

## 1.3 REGIONAL LEXICOGRAPHY AND LINGUISTIC ATLASES OF ENGLISH

### OBJECTIVES

This practice session introduces a topic in distinctive features of dialects, how they are identified and registered in linguistic atlases.

### IN THIS SESSION, YOU WILL STUDY:

- what a linguistic atlas is and what linguistic features are pointed on the maps;
- what types of boundaries are found between / among dialects and how to mark them;
- about the history of English dialectology;
- about distinctive features of a regional dictionary;
- how a dictionary reflects cultural component.

### OUTLINE

1. Linguistic variables and their mapping.
2. Types of isoglosses.
  - 2.1. Phonological isoglosses.
  - 2.2. Lexical isoglosses.
  - 2.3. Morphological isoglosses.
  - 2.4. Syntactical isoglosses
  - 2.5. Semantic isoglosses.
3. Patterns of isoglosses.
  - 3.1. Expectation isoglosses (bundle).
  - 3.2. Reality isoglosses (criss-cross).
  - 3.3. Focal and transitional isoglosses.
4. The history of regional dialectology and the compilation of linguistic atlases.
5. Regional dictionaries of English.



### SELF-STUDY INSTRUCTIONS

Reading for this session on your own, **it is important to give attention to the following facts.**

- *Linguistic variable* and *linguistic variety* are the terms that must be distinguished.
- The terms *linguistic atlas* and *dialect atlas* are synonymous.
- A dialect atlas is a map or a series of maps that display dialect information within a geographical area.
- Different types of isoglosses reflect geographical boundaries of linguistic features found at different levels of language (for example, in pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar).
- Different patterns of isoglosses reflect the directions and limits of the geographical spread of linguistic features.

- A regional dictionary is a reference work which describes a particular (provincial or metropolitan) variety of language.



### RECOMMENDED READING

Crystal D. Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language / David Crystal. – Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 1995. – P. 26-28 (the history of regional dialectology and the compilation of linguistic atlases; types of isoglosses), 30-32 (linguistic atlases of English; modern dialect studies).

### FURTHER READING

Labov W. The Atlas of North American English / William Labov. – Berlin, NY : Mouton de Gruyter, 2006. – P. 4–11.

Trudgill P. A Glossary of Sociolinguistics / Peter Trudgill. – Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2003. – 148 p.

### INTERNET RESOURCES

Hickey R. Variety studies [Electronic resource] / Raymond Hickey. – Access mode : <https://www.uni-due.de/ELE/VarietiesOfEnglish.pdf> . – P. 7-9.

Linguistic Atlas Projects [Electronic resource] // LAP online. - Access mode : [http://www.lap.uga.edu/Site/Atlas\\_Projects.html](http://www.lap.uga.edu/Site/Atlas_Projects.html)

The merger of /o/ and /oh/: invariant responses in production and perception [Electronic resource] // TELSUR Project. - Linguistics Laboratory, University of Pennsylvania. – Access mode : [http://www.ling.upenn.edu/phono\\_atlas/home.html](http://www.ling.upenn.edu/phono_atlas/home.html)

The word pineapple in various European Languages [Electronic resource] / MAPPORN. – Access mode : [https://www.reddit.com/r/MapPorn/comments/29jol5/the\\_word\\_for\\_pineapple\\_in\\_various\\_european/](https://www.reddit.com/r/MapPorn/comments/29jol5/the_word_for_pineapple_in_various_european/)

Sedivy J. Votes and Vowels: A Changing accent shows how language parallels politics [Electronic resource] / Judie Sedivy // The Crux. – March 28, 2012. – Access mode : <http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/crux/2012/03/28/votes-and-vowels-a-changing-accent-shows-how-language-parallels-politics/#.Wiuwf7ZePq0>

USA States Map [Electronic resource] // emapsworld.com, 2010-2017. – Access mode : <http://www.emapsworld.com/usa-states-map.html>



### IMPORTANT CONCEPTS AND TERMS IN THIS SESSION

- dialectometry;
- expectation isoglosses (bundle);
- focal and transitional isoglosses;
- isogloss;
- lexical isogloss;
- linguistic atlas;
- linguistic item / feature;
- morphological isogloss;
- phonological isogloss;
- reality isoglosses (criss-cross);
- regional dictionary;
- regionalism;
- regional label;
- regional lexicography;
- relic feature;
- semantic isogloss;
- syntactical isogloss.



## SELF-STUDY ASSIGNMENTS

**Assignment 1.** Answer the following questions:

- What is a linguistic variable?
- What is an isogloss?
- How can isoglosses be characterized?
- What is referred to as a *relic feature*?

**Assignment 2.** Consult Crystal D. *Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*. – Cambridge : CUP, 1995. – P. 28 and explain the following terms used in dialectology:

- expectation isoglosses (bundle);
- reality isoglosses (criss-cross);
- focal and transitional isoglosses.

**Assignment 3.** The traditional dialectology employs special techniques of compiling linguistic maps. It is important to know about the methods of dialect geography and the role of the questionnaire in the creation the Linguistic Atlas. Match the typical elicitation frames (A) with the actual questions used to elicit forms which may vary (B):

A	B
<p><b>typical elicitation frame</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Labeling based upon a description of an item;</li> <li>2. Labeling an item present at the scene;</li> <li>3. Completing incomplete phrases or sentences;</li> <li>4. Listing topical inventories of items.</li> </ol>	<p><b>actual questions used to elicit forms which may vary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What do you call a small amount of food that's eaten between meals?</i></li> <li>• <i>What do you call that piece of furniture you're sitting on?</i></li> <li>• <i>What do you call the heavy metal pan that's used to fry foods?</i></li> <li>• <i>What kinds of snakes do you have around here?</i></li> <li>• <i>What kinds of wild flowers do you have around here?</i></li> <li>• <i>What time is it in this picture?</i></li> <li>• <i>When a pond or lake becomes entirely covered with ice, you say it's _____.</i></li> <li>• <i>When your skin and eyeballs turn yellow, you're getting _____.</i></li> </ul>

(Source: Regional Varieties of English. SU.)

**Assignment 4.** Following are some dialect variants, including pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary items (Source: Regional Varieties of

English SU.). For each of the items, construct reasonable question frames that would enable a fieldworker to elicit the items without using the item itself in the question. What kinds of items seem the easiest to elicit, and what items the most difficult?

*Pronunciation*

- 1 The production of the vowel in *ten* and *tin*.
- 2 The production of the first vowel in *ferry*, *fairy*, and *furry*.
- 3 The production of the vowel in *caught* and *cot*.

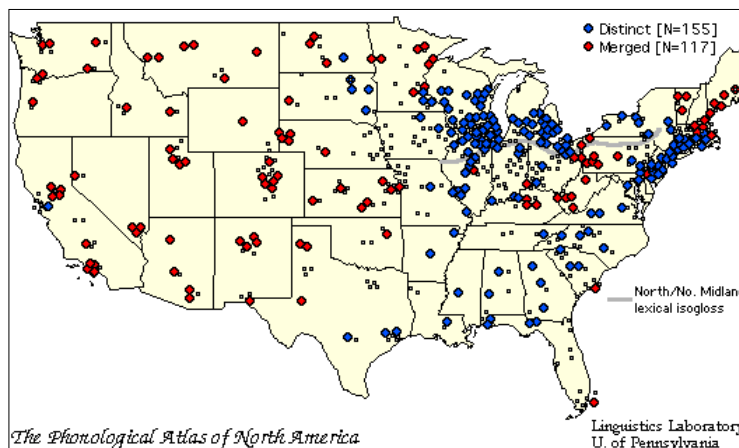
*Grammar*

- 1 The plural form of *deer*.
- 2 The past tense and participle form (e.g. *has \_\_\_\_\_*) of *creep*.
- 3 The use of indefinite forms in a negative sentence (e.g. *He didn't go anywhere/nowhere*).

*Vocabulary*

- 1 The use of the term *frying pan*, *skillet*, *spider*, etc.
- 2 The use of *ATM*, *bank machine*, *cash machine*, *guichet*.
- 3 Distinctions between different shades of purple in the color spectrum.

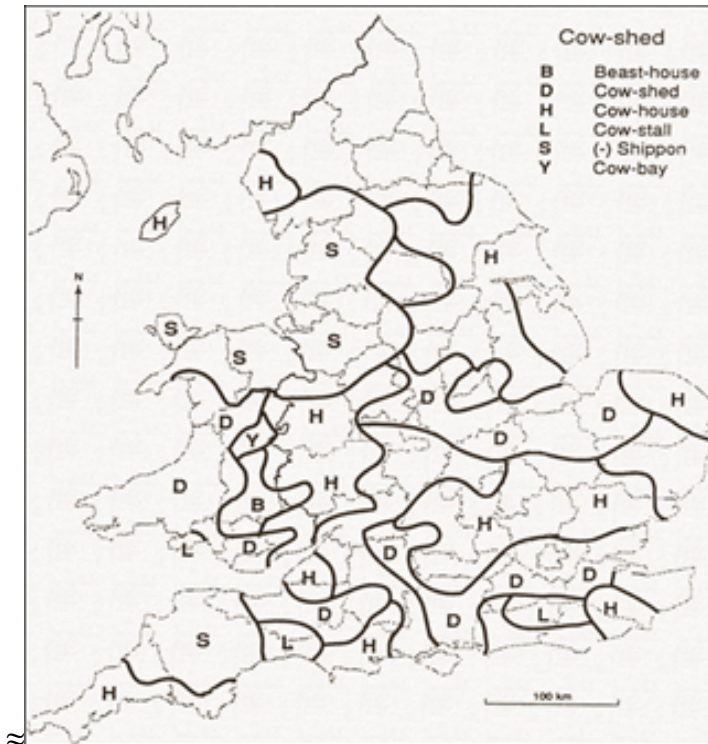
**Assignment 5.** What types of isoglosses appear in the following extracts from linguistic atlases?



**MAP A.**

The merger of /o/ and /oh/:  
invariant responses in  
production and perception

(Source: TELSUR Project,  
Linguistics Laboratory,  
University of Pennsylvania)



### MAP B.

The Regional Distribution of Some Names for 'cow-shed' in England and Wales

*beast-house; cow-shed; cow-house; cow-stall; shippon; cow-bay*

(Source: Parry D. *Grammar and Glossary of Anglo-Welsh Dialects* (1999).

#### Legend

B – beast-house;  
 D – cow-shed;  
 H – cow-house;  
 L – cow-stall;  
 S – (-) shippon;  
 Y – cow-bay

### Etymological information (Map B):

**BEAST** [ME < OF *beste* < L *bestia*] “1. an animal, esp. a large or dangerous four-footed one; 2. (usu. beasts) a domestic animal, esp. a bovine farm animal”;

**COW** [OE *cū* < Gmc (Du *koe*, Ger *Kuh*), L *bos*, Gr *bous* < PIE] “1. a fully grown female animal of a domesticated breed of ox, used as a source of milk or beef; 2. (loosely) a domestic bovine animal, regardless of sex or age; 3. (in farming) a female domestic bovine animal that has born more than one calf”;

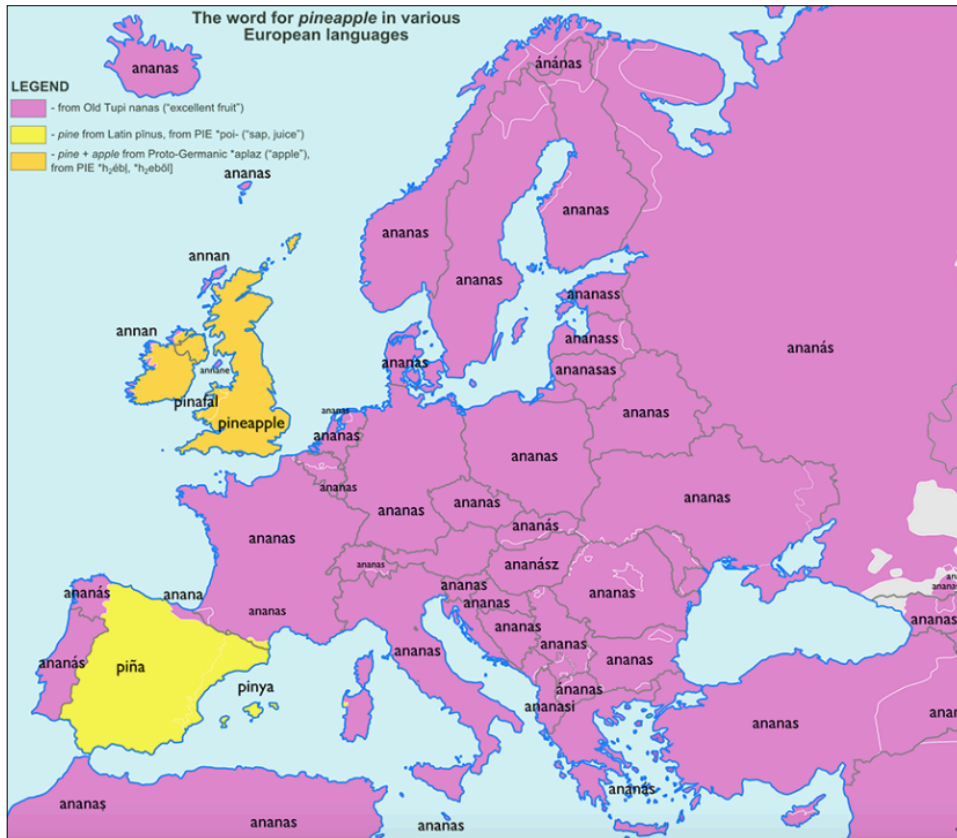
**HOUSE** [OE *hūs* (noun), *hūsan* (verb) < Gmc (Du *huis*, Ger *Haus* (nouns); Du *huizen*, Ger *hausen* (verbs))] “1. a building for human habitation, esp. one that is lived in by a family or small group of people. 2. (with adj.) a building in which animals live or in which things are kept”;

**SHED** [late 15th cent., apparently a variant of the noun *shade*] “1. a simple roofed structure, typically made of wood or metal, used as a storage space, a shelter for animals, or a workshop”;

**STALL** [OE *steall* ‘stable or cattle shed’ < Gmc (Du *stal*, *stand*. Early senses of the verb included ‘reside, dwell’ and ‘bring to a halt’] “1. a stand, booth, or compartment for the sale of goods in a market or large covered area; 2. an individual compartment for an animal in a stable or barn, enclosed on three sides”;

**SHIPPON** [OE *scypenf* (-ne/-na) ‘shippon, stall, cattle-shed’];

**BAY** [late ME < OF *baie* < *baer* ‘to gape’ ML *batare*, of unknown origin] “a recessed or enclosed area”.



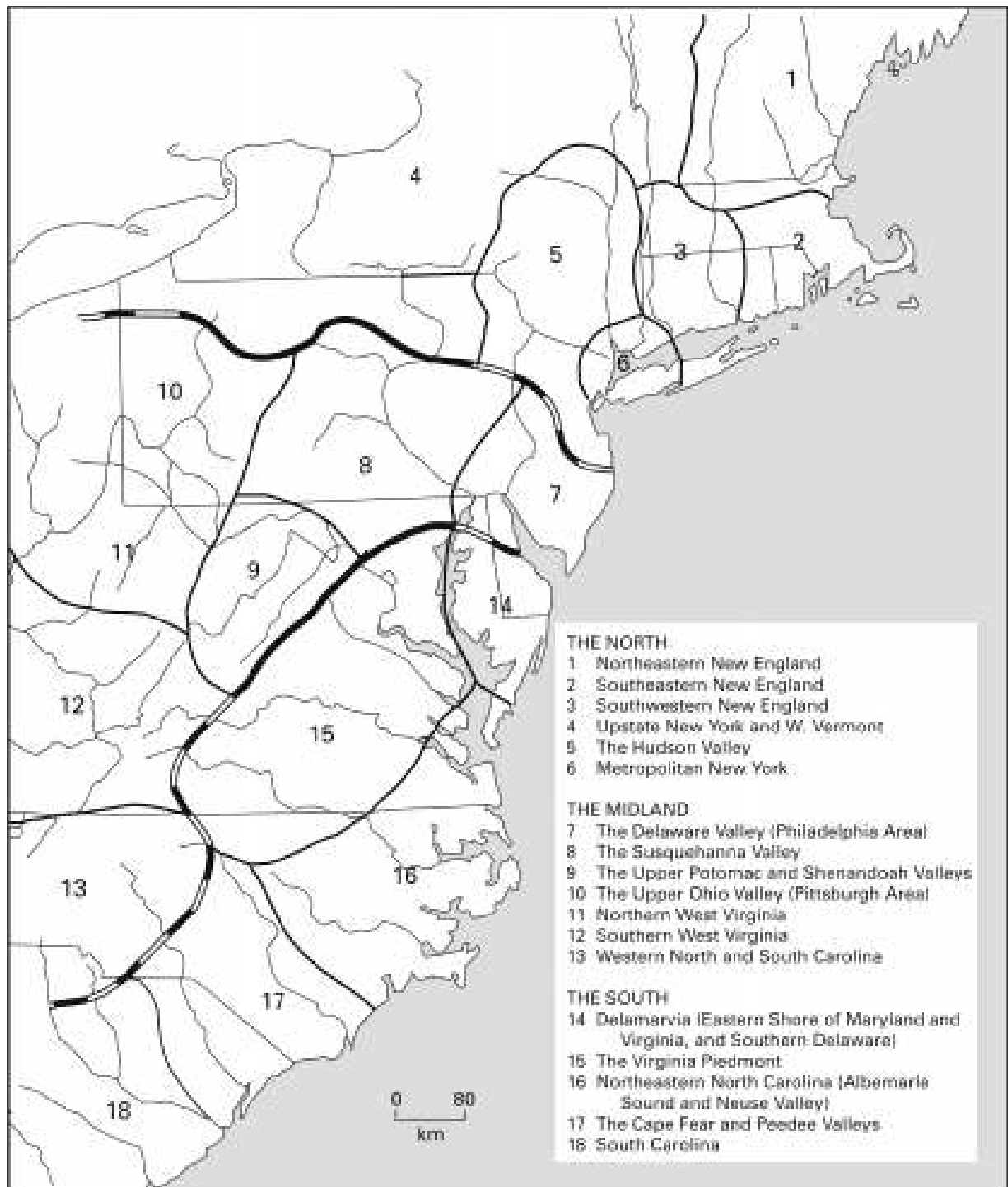
**MAP C.**

The word *pineapple* in various European Languages  
(Source: MAPPOR N)

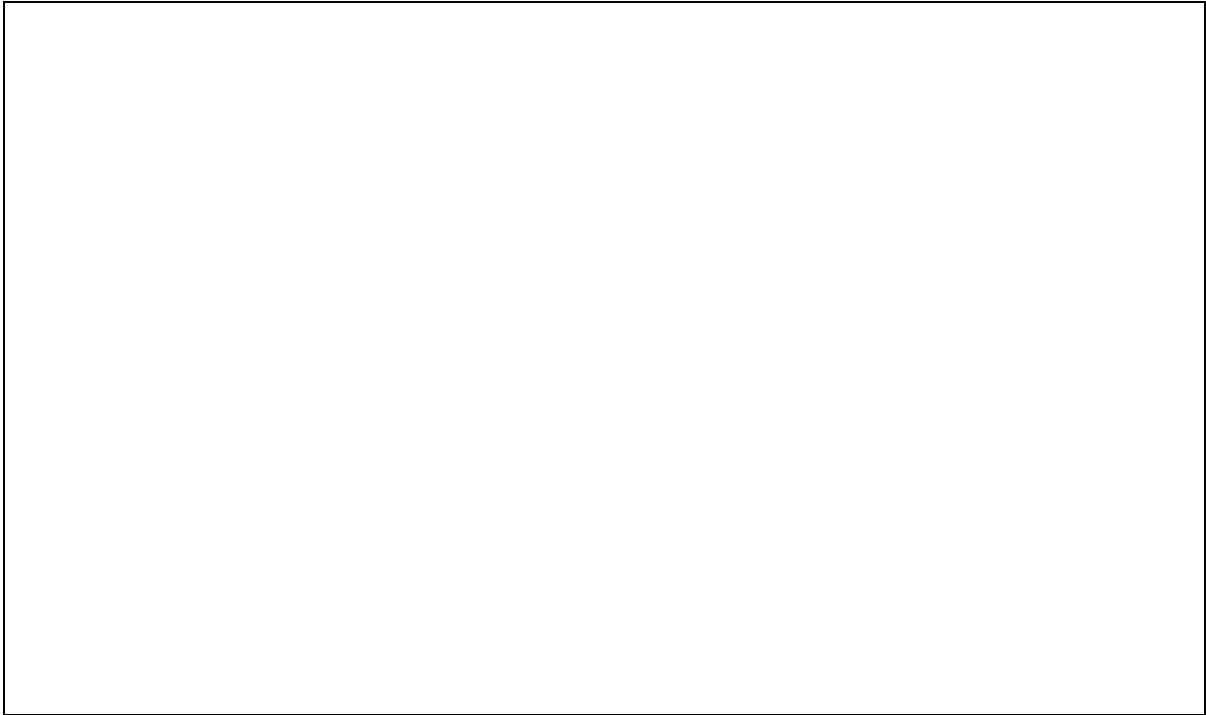
**Legend**

pink – *ananas* < Old Tupi *nanas* “excellent fruit”;  
 light yellow – *pine* from L. *pinus* < PIE \**poi-* “sap; juice”;  
 dark yellow – *pine-* + *-apple* < PGmc \**aplaz* “apple” < PIE \**ǎbel-*, \**ǎbōl-*, \**abel-* “apple” < PIE \**om-* (\**h<sub>2</sub>amel*) “raw; bitter; \*sweet”.

**Assignment 5.** There are different ways of dialect layering, i.e. the different variants for each item are plotted on a map in some fashion. In a classic example, it is a cartographic method, by which the distribution of a feature is charted on the geographical map. The other way of dialect layering is a vertical diagram (or a hierarchical tree). Study the map of dialect areas of the Eastern United States (*Linguistic Atlas*. Kurath 1949) and make a vertical diagram.

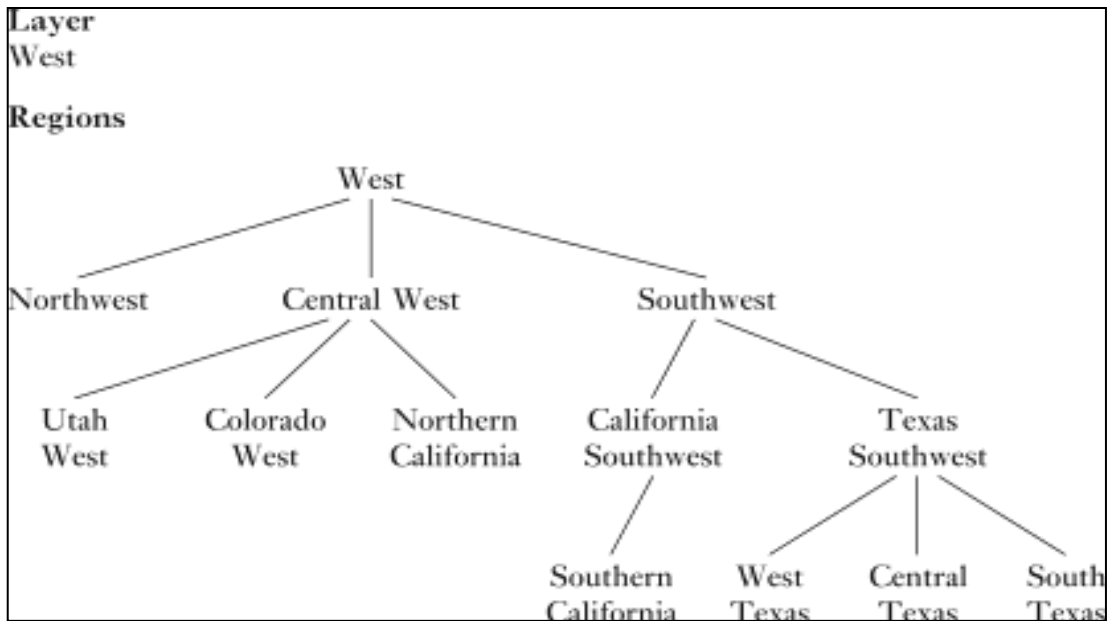


Dialect areas of the Eastern United States, based on *Linguistic Atlas* isoglosses (from Kurath 1949) (Source: Regional Variation in English SU.)



Vertical diagram of the dialect areas of the Eastern United States.

**Assignment 6.** Study the vertical diagram of US Western dialect layers which are presented in the form of a hierarchical tree. Make a cartographical laying on *Map of Dialect Regions*. Use *The Map of the Major Regional Dialects of American English* and *USA States Map* as prompts.



Dialect layering in the West, represented hierarchically  
(from Carver 1987: 243) (Source: Regional Variation on English SU.)





The map of the major regional dialects of American English (from *The Atlas of North American English*; *Source*: Sedivy, 2012)



USA States Map (*Source: emapsworld.com, 2010-2017*)



Map of dialect regions. Dialect layering in the Western United States

**Assignment 7.** Match the terms with their definitions (*Source: Hartmann, 2002: 118*): *regional dictionary*; *regional label*; *regional lexicography*; *regionalism*.

- (A) The term describes a particular (provincial or metropolitan) variety of a language. The entity it refers to can vary according to time and place, i.e. from early lists of colonial vocabulary used in some locality through the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, to the modern ‘national’ one codifying usage separately for each regional variant of the language. The term describes the type that overlaps with historical, period, and etymological categories.
- (B) The term is associated with a particular locality where a language is used. It may refer to features typical of a geographical dialect or topolect. The term appeals to such entities that are usually marked in general reference works by usage labels or become the subject of specialized regional reference works.
- (C) The term is used to denote a complex of activities concerned with the design, compilation, use and evaluation of a reference work focusing on regional component.
- (D) The term refers to marking the dialect or regional variety with which a linguistic unit is associated. Regional features are recorded in different and sometimes inconsistent ways, e.g. by associating the regional vocabulary with sub-standard usage. Such approach hence is sometimes criticized for relying on incomplete and out-of-date evidence. General dictionaries of English today tend to focus on ‘metropolitan’ regional

varieties rather than ‘provincial’ local dialects, e.g. American or U.S., British and Australian English.

**Assignment 8.** Write an essay (500 words) on the history of regional dialectology and the compilation of linguistic atlases.

**Recommended sources:**

- Crystal D. Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language / David Crystal. – Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 1995. – P. 26-27, 30-32.
- Hickey R. Variety studies [Electronic resource] / Raymond Hickey. – Access mode : <https://www.uni-due.de/ELE/VarietiesOfEnglish.pdf> . – P. 7-9.
- Labov W. The Atlas of North American English / William Labov. – Berlin, NY : Mouton de Gruyter, 2006. – P. 4–11.
- Linguistic Atlas Projects [Electronic resource] // LAP online. - Access mode : [http://www.lap.uga.edu/Site/Atlas\\_Projects.html](http://www.lap.uga.edu/Site/Atlas_Projects.html)

**Assignment 9.** Regional dictionaries are mirrors of common and regional features of the English-speaking cultures. Work through the following extracts from the dictionaries noting the type of regional content included into the dictionaries.

**THE CANADIAN OXFORD DICTIONARY**

**All You Need To Know**

Since it first appeared in 1998, *The Canadian Oxford Dictionary* has established a new authoritative standard for dictionaries in Canada, providing the most reliable information on English as it is used in Canada and around the world.

<p><b>Dictionary Features</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 130,000 entries</li><li>• Grammar information</li><li>• Over 23,000 illustrative examples</li><li>• Up-to-date coverage of new words</li><li>• Over 7,000 idioms</li><li>• Usage notes</li><li>• Word origins</li></ul>	<p><b>Canadian Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Every entry written from a Canadian point of view</li><li>• Entries based on an analysis of over 20 million words of Canadian text</li><li>• 2,000 Canadian words and senses</li><li>• 500 Canadian regionalisms</li><li>• Over 1,200 Canadian place names</li><li>• Biographies of over 800 Canadians</li><li>• Canadian spelling and pronunciation</li><li>• Over 300 entries pertaining to Canadian Aboriginal peoples and their cultures</li><li>• Canadian fauna and flora</li></ul>
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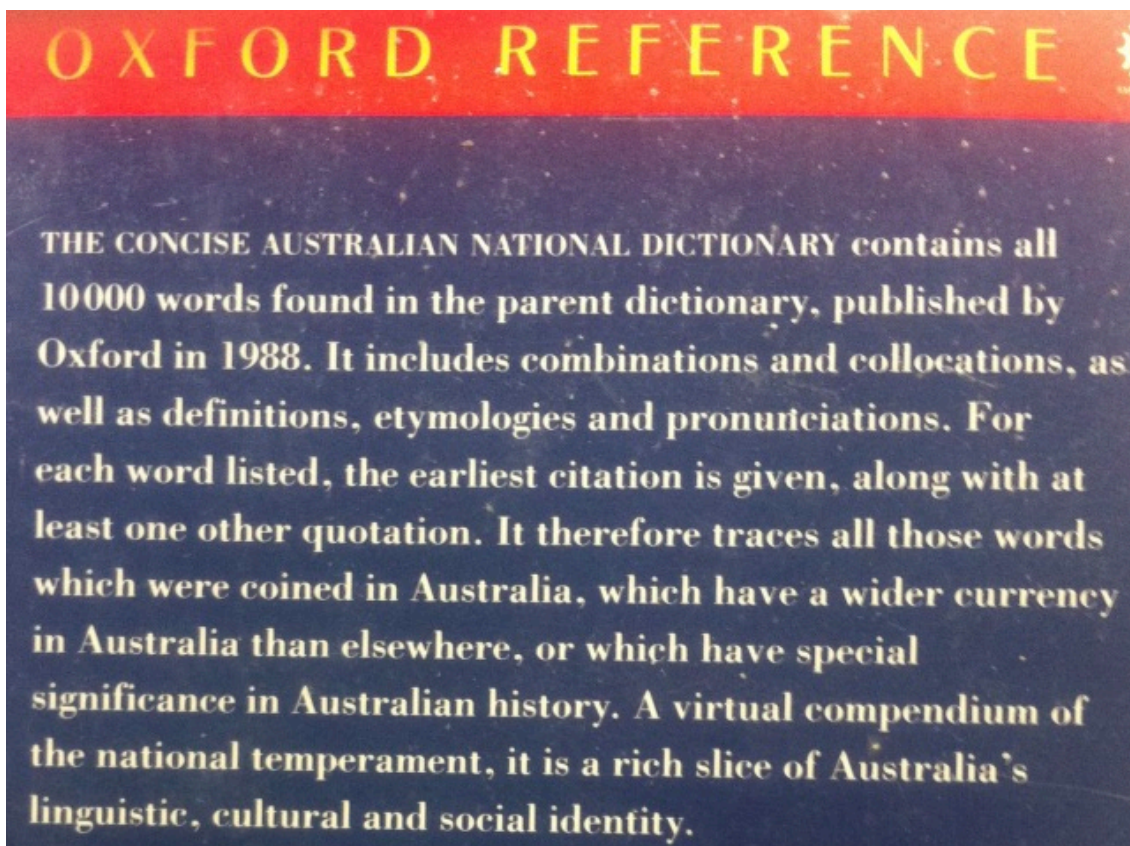
**Encyclopedic Element**

- 6,000 place names
- 6,000 biographies
- Over 300 mythological figures
- Over 400 entries for historical events

*Source:* The Canadian Oxford Dictionary, ed. by Katherine Barber. Oxford, New York : Oxford University Press, 2001



Source: The Dictionary of New Zealand English / A Dictionary of New Zealandisms on Historical Principles, ed. by H. W. Orsman. Auckland : Oxford University Press, 1997



Source: The Concise Australian National Dictionary, ed. by J. Hughes. Melbourne : Oxford University Press, 1992.

✦ **Assignment 10.** Make up a glossary of the following terms: *expectation isoglosses (bundle)*; *focal and transitional isoglosses*; *isogloss*; *reality isoglosses (criss-cross)*; *relic feature*.