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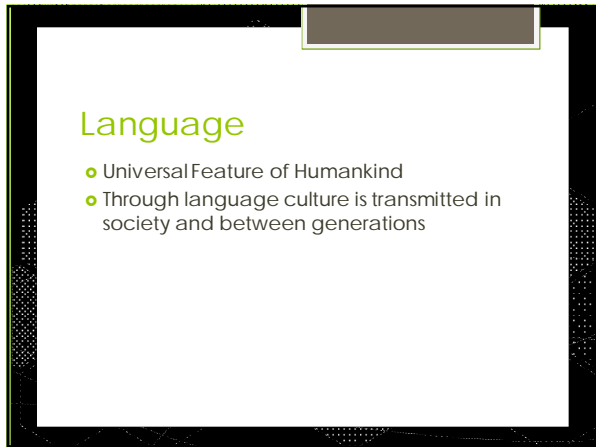
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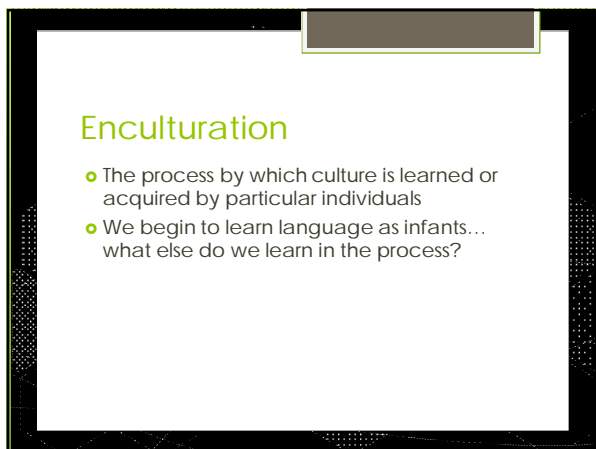
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**For Most Languages**

- The relationship between word and the object it refers to is arbitrary
- Except...

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**Onomatopoeia**

- Words which imitate or reproduce the sounds they describe

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**ONOMATOPOEIA**

- Examples:
  - SPLASH
  - CLANK
  - HISS

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## Language is Patterned by Sound and Meaning

- Phonemes
  - basic sound unit that form the building blocks of language
  - Phonemes carry no meaning but differentiate words in terms of their meaning: example:
    - p: pen, spin, tip
    - t: two, sting, bet
    - w: we, queen
- Phonology
  - A description of a language's phonemic system.

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## Language is Patterned by Sound and Meaning

- Morphemes
  - the units of language that carry meaning.
    - may be words:
      - banana, apple, papaya
    - Not always words, i.e. some words can be broken down into smaller morpheme units:
      - cat-s, bark-s un-break-able; shoe-make-r
    - Every morpheme is either a base or an affix (such as prefix or suffix)
- Morphology
  - A description of a language's morphemic system

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## Language is Patterned by Sound and Meaning

- Syntax
  - Rules by which phrases and sentences are formed.
  - Usually done by dividing up languages into parts of speech
    - Noun
    - Verb
    - Adjective
    - use of singular or plural
    - etc.

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## Language is Patterned by Sound and Meaning

- Lexicon
  - list of words in a language with their word-specific meanings, i.e. dictionary
- Grammar
  - the complete description of the language
    - Phonology
    - Morphology
    - Syntax
    - lexicon

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## Language is always an approximation to thought.

- The more abstract the thought the more we rely on metaphors.
- Metaphor
  - a figure of speech that makes a link between two (usually) dissimilar objects and transfers qualities of one to the other.

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## Metonymy

- Metonymy
  - a figure of speech where one word is substituted for a word closely related to it—often a part is substituted for the whole
- Examples
  - a head of cattle
  - the crown of the kingdom
  - lend me a hand

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## Language, Culture, and Experience

- Edward Sapir (1884-1939) and Benjamin Whorf (1897-1941)
  - Argue that language both shapes and molds our thinking and also mirrors and reflects thought; further that individuals experience the world based on the words they possess and that this can be in very culturally specific ways.



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## Linguistic Relativity

- Concept developed by Benjamin Whorf
- Related to cultural relativism...
  - emphasizes the uniqueness of each language and the need to study it on its own terms

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## Historical Relationship Between Languages

- Trace past and present languages to a theorized proto-language.
- There are approximately 6,909 known living languages in the world

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Do languages change?  
If so, why?

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Languages change due to:

- Large scale shifts often due to social, political or economic pressure
- Invasion, colonization, migration
- Needs of speakers--for example in response to new technologies
- Unique use of language by individuals
- Inter-generational differences

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Changes Can Occur In:

- Vocabulary
- Pronunciation
- Language structure
  - much slower to change

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## Language Change Via Culture Contact

- Pidgin
  - A shared language created through social conditions such as trade that develops between two groups who speak two different languages

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## Language Change Via Culture Contact

- Creole
  - A well-defined and stable language that originated from the combination of two or more languages
  - typically with many distinctive features that are not inherited from either parent language.
  - All creole languages evolve from pidgin.

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## Linguistic Imperialism

- The imposition by a dominant group of its language on a minority group

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## Lingua franca

- Any language widely used beyond the population of its native speakers
  - typically indicates the language of the most influential nation(s) of the time
- Originally, the term was used to denote French, as it was, at the time, universally spoken in the courts of Europe
- Can you identify any other past or present *Lingua franca*?

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## Dialect vs. Language Designations

- A Dialect
  - A variety of a language used by a people from a particular geographic area.
  - Is a complete system of verbal communication
    - may or may not be written
  - Has its own vocabulary and/or grammar
  - Is not a creole, pidgin, slang or jargon, or a variety of language spoken only by a certain class.
- Whether or not a language is referred to as a *dialect* or as a language can be a political decision

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## Language Policies

- What governments, typically in public contexts, do officially to regulate language use:
  - Legislation
  - court decisions
  - executive orders
  - etc.

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**Language Policies in the US**

- No "official language"
- Bilingual Education
- English only
- Protection of endangered languages

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**LANGUAGE and SPEECH**

- Anthropologists study language through:
  - A language's grammar/structure or
  - Speech-language practices

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**Sociolinguistics**

- The study of the effect of any and all aspects of society, including cultural norms, expectations, and context, on the way language is used

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## Speech Community

- A more or less discrete group of people who use language in a unique and mutually accepted way among themselves.
- Members of speech communities will often develop slang or jargon to serve the group's special purposes and priorities.

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## How to define a speech community?

- Shared community membership
  - A real community living in the same location, i.e. neighborhood.
    - What about on-line communities?
- Shared linguistic communication
  - A shared language, even dialect, is necessary.
- People are simultaneously members of several speech communities

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## Code-switching:

- Speakers of two or more languages who switch between them based on the content or pragmatics of their conversation.

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Language  
Anthropology 1

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