LNGT0101
Introduction to Linguistics

Announcements
• YES!
• We made it!
• Sort of!
• Reminder: Final paper is due Friday Dec 18th by 1pm (extended deadline).

Planning ahead ...
• Talk on Jan 21 @ 4:30 (Axinn 229):
  The Deaf Do Not Beg
  by Dr. Octavian Robinson
  College of the Holy Cross

Koala!

Tense!

The past, the present, and the future walked into a bar. It was tense.
How do you feel?

The Foodnited States of America

FISHIGAN

BERRYLAND

MISSISSIPPEAS

VERMINT CHOCOLATE CHIP
The Foodnited States of America

- [Link to Facebook post](https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152566749216753.1073741843.136496826752&type=3&uploaded=1)

Unfinished business

What happens after a creole is born?

The post-creolization situation

- Creoles tend to co-exist with their lexifier languages in the same speech community. Since they are based on these languages, at least lexically, they come to be viewed as ‘nonstandard’ varieties of the lexifier language.
- Under desires for overt prestige, some speakers start to move away from their own creole to the standard lexifier language, in what is often called decreolization.

The post-creole continuum

- As a result of decreolization, a range of creole varieties exist in a continuum. The variety closest to the standard language is called the **acrolect**, the one least like the standard is called the **basilect**, and in between these two is a range of creole varieties that are called **mesolects**:  

```
<--------------------------------------------->
Acrolect     Mesolects     Basilect
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What does that mean?

Mî bìn gi: âem wan.

The post-creole continuum
The sentence 'I gave him one' in Guyanese

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Source: Bell (1979, p. 114)

Status of creoles
- Especially in education. How to remove the stigma?

Language and thought
- The Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis (aka as linguistic relativity).
  "...we dissect nature along lines laid down by our native languages ... by the linguistic systems in our minds. We cut nature up, organize it into concepts, and ascribe significances as we do, largely because we are parties to an agreement to organize it in this way – an agreement that ... is codified in the patterns of our language."

(Whorf 1940, pp213-214)

Basic colors terms

Basic colors terms
Basic colors terms

- goluboy vs. siniy

- Studies on color terms have typically given conflicting results, some showing an effect of one’s language on perception of color, and some showing no such effect.

Spatial terms

- Question from HW 5.

Color and Shape (Carroll and Cassagrande 1958)

- Navajo ‘handling’ verbs change form based on the ‘shape’ features of an object:
  - flat (paper, leaf): šańléh
  - rigid (stick, pole): šańtíih
  - flexible (snake, rope, hose): šańítcóós

- Question: Since sensitivity to shape is necessary, would Navajo-speaking children be more sensitive to shape, as opposed to say color, than English-speaking children?

The results

- They found that shape was more salient in young Navaho speakers ages 3-5 than their English-speaking counterparts, but that by age 7, this difference had all but disappeared.
- Also, when this experiment was repeated on other groups of English-only speakers, they found that one group of middle-class children responded like the Navaho speakers, but one group of working class children still showed preference for color over shape.
- In yet another study, both English and Navaho children performed alike on a sorting task.
So, ...

- The jury is still out on the right way to characterize the relationship between language and thought.
- Perhaps one of you will help us rest the case one day.

It’s been a wonderful weekly company. I enjoyed it, and I hope you did too.

FAREWELL, EVERYONE!