

Unit 3: Day 6

Chapter 6: Language



How does language reflect culture?

You know what they
call a quarter
pounder with
cheese in France?



Language and Culture



Language is a major part of culture
shows values
is an identifier
gender differences
technology of language
societal relationships



Presidential Candidate in Navajo Nation Protests a Language Requirement



Daisy Yazzie of Tuba City, Ariz., said she teaches Navajo to her granddaughter, Abigail Yellow.
NICK COTE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

By IAN LOVETT
SEPTEMBER 28, 2014



TUBA CITY, Ariz. — In his run for president of the Navajo Nation, Chris Deschene has presented voters with impressive credentials: A veteran of the Marine Corps, he is a lawyer, a trained engineer and a former member of the Arizona House of Representatives, where he represented part of the tribe's reservation.

But there is a problem that may disqualify him as a candidate: His command of the Navajo language is far from perfect, as he himself admits. And Navajo law requires the tribe's president to speak the language fluently.

Thus Mr. Deschene's candidacy has exposed a deep divide within the Navajo Nation, the country's largest Indian tribe, about the role that language should play in modern Navajo society, the tribe's direction in the new millennium and how traditionally Navajo the tribe's leader needs to be.

As in so many Indian tribes, fewer and fewer young people understand the language. And for many tribal elders, the prospect of a president who does not speak fluent Navajo has stoked fears that the language could recede or even die, taking many of the tribe's traditions with it.



Christopher Deschene, a candidate for president of the Navajo Nation who is fighting a rule requiring candidates to be fluent Navajo speakers.
NICK COTE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

"We are at a crossroads," said Peterson Zah, 78, a former president of the Navajo Nation. He spoke proudly of the role the Navajo language played in World War II, when it was used as an unbreakable code that helped the United States defeat Japan. "Our nation is renowned for our language around the world," he said. "If English becomes the dominant language, then what are we doing to ourselves?"

Election officials will now decide if Mr. Deschene, 43, who finished second in the primary election last month, is fluent enough to remain on the ballot in November.

Language on the Cultural Landscape



Dearborn, MI has a large population of Muslims in America



Language Divisions

Divisions

Family

Branch

Group

Language

Dialect

Accroynm to Help You Remember

Fat

Babys

Get

Lots of

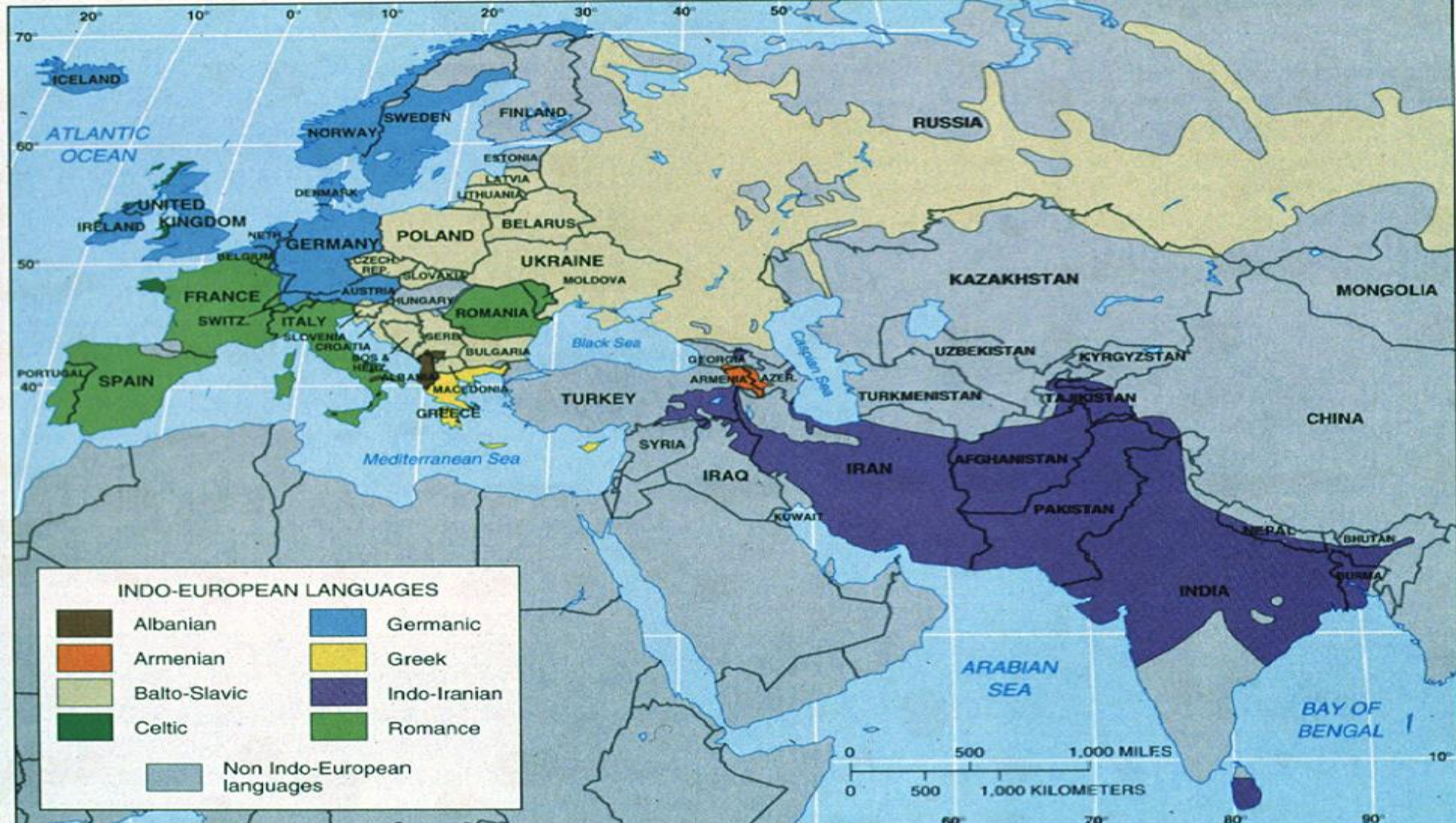
Donuts

Language Divisions

Family: a collection of individual languages with a common ancestor can be divided into branches

Branch: a group of languages that share a common origin but have evolved into different languages

Group: languages within a branch, share a common origin in recent past, few differences in grammar and vocabulary

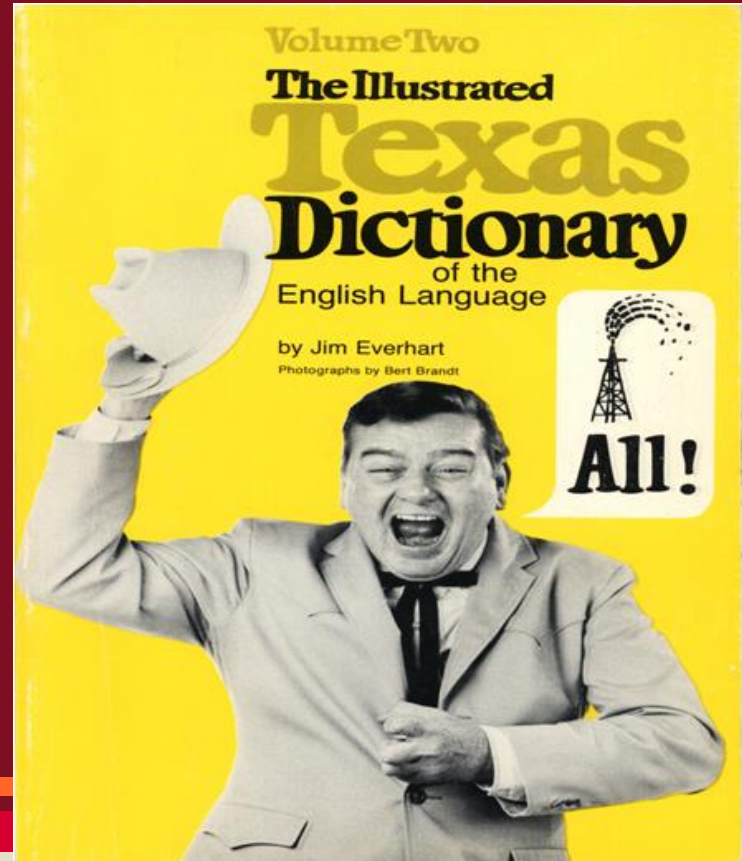


Dialects and Isogloss

Dialects: Variants of a standard language along regional or ethnic lines
Differences in vocabulary, syntax, pronunciation, cadence, and pace of speech

Accents are reflected in dialects
Dialects frequently marked by actual differences in vocabulary

Isogloss: geographic boundary within which a particular linguistic feature occurs



A portrait of a woman with long brown hair, looking directly at the camera. She is wearing a light blue collared shirt and a thin necklace with a small pendant. A large, white, stylized signature is overlaid across the center of the image, partially obscuring her face and chest. The signature reads "Amy Walker" in a cursive script. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The entire image is framed by a thick red border with black horizontal bars at the top and bottom.

Amy Walker

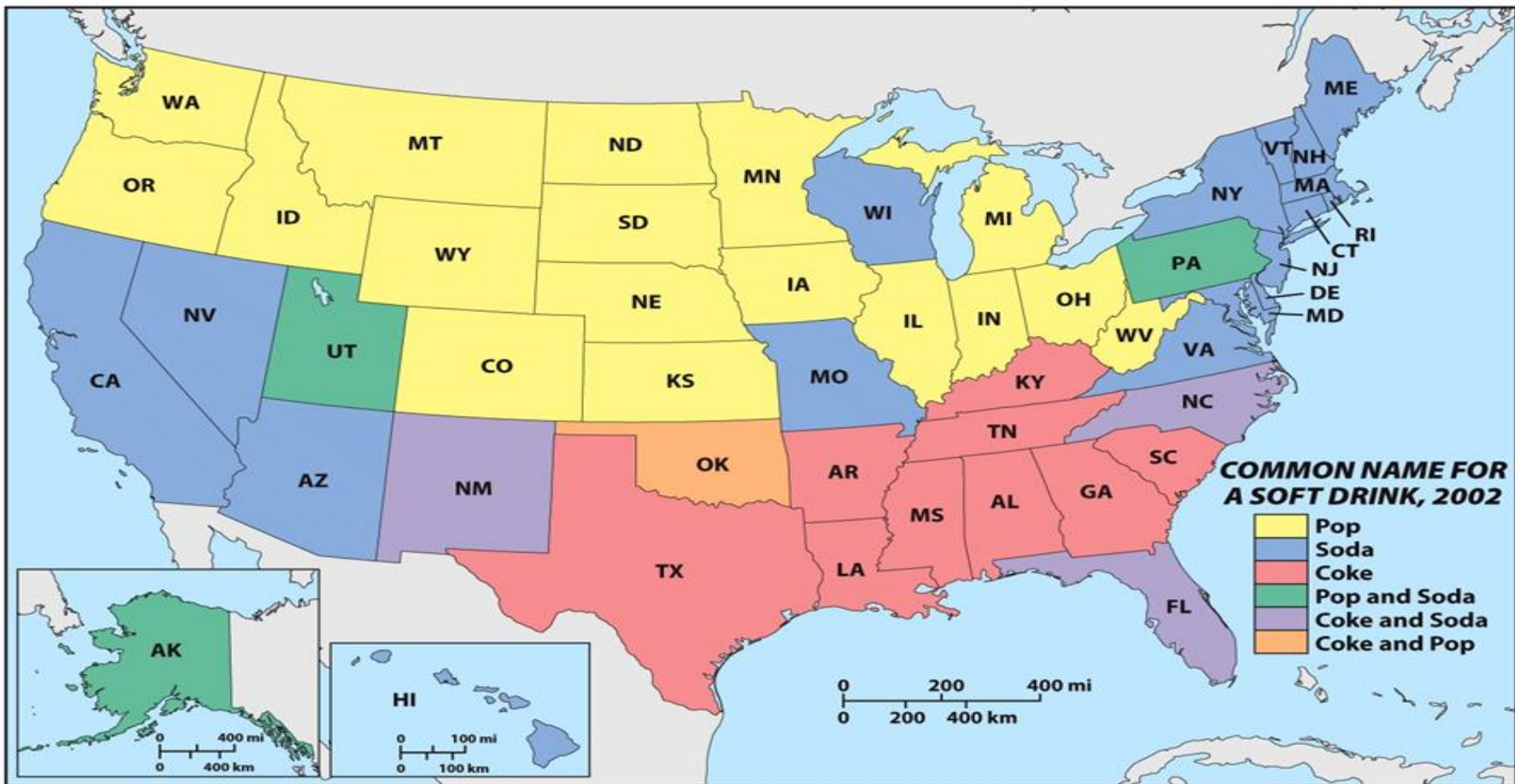
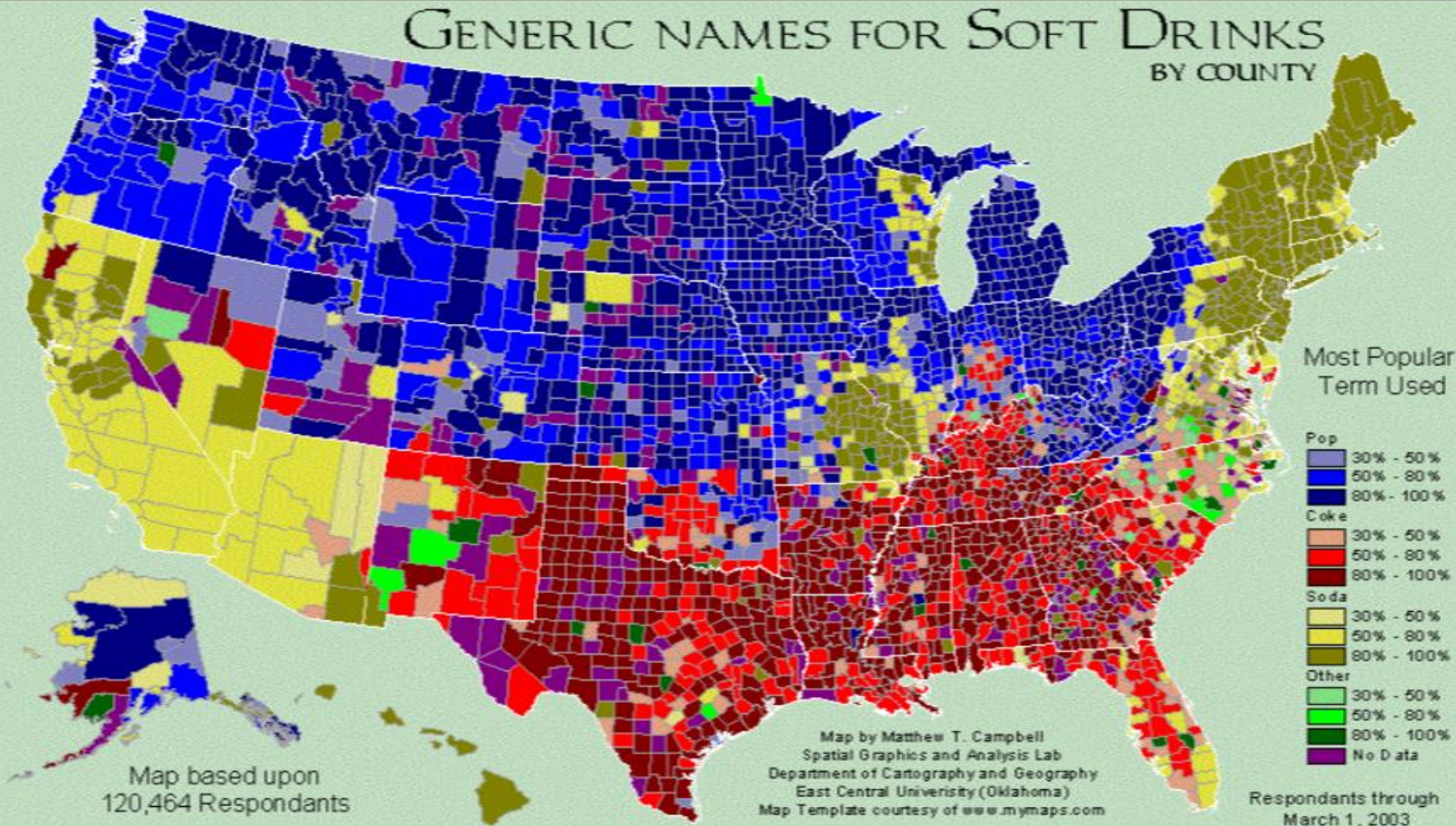


Figure 6.7
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GENERIC NAMES FOR SOFT DRINKS BY COUNTY



HOW DO LANGUAGES



CHANGE & EVOLVE?

How do people of different languages communicate?

Mutual Intelligibility: two people can understand each other when speaking

Problems?

Lingua Franca: language used by people for the purpose of commerce (Swahili)

The difference between a pidgin and creole language

A **Pidgin Language** is a mesh of two or more languages.

When that becomes more complex and the native language to a group of people then it becomes a **Creole Language**.

Hawaiian Pidgin

Give us da food we need fo today an every day.
Hemmo our shame, an let us go
Fo all da kine bad stuff we do to you,
Jalike us guys let da odda guys go awready,
And we no stay huhu wit dem
Fo all da kine bad stuff dey do to us.
No let us get chance fo do bad kine stuff,
But take us outa dea, so da Bad Guy no can hurt us.
Cuz you our King.
You get da real power,
An you stay awesome foeva.
Dass it!"

Matthew 6:9-13 "The Lord's Prayer"

- Taken from Da Jesus Book, a twelve year effort by
6 linguists to translate the New Testament into Hawaiian Pidgin,
published 2001



Dialect Activity

1. Go to Mr. Sichak's Weebly under Unit 3 Day 7.
2. Scroll down to and open the Dialect Activity.
3. Part 1 you will be listening to different people speak from around the world.
4. Part 2 you will be taking a survey about the “type” of English you speak (it is located in the Button above the Dialect Activity).
5. Answer the questions in your notebook to part 2 and be prepared to discuss your findings.

1. Do the results reflect your family's culture?
2. Do the results reflect your family's movement throughout it's history?
3. If your family is from different places, which group influences your speech more? Why?

World Language Map

Complete the World Language Map following the directions on the back of the World Map.