

## Week 13: Variation and Change

### Solutions

- (1) **Variation in slang.** Below is a collection of terms for getting inebriated. As you look through the list, compare your own current slang usage with that reported here. Which terms are new to you? Can you see how they may have originated? Are there terms here that you know as meaning something else? Why do you suppose there are so many different terms for this activity?

get wasted	loose	hazed	aced
get stiff	fried	z'd	pound a few
snockered	zoned	blasted	catch a cold
crooked	ripped	plastered	pissed
slushed	buzzed	loaded	toasted
stoned	tanked	hammered	tie one on
shit-faced	lubered	blotto	

**Solution: Answers will vary! This question is intended to spark discussion about variation.**

- (2) **Variation in our class.** Fill out the online form for the class on variation in vocabulary ([link here](#)). In recitation, look at the data from the class (available [here](#), once classmates have completed the form). Do you notice any patterns in what forms are used by Age, Gender, or Region? If your family members or friends are willing, you can invite them to fill out the form as well.

**Solution: Answers will vary based on class responses. Variation may be influenced by geographical location (both where students live now and where they were raised), gender, age, etc. Note that some students may report having multiple answers; these may vary by context, audience, etc.**

- (3) **Factors influencing variation.** Consider the following data illustrating the *pin/pen* merger, common in Southern speech patterns.

<b>Word</b>	<b>Southern English</b>	<b>Standard English</b>
pin	[pɪn]	[pɪn]
pen	[pɪn]	[pɛn]
lit	[lɪt]	[lɪt]
let	[lɛt]	[lɛt]
nick	[nɪk]	[nɪk]
neck	[nɛk]	[nɛk]

tin	[tɪn]	[tɪn]
ten	[tɪn]	[tɛn]

- (a) Notice that [ɪ] and [ɛ] are not merged to [ɪ] in all contexts. Identify the phonetic environment that conditions the merger.
- (b) Based on your analysis in (a), indicate whether each of the following words would be pronounced with [ɪ] or with [ɛ] in these dialects: *lid, led, kin, Ken, pick, peck, bin, Ben*

**Solution:**

**a. [ɪ] and [ɛ] are merged to [ɪ] before the nasal [n].**

**b. [ɪ] words: lid, kin, Ken, pick, bin, Ben [ɛ] words: led, peck**

**If someone in your recitation section has a dialect that has this neutralization (e.g., from the Southeastern United States), ask them to read the words out loud to verify your predictions!**

- (4) Look at the following versions of the Lord's Prayer and Identify at least one type of change in the transformation between Old English and Modern English: sound change, morphological change, syntactic change, and semantic change.

*Old English* (text ca. 1100)

Fæder ure þu þe eart on heofonum, si þin nama gehalgod. Tobecume þin rice. Gewurþe þin willa on eorðan swa swa on heofonum. Urne gedæghwamlican hlaf syle us to dæg. And forgyf us ure gyltas, swa swa we forgyfað urum gyltedum. And ne gelæd þu us on costnunge ac alys us of yfele. Soþlice.

*Middle English* (text ca. 1400)

Oure fadir that art in heuene halowid be thi name, thi kyngdom come to, be thi wille don in erthe es in heuene, yeue to us this day oure bread our other substance, & foryeue to us oure dettis, as we forgeuen to oure dettouris, & lede us not in to temptacion: but delyuer us from yuel, amen.

*Early Modern English* (text 1611)

Our father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdome come. Thy will be done, in earth, as it is in heaven. Giue vs this day our dayly bread. And forgiue vs our debts, as we forgiue our debtors. And leade vs not into temptation, but deliuer vs from euill. Amen.

*Contemporary English* (text 1994)

Our Father, who is in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your kingdom come into being. May your will be followed on earth, just as it is in heaven. Give us this day our food for the day. And forgive us our offenses, just as we forgive those who have offended us. And do not bring us to the test, but free us from evil. Amen.

**Solution: Many answers could be correct. Here are some examples:**

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- **Example of sound change: [d] → [ð] (e.g. in father) between Middle English and Early Modern English.**
  - **Example of morphological change: verbs like forgive are inflected for person in Old English and Middle English (e.g. “forgyf us ... we forgyfað”) but are not by Early Modern English.**
  - **Example of syntactic change: in Old English, the order of the first two words is “father our” while by Middle English, it is “our father.”**
  - **Example of semantic change: in Middle English, the word cognate with present-day debts (“dettis”) means what we would currently call “offenses.”**
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- (5) Based on what you know about the outcome of sound change, do you think it is possible for two homonyms (like pair and pear) to be pronounced differently in the future just because of a sound change? Why or why not?

**Solution: This should not be possible if the two original words are in fact homophonous. Sound changes are regular, so they will apply to any and all sounds in a particular environment; both pair and pear have the same sounds and so if the sound of one changes, the sound of the other must change in the same way. Note that this does not preclude one of the words changing through some other kind of change (e.g., influenced by spelling or morphology), but then the change is not considered a sound change**

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- (6) For each of the following sets of data below — **Proto-Peninsular Spanish** and **Proto-Uto-Aztecan** — use the comparative method to:
- (a) Set up the sound correspondences for each cognate set, and reconstruct the earlier form for the word from which the cognates have descended.
  - (b) Establish the sound changes that have affected each language. Note that in some cases, the ordering of the changes is important.

## Proto-Peninsular Spanish

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<i>Castilian</i>	<i>Andalusian</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
<b>a.</b> [majo]	[majo]	'May'
<b>b.</b> [kaʎe]	[kaje]	'street'
<b>c.</b> [poʎo]	[pojo]	'chicken'
<b>d.</b> [pojo]	[pojo]	'stone bench'
<b>e.</b> [dos]	[dos]	'two'
<b>f.</b> [dieθ]	[dies]	'ten'
<b>g.</b> [θiŋko]	[siŋko]	'five'
<b>h.</b> [si]	[si]	'yes'
<b>i.</b> [kasa]	[kasa]	'house'
<b>j.</b> [kaθa]	[kasa]	'a hunt'
<b>k.</b> [θiβiliθaθion]	[siβilisation]	'civilization'

[ʎ] represents a palatal lateral.

[β] represents a voiced bilabial fricative.

## Solution: Proto-Peninsular Spanish

## a. Earlier forms:

a. *[majo]	g. *[θiŋko]
b. *[kaʎe]	h. *[si]
c. *[poʎo]	i. *[kasa]
d. *[pojo]	j. *[kaθa]
e. *[dos]	k. *[θiβiliθaθion]
f. *[dieθ]	

## b. Sound changes:

Castilian: no sound changes

Andalusian: \*[ʎ] &gt; [j], \*[θ] &gt; [s]

## Proto-Uto-Aztecan

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<i>Shoshone</i>	<i>Ute</i>	<i>Northern Paiute</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
<b>a.</b> [tuhu]	[tuu]	[tuhu]	'black'
<b>b.</b> [nika]	[ni̯ka]	[nika]	'dance'
<b>c.</b> [kasa]	[ka̯si]	[kasa]	'feather'
<b>d.</b> [tuku]	[tu̯ku]	[tuku]	'flesh'
<b>e.</b> [juhu]	[juu]	[juhu]	'grease'
<b>f.</b> [pida]	[pida]	[pita]	'arm'
<b>g.</b> [kadi]	[kadi]	[kati]	'sit'
<b>h.</b> [kwasi]	[kwa̯si]	[kwasi]	'tail'
<b>i.</b> [kwida]	—	[kwita]	'excrement'

**Solution: Proto-Uto-Aztecan****a. Earlier forms:**

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| a. *[tuhu] | f. *[pita]  |
| b. *[nika] | g. *[kati]  |
| c. *[kasa] | h. *[kwasi] |
| d. *[tuku] | i. *[kwita] |
| e. *[juhu] |             |

**b. Sound changes:**

**Shoshone:** \*[t] > [d] between vowels

**Ute:** Vowels become voiceless before voiceless consonants

\*[h] is deleted between vowels

\*[t] > [d] between vowels

\*[a] > [i] after [s] and before #

**Northern Paiute:** No changes