

# 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

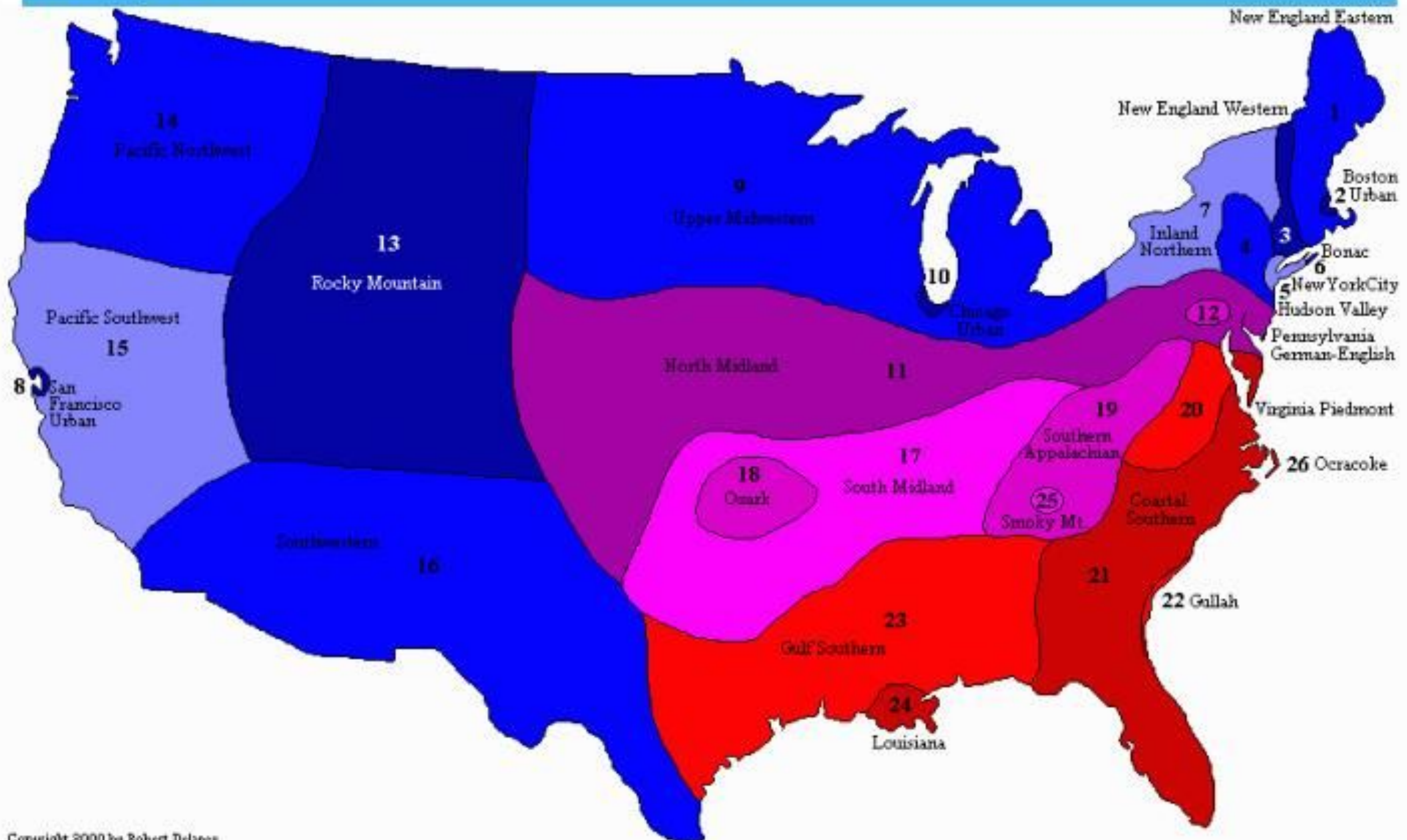
Elements of Hockey	Insiders' Term
Puck	Biscuit
Goal/net	Pipes
Penalty box	Sin bin
Hockey stick	Twig
Helmet	Bucket
Space between a goalie's leg pads	Five holes



# 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!!!