning*.

3. LANGUAGES IN CONTACT

3.1. Lingua Franca

in populated areas, where groups desire social or commercial communication, one language is often used by common agreement

3.2. Pidgin

traders and missionaries who visited and attempted to communicate with peoples residing in another distant part, created a simple rule-governed language based on the language of communicators
the dominant language is called the **lexifier language** and the other language(s) is called the **substrate language(s)**.
characteristics:
  - Although pidgins are in some sense rudimentary, they are not devoid of rules.
  - Pidgins have fewer grammatical words such as auxiliary verbs, prepositions, and articles, and inflectional morphology, including tense and case endings.
        The set of pronouns is often simpler in pidgins.

	English			Komtak		
	he	him	his	i	i	i

        Pidgins may have fewer prepositions. In Kamtok, for example, *fɔ* means 'to,' 'at,' 'in,' 'for,' and 'from.'
  - Other morphological processes are more productive in pidgins, e.g., *big-big* means 'enormous.'

3.3. Creole

when children are exposed to a pidgin as their linguistic input, they develop a language that is more complicated
  ➤ **Note:** pidgin doesn't have native speakers but creole does

3.4. Bilingualism

situation in nations in which two languages are spoken and recognized as official or national languages

One of these is typically dominant in more important contexts of use → **subordinate bilingualism**, as in Ethiopia, Amharic vs. Tigrinya, Sidamo, Oromo

Both languages are generally used for all purposes → **coordinate bilingualism** as in Switzerland, French and German

3.5. Diglossia

a rather special situation involving two distinct varieties of a language: there is a 'Low' variety and a 'High' variety

4. SAPIR-WHORF HYPOTHESIS

the structure of a language influences how its speakers perceive the world around them is most closely associated with **Sapir-Whorf hypothesis**:

- **Linguistic determinism** → language determines thought → the language we speak determines how we perceive and think about the world
- **Linguistic relativism** → different languages encode different categories and that speakers of different languages therefore think about the world in different ways