

# Final Review

Ling 380/Soc 427 (Spring 2021)

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# Quiz #4

## I. Social Variation

Questions based on our class on Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

1. In Fischer's (1958) study, he found a correlation between...

- the pronunciation of the postvocalic [r] and gender
- the pronunciation of -ing/-in' and race
- the “double negative” and class in Detroit
- the pronunciation of -ing/-in' and gender



# Quiz #4

## I. Social Variation

Questions based on our class on Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

2. According to the above chart, what percentage of speakers in S. Klein said [r] in their second utterance of 'fourth'?

- 5
- 8
- 13
- 18

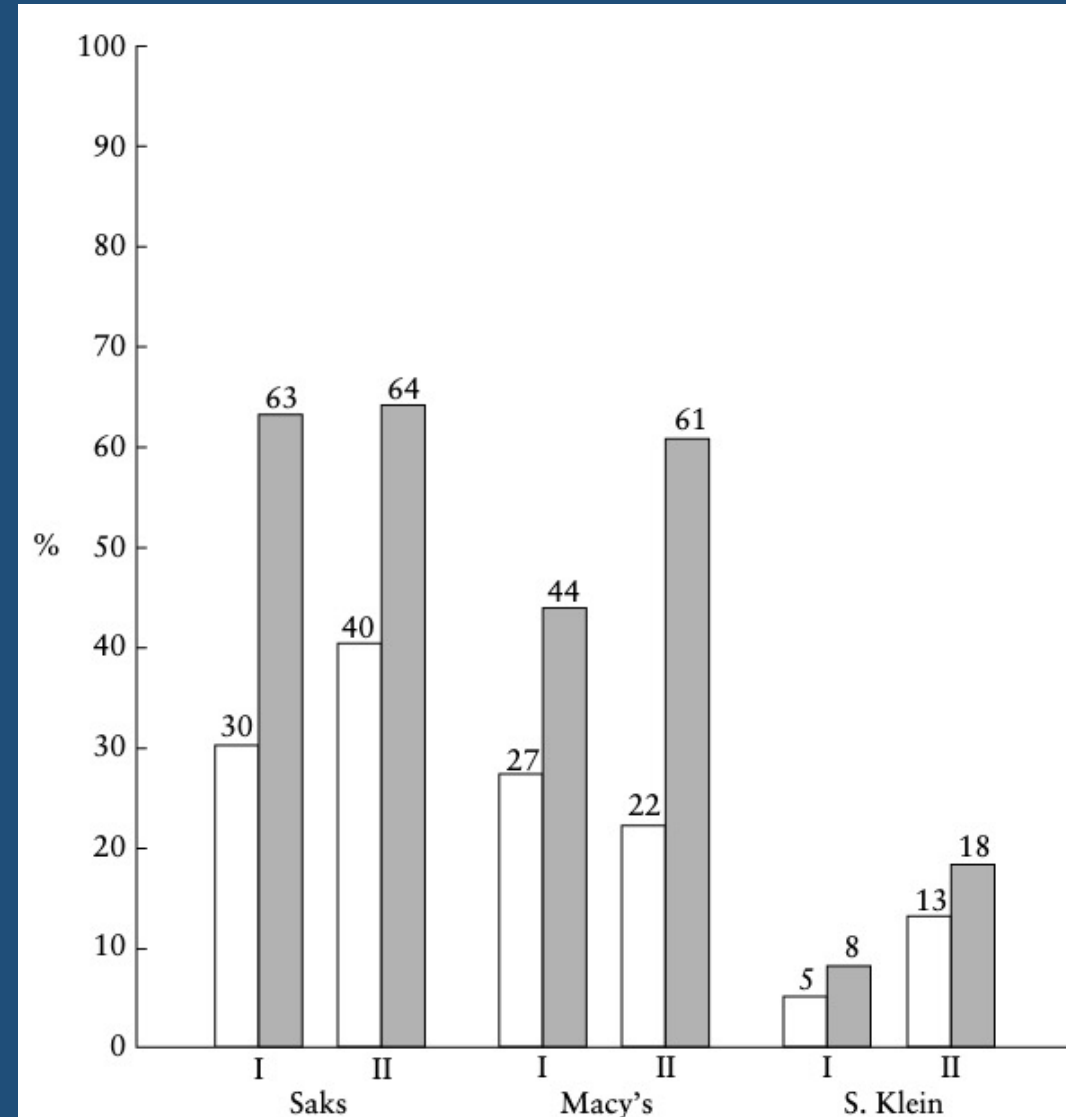



Figure 7.1 Percentage of (r); [r̥] in first (I) and second (II) utterances of *fourth* (white) and *floor* (solid) in three New York City department stores  
Source: based on Labov (1972b, p. 52)

# Quiz #4

## II. Language Change

Questions based on our class on Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.

3. Which of the following is an example of phonemic coalescence?

- 
- the aspiration of /t/, /k/, and /p/ in words like 'tick,' 'kick,' and 'pick'
  - the collapse of the vowel sounds in 'merry', 'marry', and 'Mary' for many Americans
  - the pronunciation of 'top' as 'tap' as a result of the Northern Cities Shift
  - people not pronouncing the /p/ in words like 'psychology' and 'psalm'

# Quiz #4

## II. Language Change

Questions based on our class on Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup> .

4. When talking about language change, what do we mean by external change (as opposed to internal change)? Give an example of an external change.

An external language change would be the influence from another language. An example of an external change would be words such as Taco, Pizza, and sushi. I chose these example because as English speakers, we borrow these words from other cultures.

External change in language is a result from the influence of another language. Internal change is natural changes happening within a given language. An example of internal change would be the use of thou/thee/thy dropping out. An example of external change would be the word sushi from Japanese to English.

# Quiz #4

5. The Northern Cities Shift has been observed since at least the 1970s. Recently, some researchers have found a reversal of the shift among some young people. (Recall our discussion of D'Onofrio & Benheim (2019), available on the class site.) With this in mind, do you think the Northern Cities Shift will continue into the future? Why or why not?

I think that looking at the reversal that has already started, I think these certain rejections will become localized. Younger people in these communities that are adapting certain aspects of the Northern accent and rejecting others will not promote further reversal all at once. I think this start of reversal will be distinctive in location and create a transition area where the speakers have both qualities of the northern accent and qualities of speakers that do not have this vowel shift. Maybe speakers are reversing this accent partly because of social reasons or maybe younger speakers do not heavily identify with their regions causing this lack of northern accent in certain areas.

I personally believe that the Northern Cities shift will not continue because at the moment its only found in a small region of the United States and a reversal of it is already in motion as researched by D'Onofrio & Benheim (2019). They suggest that the reversal is due to shifting definitions of racialized localness and that the younger generation tends to make a conscious effort to stray away from features associated with the shift. I believe that over time it will die out completely as the younger generation continues to reverse It in the areas it still exists in.

# Topics on the final

Everything we've done *after* the midterm, including the following:

- Speech communities
- Regional variation
- Social variation
- Language change

# Speech communities

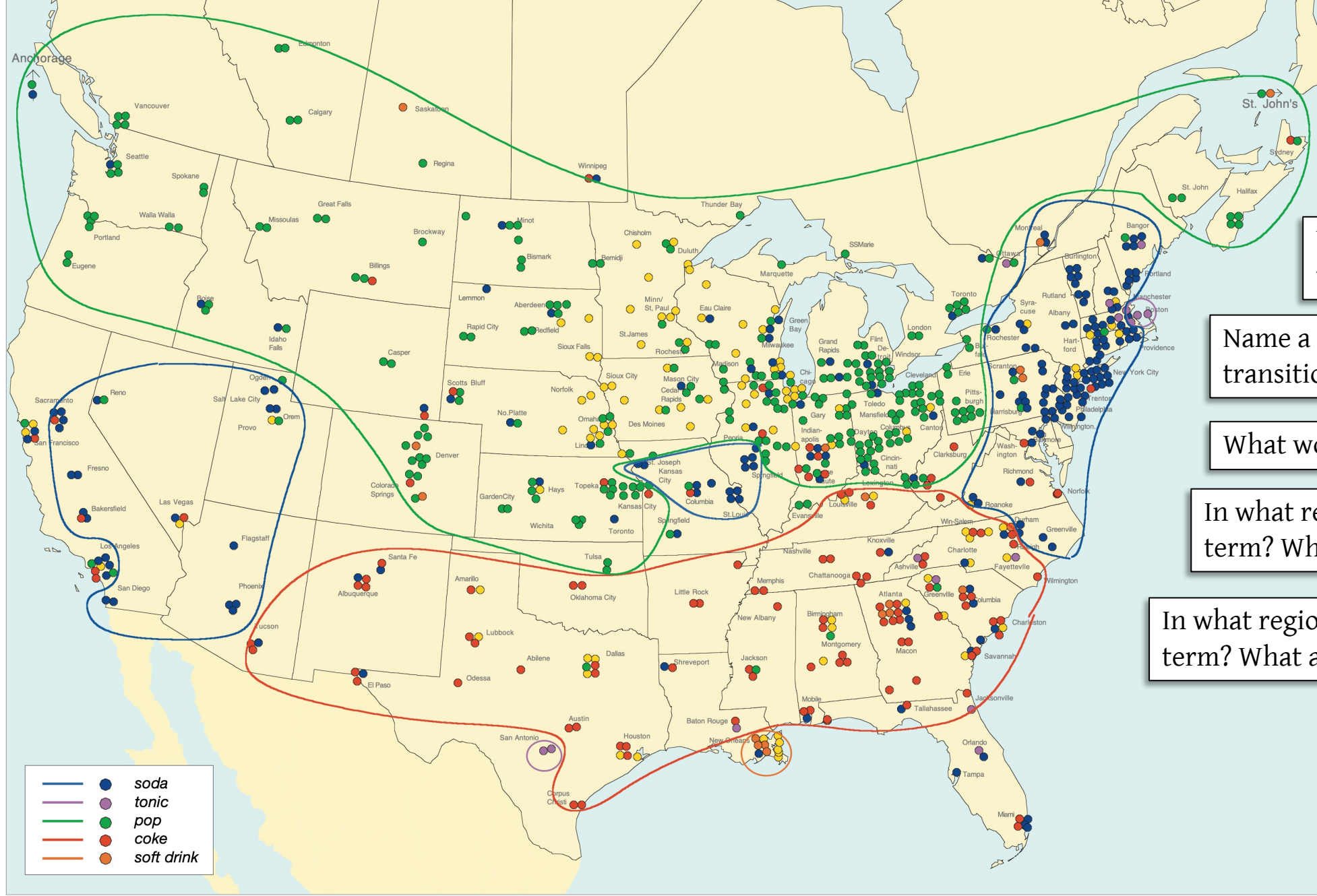
- What is a speech community?
- What is a group?
- Is there variation from one group to another?
- Is there variation within groups?
- Are speech communities uniform?
- What is a stereotype?
- Does each person belong to one group?

We can associate certain speech patterns – accent, vocabulary, syntactic structures – with groups of people, even while accepting that no group is truly uniform. This allows us to talk about different dialects or varieties, which may be associated with a particular *region* or *social group*.



# Regional varieties

- *Regional varieties* (or *regional dialects*, or *regional codes*) are speech patterns associated with the people living in a particular area.
- What are some regional varieties spoken in the United States?
- Can different regional varieties become separate languages over time?
- What is dialect geography?
- What is a dialect atlas?
- What is an isogloss?



What linguistic variable does this map show?

Name a state that seems to be a transition area.

What words are used in Miami, Florida?

In what region is 'pop' the preferred term? What are some states there?

In what region is 'coke' the preferred term? What are some states there?

Map 21.1. Geographic distribution of terms for 'carbonated beverage'

# Social varieties

- What's a problem with thinking in terms of regional varieties?
- Speech also varies based on social groups, even within a given place.
- What are some drivers of social variation?
- What is “class,” and what are some problems with using it as a social factor?
- What's a sociolect?
- What's an idiolect?

# Social varieties

- What did Gumperz (1958) discuss and find in Khalapur, India?
- What did Fischer (1958) discuss and find in a small New England town?
- What did Labov (1966) discuss and find in NYC?
- How did Labov (1966) conduct his study?
- What is U and non-U English?

# Language change

- What do we mean by “language change”?
- What are internal changes? Give an example.
- What are external changes? Give an example.
- What is the relationship between *variation* and *change*?
- What does it mean for two languages to be related?
- What is *long term stable variation*?
- What is the Northern Cities Shift? Is it advancing or retreating today?

# Language change

- What is the difference between *real time data* and *apparent time data*?
- What did Hixson (1996) study, and how?
- As used by Labov (1972), what is *change from below*? And what is *change from above*?
- What are some of the differences between the speech of white and African-American residents of Philadelphia?
- What are networks, and why are they relevant, as discussed by the Milroys?

Thank you all!