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Bernie Nordman: A Duluth girl and the harsh reality of Montana Not-So-Nice

They don't use the phrase "Minnesota Nice" in Montana. Maybe it's because they are of rough stock from settling the West. Maybe they are just clueless. In any case, it's best to forget you ever knew what it is once you get to Montana.

By: **Bernie Nordman**, Budgeteer News

I am originally from Gary-New Duluth. About six years ago,

I decided to avoid the rush and have a midlife crisis a bit early. What better place to go than balmy Billings, Mont.? In hindsight, there were better places to go — however, Billings is where I landed.

This is my little story of culture shock upon arrival to the Big Sky State.

For a girl used to "Minnesota Nice," I was in for a rude awakening. They don't use the phrase in Montana. Maybe it's because they are of rough stock from settling the West. Maybe they are just



Nordman



Former Duluthian Bernadette "Bernie" Nordman now lives in the great state of Montana, but we don't hold that against

When you go visiting in Minnesota, you're offered something to drink or eat before you even have your coat off: "What can I get you? I just put on a fresh pot of coffee. Try one of my new bars." Hosts try to ply you with something to drink your entire visit. If your coffee cup is half empty, someone is filling it up for ya.

In Montana? Not so much. When I first visited someone in Montana, I was in for an eye opener. I wasn't offered even a sip of water the whole visit. I understand now that in Montana people feel that if you want something to drink or eat, you will ask for it. Minnesotans would rather die of dehydration than trouble someone for something to drink. I tried mental telepathy by looking at them and thinking, Water ... please, just a sip of water.

It didn't work. Maybe I didn't appear quite parched enough for anyone to notice.

Another stark contrast is the way that Montanans say goodbye. In Minnesota, it takes 45 minutes or more to execute a proper goodbye. More drink and food must be offered. “Do you want some more coffee? A 10-course meal? Some Jell-O, maybe?”

Then there is a dance to the door. The guests try to leave and the hosts keep talking and offering another bite to eat. They finally make it to the car with the hosts following them out. More offers of drink and food. Finally, a honk of the horn as they leave the driveway and the goodbye is complete.

It’s a process, I tell you — one that I’m used to and enjoy.

You may have guessed that a goodbye in Montana is not the same. When my fiancé Roy and I had his brother out for dinner, I learned about a Montana goodbye. When he arrived, I pounced on him, offering coffee and bars. He took a step back from me. I think he was afraid, but too polite to say no. Of course, I kept offering him drink and food all night. About a half hour after dinner, he stood up and said, “Thank you for dinner. Goodbye.” — and then he just left!

I sat there in shock. I peppered Roy with questions: “Didn’t he like me? What did I do wrong?” Roy looked at me as if I had three heads and replied, “What? He was done eating and he said goodbye and left.”

At that point, Roy had his first lesson in Minnesota Goodbyes 101. Once I explained what a proper goodbye consisted of, he understood why I was so upset. He tried to reassure me that everything went fine. I didn’t feel much better, though.

A month or so later, Roy got a book about the nuances of being Minnesotan and read the whole thing, twice. He said that he wanted to be ready when he went to visit my folks.

He thought that the book exaggerated a lot. I warned him that it wasn’t too far off. He got to see how it worked when we went back home to meet my parents.

But that’s a whole different story.

Public release date: 12-Jan-2010
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[Carnegie Mellon University](#)

Carnegie Mellon scientists crack brain's codes for noun meanings

Identifying thoughts through brain codes leads to deciphering the brain's dictionary

Two hundred years ago, archaeologists used the Rosetta Stone to understand the ancient Egyptian scrolls. Now, a team of Carnegie Mellon University scientists has discovered the beginnings of a neural Rosetta Stone. By combining brain imaging and machine learning techniques, neuroscientists Marcel Just and Vladimir Cherkassky and computer scientists Tom Mitchell and Sandesh Aryal determined how the brain arranges noun representations. Understanding how the brain codes nouns is important for treating psychiatric and neurological illnesses.

"In effect, we discovered how the brain's dictionary is organized," said Just, the D.O. Hebb Professor of Psychology and director of the Center for Cognitive Brain Imaging. "It isn't alphabetical or ordered by the sizes of objects or their colors. It's through the three basic features that the brain uses to define common nouns like apartment, hammer and carrot."

As the researchers report today in the journal *PLoS One*, the three codes or factors concern basic human fundamentals: (1) how you physically interact with the object (how you hold it, kick it, twist it, etc.); (2) how it is related to eating (biting, sipping, tasting, swallowing); and (3) how it is related to shelter or enclosure. The three factors, each coded in three to five different locations in the brain, were found by a computer algorithm that searched for commonalities among brain areas in how participants responded to 60 different nouns describing physical objects. For example, the word apartment evoked high activation in the five areas that code shelter-related words.

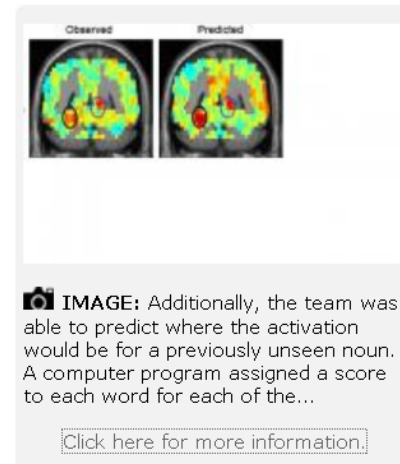


IMAGE: Additionally, the team was able to predict where the activation would be for a previously unseen noun. A computer program assigned a score to each word for each of the...

[Click here for more information.](#)



Carnegie Mellon Scientists Crack Brain's Codes for Noun Meanings..

EurekAlert (12 January 2010)

**". . . the three codes or factors concern basic
human fundamentals:**

**(1) how you physically interact with the
object
(how you hold it, kick it, twist it, etc.);**

**(2) how it is related to eating
(biting, sipping, tasting, swallowing);**

and

(3) how it is related to shelter or enclosure."

How Do We Understand Written Language? -- EurekAlert
(16 December 2009)

Boys Will Be Boys When It Comes to Toys -- NewScientist

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Preserving indigenous culture, on our terms

David Treuer, Washington Post

Published Friday, April 11, 2008

LEECH LAKE, Minn. — I am not supposed to be alive. Native Americans were supposed to die off, as endangered species do, a century ago. And so it is with great discomfort that I am forced, in many ways, to live and write as a ghost in this haunted American house.

We stubbornly continue to exist. There were just more than 200,000 Native Americans alive at the turn of the 20th century; as of the last census, we number more than 2 million. If you discount immigration, we are probably the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. population. But even as our populations are growing, something else, I fear, is dying: our cultures.

While many things go into making a culture — kinship, history, religion, place — the disappearance of our languages suggests that our cultures may not be here for much longer.

For now, many Native American languages still exist, but most of them just barely, with only a handful of surviving speakers, all of them old. On Jan. 21, Marie Smith Jones, the last living fluent speaker of Eyak, one of about 20 remaining Native

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For now, many Native American languages still exist, but most of them just barely, with only a handful of surviving speakers, all of them old. On Jan. 21, Marie Smith Jones, the last living fluent speaker of Eyak, one of about 20 remaining Native Alaskan languages, died at the age of 89. Linguists estimate that when Europeans first came to this continent, more than 300 Native American languages were spoken in North America. Today, there are only about 100.

Cultures change, of course. But at some point, a culture ceases to be a culture and becomes an ethnicity — that is, it changes from a life system that develops its own terms into one that borrows, almost completely, someone else's.

My favorite example of this difference was the question posed to an Ojibwe man by the Indian agent whose job it was to put him down on the treaty rolls. "Who are you?" the Ojibwe was asked, through an interpreter. "Oshkinawe nindaw eta [Only a young man]," he replied, puzzled. The Indian agent took it down, and the Ojibwe man's family still bears his Anglicized response, "Skinaway." The Ojibwe man had no thoughts, really, about himself as an Indian or as an individual. The question — Who are you? — didn't even make much sense to him because the terms of identity didn't make any sense to him; they were not his terms. Nowadays, unlike Skinaway, many of us have come to rely on ways of describing ourselves that aren't ours to begin with.

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“If They’re Lost, Who Are We?”

David Treuer

Washington Post, Sunday, April 6, 2008

Our cultures and our languages — as unique, identifiable and particular entities — are linked to our sovereignty. If we allow our own wishful thinking and complacency to finish what George Armstrong Custer began, we will lose what we’ve managed to retain: our languages, land, laws, institutions, ceremonies and, finally, ourselves. And to claim that Indian cultures can continue without Indian languages only hastens our end, even if it makes us feel better about ourselves.

A spiral-bound notebook with a light beige, textured cover. The metal spiral binding is on the left side. The word "Communication" is printed in a large, bold, black sans-serif font in the center of the cover.

Communication

If you can read this, you have a strange mind too.

Can you read this? Only 55 people out of 100 can.

I couldn't believe that I could actually understand what I was reading. The phenomenal power of the human mind, according to a research at Cambridge University, it doesn't matter in what order the letters in a word are, the only important thing is that the first and last letter be in the right place. The rest can be a total mess and you can still read it without a problem. This is because the human mind does not read every letter by itself, but the word as a whole. Amazing huh? Yeah and I always thought spelling was important! if you can read this forward it.

Communication

- **Synchronic (structural) linguistics**
- **Diachronic (historical) linguistics**
- **Sociolinguistics / Psycholinguistics**
- **Kinesics / Proxemics**

Communication

- **Synchronic (structural) linguistics**
- **Synchronic (functional) linguistics**
- **Diachronic (historical) linguistics**

- **Sociolinguistics / Psycholinguistics**

- **Kinesics / Proxemics**

Communication

Ken Livingston, mayor of London England, indicated that there were over 300 languages spoken in London.

(Following the terrorist attack of July 2005).



There are approximately 200 nations in the world

- **193 according to *The Times World Atlas* (2004)
+ Kosovo (2008)
(*Understanding Global Cultures*)**

Linguistics

- **Synchronic (structural) linguistics**
 - **“How is language structured?”**
 - **“How does language work?”**
(function / functional analysis)

Linguistics

- **Diachronic (historical) linguistics**
 - **“How did language get that way?”**
 - **“How does language change?”**

Linguistics

- **Sociolinguistics / Psycholinguistics**
 - **“How does language fit into society?”**
 - **“How does language work in the mind?”**
 - **How does language relate to one’s thought pattern?**
 - **How does language relate to one’s personality?**

Linguistics

- **Sociolinguistics / Psycholinguistics**
 - **“How does language fit into society?”**

A photograph of the Angkor Wat temple complex in Cambodia, featuring several prominent stone towers with tiered spires. The scene is captured during sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden light. Palm trees are scattered throughout the landscape, and their reflections are visible in a body of water in the foreground. The text is overlaid in white, centered on the image.

“The Cambodians have some two hundred ways of describing rice of various kinds and at different stages of growth and preparation.

Pym, Christopher. *The Ancient Civilization of Angkor*.
NY: The New American Library, 1968, p. 66.

Japan's Killer Work Ethic

Toyota Engineer's Family Awarded Compensation

By *Blaine Harden*

Washington Post Foreign Service
Sunday, July 13, 2008; Page A12

TOKYO -- Death from too much work is so commonplace in Japan that there is a word for it -- karoshi.

There is a national karoshi hotline, a karoshi self-help book and a law that funnels money to the widow and children of a salaryman (it's almost always a man) who works himself into an early karoshi for the good of his company.

A local Japanese government agency ruled June 30 for the widow and children of a 45-year-old Toyota chief engineer who died in 2006.

While organizing the worldwide manufacture of a hybrid version of the Camry sedan, the man had worked nights and weekends and often traveled abroad -- putting in up to 114 hours of overtime a month -- in the six months before he died in his bed of heart failure.

The cause of death was too much work, according to a ruling by the Labor Bureau of Aichi prefecture, where



An exhausted salaryman rides a commuter train in Tokyo. Death from too much work has been a problem for decades, and the Japanese government has been largely unsuccessful in its efforts to set limits on work hours. (By Blaine Harden -- The Washington Post)

Communication

- **Kenistics / Proxemics**
 - “body language”

Communication

- **Synchronic (structural) Linguistics**
 - **Phonemics**
 - **Phonetics**
 - **Morphemics**
 - **Syntax**
 - **Semantics**
- **Diachronic (historical) linguistics**
- **Sociolinguistics / Psycholinguistics**
- **Kinesics / Proxemics**

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **Phonemics** (phonology)
 - **the study of basic sound units**
 - **phoneme = the smallest sound unit of a language**
 - **rarely are there more than 45 or 50**

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **Phonetics**

- **the analysis of phonemes, the basic sound units**

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **Morphemics**

- **the study of the basic units of language structure**

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **free morphemes**

- **can stand alone**

- **work**

- **run**

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **bound morphemes**

- **can not stand alone**

- **-er**

- **-ing**

- **-s**



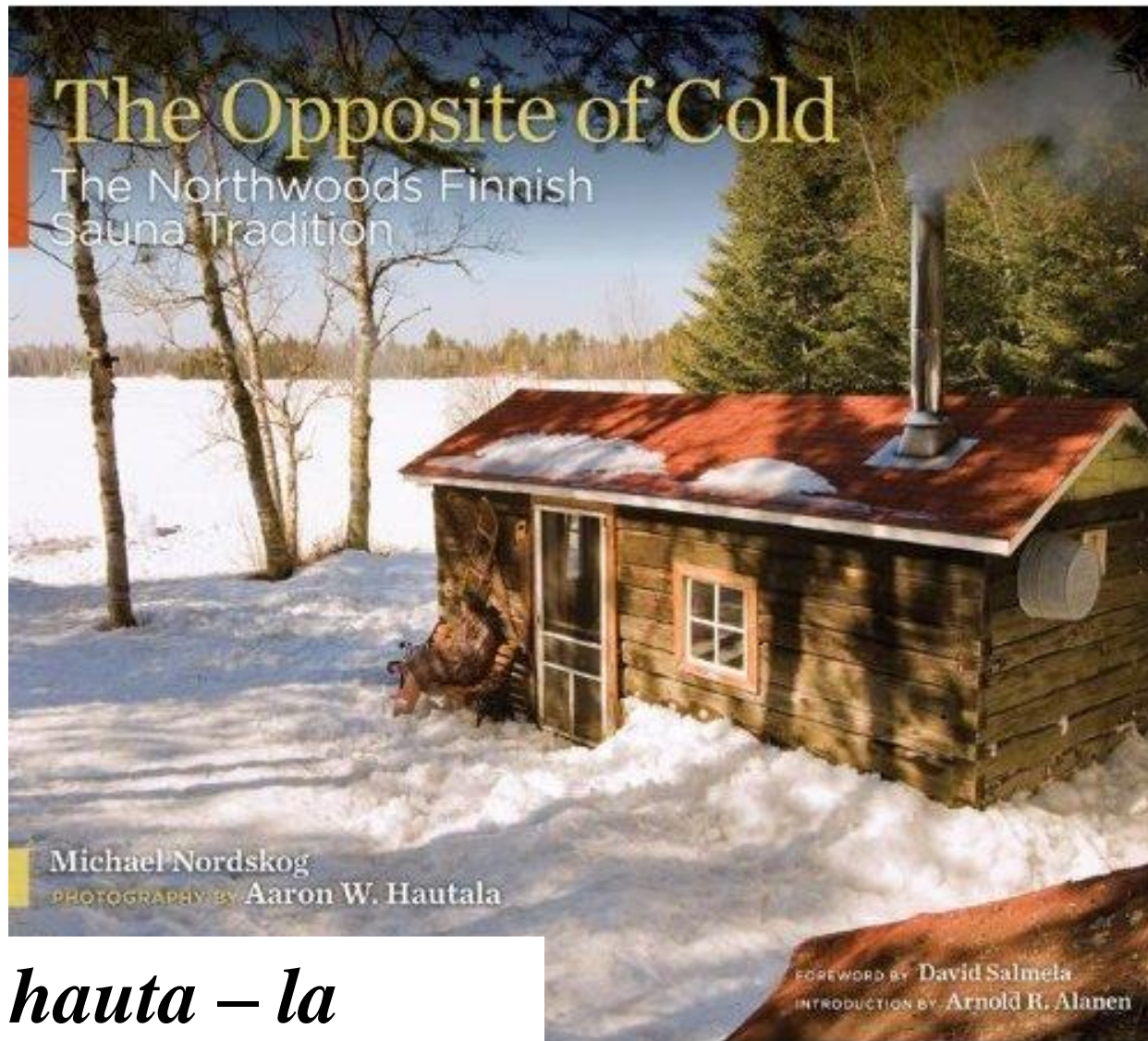
- er



teach



teach - er



hautala – *la*
“grave” – “place”

University of Minnesota Press, 2010

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **Syntax**

- **the arrangement of elements in phrases and sentences**

- ***Cogito ergo sum***

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **Syntax**

- **English has a fairly ridged structure**

- **“John and Mary went to the movies.”**

- *** “John went to the movies to Mary and.”**

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **Syntax**

- **When a language is more dependent on morphology, syntax may relax**

- **e.g., *Canis ursum videt***

- (the dog sees the bear)

- can be in any position**

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **Syntax**

- **When a language is more dependent on morphology, syntax may relax**

- **e.g., *Timeus ursum videt***

(Tim sees the bear)

can be in any position





(14 August 2006)



(02 August 2007)

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **Semantics**

- **the study of meaning**
- **is the most difficult aspect to investigate**
 - **psycholinguistics**

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **Semantics**

- **meanings are not as fixed as syntax and morphemes**

CONTEXT is often critical in understanding meaning

Just as CONTEXT is sometimes critical in understanding vision and other things

- **close-up of monastery tiles**
- **image in the mirror**
- **close-up of crab dish on buffet table**
- **...**

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **Semantics**

- meanings are not as fixed as syntax and morphemes

- “head” of state
 - “head” of person
 - “head” of a nail
 - “head” of a street
 - “head” of a class
 - “head” of a glass of beer
 - “let’s *head* out of here”
 - “head” for sailors

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **Semantics**

- **More non-head “heads”**

- **“Let’s ‘head’ north.”**

- **“Head” strong**

- **“‘Heads’ up the boss is arriving!”**

- **“Headway”**

- **Newspaper “Heading” and
“Headline”**

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **Semantics**

- **More non-head “heads”**

- **“Heading” south by southeast**
 - **“Head” of the family**
 - **“Head” start**
 - **“‘Head’ `em out.”**
 - **“Headwind”**
 - **“‘Head’ `em off at the pass!”**

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **Semantics**

- **More non-head “heads”**

- **“Heading”**
 - **“Head” a committee**
 - **“Tiger Woods is ‘ahead’”**
 - **“Headlight”**
 - **“Head Light”**

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **Semantics**

- **More non-head “heads”**

- **“Headquarters”**

- **A quarter’s “head”**

- **“The pimple came to a ‘head.’”**

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **Semantics**

- **More non-head “heads”**

- **A “doubleheader”**
 - **“Headlong”**
 - **“Headliner” (show biz)**
 - **“Head liner” (automobile)**

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **Semantics**

- **More non-head “heads”**

- **“Headhunter” (a job)**
 - **“Head” hunter (does a job)**
 - **“Head” hunter (“chief”)**
 - **Getting “ahead”**
 - **Getting a “head”**

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **Semantics**

- **More non-head “heads”**

- “Headhunter” (a job)
 - “Head” hunter (does a job)
 - “Head” hunter (“chief”)
 - Getting “ahead”
 - Getting a “head”

**The head headhunter
got ahead to get a head.**

Linguistics

- **Diachronic (historical) linguistics**
 - **the study of language across time**
 - **the study of language change using formal methods that compare shifts over time and across space in formal aspects of language such as phonetics, grammar, and semantics**

Diachronic (Historical) Linguistics

- **Meanings Change**

- **Narrowing**
- **Widening**
- **Degeneration**
- **Elevation**
- **Metaphor**

Diachronic (Historical) Linguistics

- **Narrowing** -- the meaning of a form becomes more restricted in scope
 - *meat* from Old English *mete* (food)
 - *garage* from a French word denoting any storage place
 - *deer* from Old English *dëor* (beast)



Diachronic (Historical) Linguistics

- **Widening** -- the meaning is enlarged
 - *barn* from Old English *bern* (a storage place for barley)
 - brand names
 - Victrola
 - Frigidaire
 - Xerox
 - Google (verb)
 - Photoshop (verb)



**Do you know of a term that denotes the passing of a trademarked word, like zipper, into common usage?
—Robert Schwartz, Lexington, Mass.**

An **“eponym”** is a proper name used generically. In the past, eponyms usually came from the names of people. Now they include once-trademarked names of brands, such as “aspirin” “escalator” and “thermos.”

Readers may be surprised to learn that the following are active trademarks and not generic: Dumpster, Frisbee, Jeep, Kleenex, Ping-Pong, Popsicle and Windbreaker. (30 March 2008)

Diachronic (Historical) Linguistics

- **Degeneration** -- a form takes an unfavorable meaning, or one which is improper or obscene
 - *knave* from Old English *cnafa* ("boy, servant")
 - *madam* (keeper of brothel) from honorific *madam*

Diachronic (Historical) Linguistics

- **Elevation** -- the meaning of a form rises in the social scale, losing an earlier significance
 - *knight* from Old English *cniht* ("servant, young disciple")
 - *marshal* from an older French word meaning "a caretaker of horses (mares)"

Duluth to change parks scheduling procedure after wedding snafu

Will Ashenmacher Duluth News Tribune

Published Friday, June 27, 2008

The city of Duluth Parks and Recreation Department is vowing to improve how it handles park reservations after a scheduling mistake meant a wedding scheduled for Saturday had to be moved at the last minute.

Rachel Pecchia and Brett Bennett made reservations Oct. 3 to celebrate their wedding this weekend in Duluth's Leif Erikson Park. Between 250 and 280 guests were expected to attend.

But four days before the wedding, Pecchia's mother, Mary Spah, found out another wedding had scheduled the same park for the same time and that Pecchia and Bennett would have to move their reception elsewhere, according to an e-mail Spah sent to Duluth Mayor Don Ness and Duluth city councilors.

Spah had been alerted by a party-rental

Diachronic (Historical) Linguistics

- **metaphor**-- an earlier metaphorical or marginal meaning becomes nuclear
 - *pen* from Latin *penna* (feather)

Linguistics

- **Sociolinguistics**

- **approach that says that culture and society and a person's social position determine the content and form of language**
- **a field of study devoted to revealing such social effects on language**

Parallel from Linguistics



Smithwick

“Smíth-wick”

(Duluth)

“Smidt-whick”

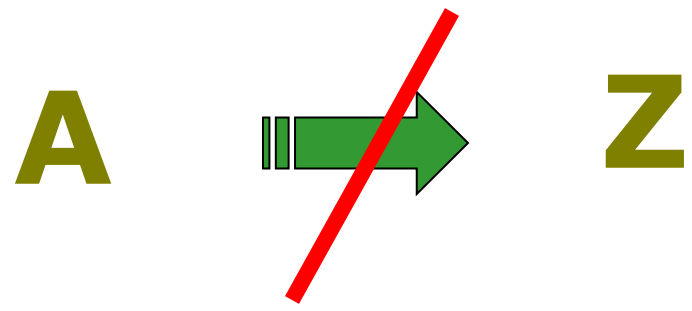
(Galway, Ireland)

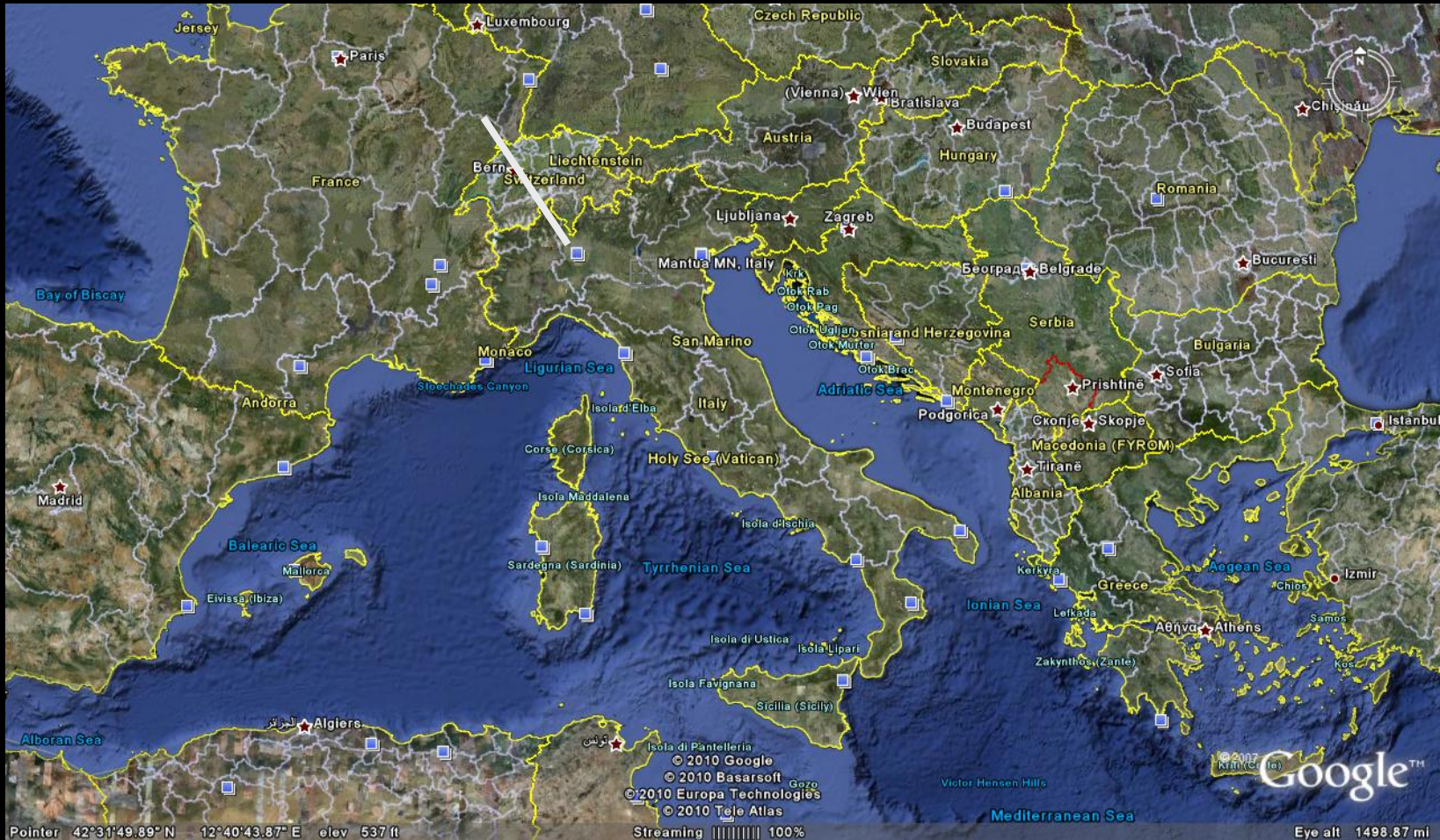
“Smédik”

(Birmingham, England)

“Smærík”

(Smithwick, England)





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American Tongues

Produced and Directed by Louis Alvarez and Andrew Kolker | 56 minutes Standard Version, 40 minutes High School Version

Winner of the George Foster Peabody Award.

Southerners talk too slowly. New Yorkers are rude. New Englanders don't say much at all. Anybody who lives in the U.S. knows the clichés about how people in the various parts of the country handle the English language. *American Tongues* is the first documentary to explore the impact of these linguistic attitudes in a fresh and exciting manner.

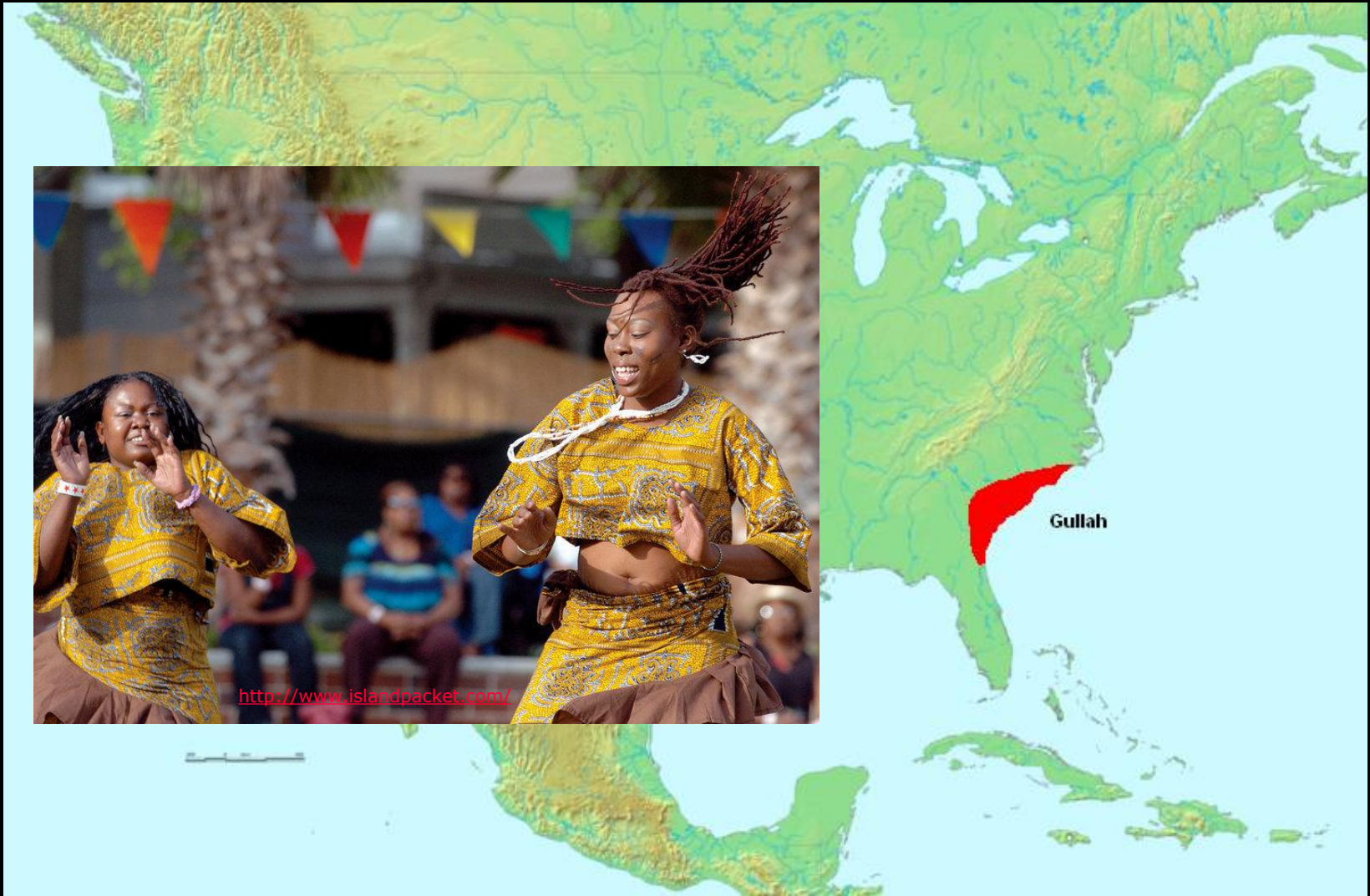
For over ten years *American Tongues* has entertained and educated audiences from the high school level on up. It is in use in thousands of colleges, universities, corporate training offices, military installations, TESL classes, and other institutions. *American Tongues* has been

order me !

"The perfect example of a film that begins with a simple-enough subject and expands it seductively. It's enthralling!"

Los Angeles Times

"The best



The Gullah region once extended from SE North Carolina to NE Florida.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gullah>

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Last Updated: Saturday, 3 July, 2004, 12:30 GMT 13:30 UK

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Actor Cosby hits out at language

Black actor Bill Cosby has criticised young African-Americans for the use of "profane" language.



Cosby said he was not criticising all African-Americans

The Cosby Show star said some younger people were embracing what he said amounted to a damaging educational gap.

Addressing a black civil rights conference, Cosby attacked "curse" words that he said were used by some black men in the US.

Defending criticism of similar comments in May, he said his accusers were trying to hide "dirty laundry".

"I'm talking about profanity. I'm talking about people cursing at each other," Cosby told his audience in Chicago.

'Going nowhere'

"Let me tell you something, your dirty laundry gets out of school at 2.30 every day, it's cursing... as they're walking up and down the street.

"They think they're hip. They can't read, they can't write. They're laughing and giggling, and they're going nowhere," he said.

SEE ALSO:

- [Acting life of Cosby star Rashad](#)
- 07 Jun 04 | Arts

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Ebonics

The ebonics issue has been so discussed amongst linguists, and is being used in so many sociolinguistics classes, that LINGUIST has decided to collect all information it has on ebonics in one place. We hope it will be helpful to the academic community.

**"HF2652, filed today by Rep. Steve
Drazkowski, R-Greenfield
Township . . . designates English
as the official language of
Minnesota,
whose state motto is
'L'etoile du Nord.'"**

-- JB Anderson
13 February 2008

Wisconsin county adopts English as its official language

Bitter debate exposes discomfort of increasingly diverse community

BY JODI WILGOREN
NEW YORK TIMES

GREEN BAY, Wis. — One legislator called the resolution the "least significant document" to cross his desk in a decade on the Brown County Board of Supervisors. Yet Nancy Nusbaum, the county executive, said it would most likely prompt her first veto in 15 years.

The resolution, making

English the official language of county government here, has no practical impact — the county translates documents and provides interpreters only when required by federal law. But the symbolic effects have already torn through this fast-changing community in weeks of angry debate.

"Either you just don't get it, or you just don't care," Kevin Kuehn, a supervisor who opposed the resolution, told his colleagues before the bitterly

divided board voted 17-8 Wednesday night in favor of the resolution. "Is it that you don't understand? Is it that you have fear? Or is it a racist act? Because I don't understand what else it can be."

In passing the resolution, which also calls on the state and federal governments to pay for English classes for immigrants, Brown County joins at least 11 other Wisconsin counties, and 27 states, that have adopted English as their official language. Though the movement has gained strength in recent years as part of a backlash against

growing numbers of immigrants, it has taken on particular force since Sept. 11, fueled by patriotic fervor and fears about an uncertain economy.

"English has been the most important unifier of our country for the last 200 years — it's a symbol of being American, right up there with the flag, 'The Star Spangled Banner,' the Pledge of Allegiance," said Valerie Rheinstein, a spokeswoman for U.S. English, a Washington group that advocates such resolutions.

"You're free to come here, and you're free to make a life

for yourself, but you're also free to leave," Rheinstein said. "You're coming here to be an American. Being an American means you're going to have to speak English."

In Green Bay, the battle over the English resolution has exposed the discomfort that quietly accompanied the shift from a largely homogeneous town united in devotion to the Packers football team to a community where Hmong farmers pick cilantro and onions in community gardens and Mexican flags flap

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Duluth News Tribune, Sunday, July 21, 2002, pp. 1C, 2C

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Kenneth G. Wilson (1923–). The Columbia Guide to Standard American English. 1993.

you-all, y'all

Question:

**What is the plural
of “y’all”
in the Texas hill country?**

monster



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you-all, y'all

Answer:

“ all y'all ”

monster



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Communication

- **Kinesics / Proxemics**

Communication

- **Kenisics / Proxemics**

- “body language”

- motion and gestures

Communication

- **Kinesics**

- **the study of communication that occurs through body movements, positions, and facial expressions**

Communication

- **Kenistics / Proxemics**

- **“body language”**
 - **using personal space**

Communication

- **Proxemics**

- **the study of communication that occurs through spatial behavior**

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **Phonemics (phonology)**

- **the study of basic sound units**

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **Phonemics (phonology)**

- **phone = “sound”**

- **telephone**

- **megaphone**

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **Phonemics (phonology)**

- **there are classes of sounds**

- **stopped**
- **nasalized**
- **continued (“sibilate”)**
- **Trilled**
- **clicks**

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **Phonemics (phonology)**

- **some languages have only a few basic sounds**
 - e.g., Hawaiian
- **others have many more**
 - e.g., Kwakiutl
- **rarely are there more than 45 or 50**

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **Phonemics (phonology)**

- **sounds in language follow a pattern**

- **Tzotzil : Tzeltal**

- **Bangu : Ngbatu**

- **click sounds: !Kung**

- **? in *Anishinabe* (Chippewa)**

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **Phonemics (phonology)**
 - **sounds are conventionally divided into vowels and consonants**
 - **no language uses all of the possible phonemes**

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- “minimal pair”

- two “utterances” (words) that differ in only one sound

- **pit / bit**

- unvoiced / voiced

- **these / those**

- unvoiced / voiced

Communication

- **Synchronic (structural) Linguistics**
 - **Phonemics**
 - **Phonetics**
 - **Morphemics**
 - **Syntax**
 - **Semantics**
- **Diachronic (historical) linguistics**
- **Sociolinguistics / Psycholinguistics**
- **Kinesics / Proxemics**

Communication

- **Synchronic (structural) Linguistics**
 - Phonemics
 - Phonetics
 - Morphemics
 - Syntax
 - **Semantics**
- **Diachronic (historical) linguistics**
- **Sociolinguistics / Psycholinguistics**
- **Kinesics / Proxemics**

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **Semantics**

- **meanings are not as fixed as syntax and morphemes**

- “head” of state
- “head” of person
- “head” of a nail
- “head” of a street
- “head” of a class
- “head” of a glass of beer
- “let’s *‘head’* out of here”
- “head” for sailors

Synchronic (structural) linguistics

- **Semantics**

- meanings are not as fixed as syntax and morphemes

CONTEXT is often critical in understanding meaning

Just as CONTEXT is sometimes critical in understanding vision and other things

- image in the mirror
- close-up of monastery tiles
- close-up of crab dish on buffet table
- ...

Communication

- **Synchronic (structural) linguistics**
- **Diachronic (historical) linguistics**
- **Kinesics / Proxemics**
- **Sociolinguistics / Psycholinguistics**

Communication

- **Synchronic (structural) linguistics**
- **Synchronic (functional) linguistics**
- **Diachronic (historical) linguistics**

- **Sociolinguistics / Psycholinguistics**
- **Semantics (meaning)**
- **Kinesics / Proxemics**