

Unit**3****Language****Cultural Geography**

The following information corresponds to Chapter 6 in your textbook. Fill in the blanks to complete the definition or sentence. Note: All of the following information in addition to your reading is important.

What are Languages, and What Role Do Languages Play in Cultures?

- _____ = a systematic means of communicating ideas or feelings by the use of conventionalized signs, gestures, marks, or especially articulate vocal sounds; language binds a _____ identity.
 - _____ = variant of a language that a country's political and intellectual elite seek (or sought) to promote as the norm for use in 1) government, 2) schools, 3) the media, and 4) in other areas ("King's English").
 - _____ = a regional variance of a standard language.
 - _____ = a geographic boundary within which a particular linguistic feature occurs.
 - _____ - the ability of two people to understand each other when speaking.
- * "A language is a dialect with an army" (e.g. China ruled a state of speakers of different languages (but similar Sino-Tibetan tongues) - often why consider Chinese to be one language).

Why Are Languages Distributed the Way they Are?

- Language _____ are thought to have a shared, but distant, origin;
- Language _____ have a more definite commonality;
- These subfamilies are divided into language _____, which consist of sets of individual languages.

| Language Family | Major Language | Location |
|-----------------|----------------|---|
| | | Americas, Europe, Southwest Asia, Australia, South Africa |
| | | China, Southeast Asia |
| | | Japan, Korea |
| | | North Africa, Arabian Peninsula |
| | | India |
| | | Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Madagascar |
| | | Russia, Northern Asia, Finland, Turkey |
| | | Sub-Saharan Africa |

Language Formation

- _____ - one way of charting the diversification of languages over time (e.g. octo (Latin), otto (Italian), ocho (Spanish), huit (French), ... eight (English)).
- _____ was observed to be closely related to ancient Greek & Latin (late 1700s).
- Jakob Grimm observed that related languages have similar (but not identical) consonants (1800s); soften over time (e.g. vater (Ger) ... vader (Dut), father (Eng)) - he used _____.
- _____ - deduce a large part of an _____ language (no native speakers) and go even further to re-create the language that preceded it; linguists look for _____ clues in the vocabulary (landforms, vegetation).
- _____ - Indo-European - ancestral Indo-European language; _____ - even more ancestral language.

Locating Language Hearths

- Language _____ - differentiation over time and space; languages branch into dialects, become isolated, then new languages develop.
- Language _____ - when long-isolated languages made contact; linked to human mobility (relocation diffusion); complicates the rules of reconstruction.
- Language _____ - modification or supplanting of a language by stronger cultures (acculturation); Ex) Hungarian surrounded by Indo-European; the origin of Basque spoken around northern Spain is unknown (?)

Diffusion of the Proto-Indo-European Language

- _____ theory: the hearth was modern-day Ukraine (>5,000 yrs. ago); people used horses, wheel, and trade, spread language westward toward Western Europe.
- _____ theory: the hearth was Anatolia (Turkey - >10,000 yrs. ago); Ukraine relied on nomadic pastoralism, not farming; more words for mountains and other high-relief landforms (few for plains); leading hearth for agriculture was Mesopotamia; drawbacks - Anatolia was not ideal for farming, the _____ states Proto-Indo-European language spread eastward first, around the Caspian Sea, then westward into Europe.

Examples of Language Distinction

North America:

- In bilingual Canada, regional divisions can be found between _____ and the rest of the country.
- The _____ have been diligent in passing several language laws (e.g. French signs, menus,...).
- 1995 – came within a few thousand votes of seceding from the rest of Canada.

Europe (Indo-European mostly):

- _____ languages (French, Spanish, Italian,...) – areas controlled but not overwhelmed by Romans.
- _____ languages (German, English, Danish,...) – expansion of peoples from Northern Europe.
- _____ languages (Russian, Czech, Slovak,...) – developed as Slavic people migrated from Ukraine.
- Other – Uralic, Altaic, ... *Basque* (_____) – Basque never blended with other Europeans (autonomy in 1979).
- Belgium is divided into a _____-speaking region in the north (Flanders) and a _____-speaking region in the south (Wallonia), with _____, the capital, officially bilingual; some pressure to devolve.

Sub-Saharan Africa:

- _____ - _____ - most dominant language family in the region; _____ - includes “click” sounds.
- Nigeria is a much more complicated case study than either Canada or Belgium. Major languages; _____ in the north (35 million speakers), _____ in the southwest (25 million), and _____ in the southeast (20 million) – are strongly associated with regional cultures and are unsuitable as national languages.
- When Nigeria became independent, its leaders chose _____ as its official language (India did this earlier)

How Do Languages Diffuse?

Two developments in the late Middle Ages were key in developing the modern language pattern:

- 1) Johannes Gutenberg invented the movable-type _____ around 1450; allowed for an unprecedented production of written texts & promoted _____ (e.g. Gutenberg Bible)
- 2) The rise of _____ - _____ was important because they had a strong interest in promoting a common culture (more unity), and asserted their interests in faraway places at times (colonialism).

Creolization:

- _____ = “Frankish language”; convergence of several languages through trade (e.g. French, Italian, Arabic,...); today it denotes any common language spoken by people of different native tongues.
- _____ = two or more languages that have been simplified and modified through contact w/ each other.
- _____ language = a pidgin may develop a more complex vocabulary & become a mother tongue of a region.

Language on the International Scene:

- Only a few _____ states (e.g. Japan, Venezuela, Iceland, Portugal, Poland, Lesotho)
- Most countries are _____ - in which more than one language is used.
- _____ – often selected by the educated and politically elite to promote national cohesion (usually language of courts and government); commonly language of colonial power. There has been a growing interest in establishing English as the _____ language of the U.S.
- _____ - common language of trade and commerce (English is the closest); _____ = an artificial tongue that was developed in the early 1900s based on Latin and a combination of other European languages; attempt to bring cultures together (failed).

Place-Names:

- _____ – systematic study of place-names (can elicit strong passions).
- When many African and Asian colonies became _____, they changed the names of places; this has even happened recently (e.g. Bombay was changed to Mumbai).
- Give examples of toponyms for the following:
 - Post-Colonial –
 - Post-Revolution –
 - Memorial –
 - Commodification -