

Language and Communication

Language

Nonhuman Primate Communication

Nonverbal Communication

Language

- * Primary means of communication
- * Transmitted through learning
- * Associations between words and what they stand for
- * Past and future

Nonhuman Primate Communication

- * Call Systems
 - * Natural communication systems of other primates
 - * Only humans can speak
- * Sign language
 - * Recent experiments have shown that apes can learn true language
 - * Nonhuman primates have shown the capacity for cultural transmission
 - * Linguistic displacement

Nonverbal Communication

- * Kinesics- the study of communication through body movements, stances, gestures, and facial expressions
 - * Influenced by culture
 - * Prevalence and meaning vary cross-culturally
 - * Communicate social differences

Language includes the following abilities:

- a) Communicates
- b) Uses signs and symbols
- c) Expresses an infinite number of ideas
- d) Has rules
- e) Can indicate time and space

Language, Thought, and Culture

- * Chomsky- the human brain contains a limited set of rules (universal grammar) for organizing language
 - * All humans have similar linguistic abilities
 - * Creole language
- * The Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis
 - * Argued that the grammatical categories of particular languages lead their speakers to think about things in a different way
 - * Languages may shape thought, but not restrict it

Focal Vocabulary

- * Lexicon influences perception
- * Specialized set of terms and distinctions that are particularly important to certain groups
- * Changes most readily
- * Changes in culture produce changes in language and thought
- * Semantics
 - * Crash can mean auto accident, a drop in the Stock Market, to attend a party without being invited, ocean waves hitting the shore or the sound of a cymbals being struck together

Focal Vocabulary

Focal Vocabulary for Hockey

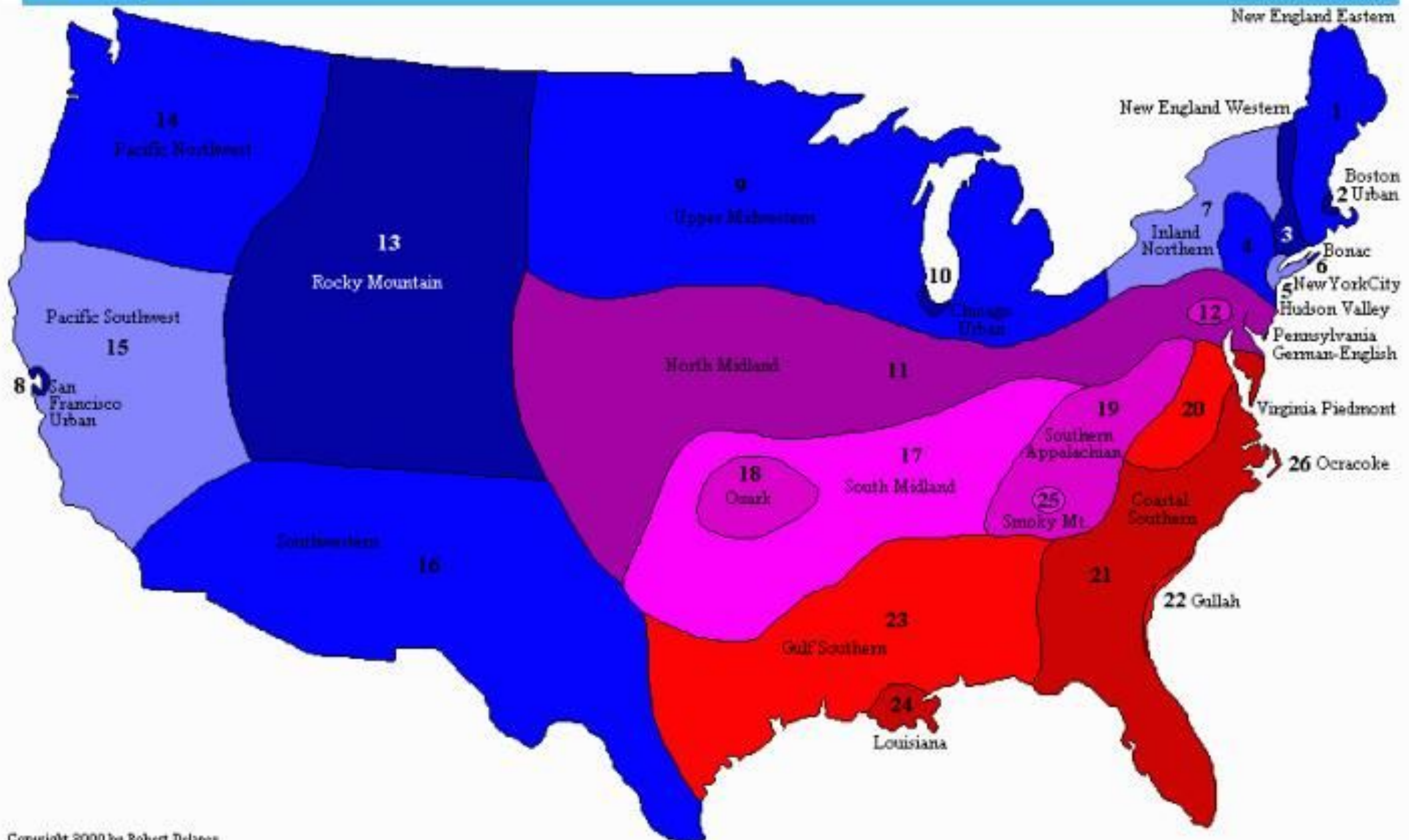
Insiders have special terms for the major elements of the game

Elements of Hockey	Insiders' Term
Puck	Biscuit
Goal/net	Pipes
Penalty box	Sin bin
Hockey stick	Twig
Helmet	Bucket
Space between a goalie's leg pads	Five holes

Sociolinguistics

- * How do different speakers use a given language?
- * How do linguistic differences correlate with social diversity and class, ethnic, and gender differences?
- * How is language used to express, reinforce, or resist power?
- * Linguistic change occurs in society
- * When ways of speaking are associated with social factors, they are imitated and they spread

Linguistic Diversity within Nations



Gender Speech Contrasts

- * Men and women tend to differ in the phonology, grammar, and vocabulary they use
- * Women- *Oh dear, Oh fudge, Goodness!*
- * Men- *Hell and Damn*
- * Female adjectives- *adorable, charming, sweet, cute, lovely, divine, fabulous*
- * Describe the color

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THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION!!!