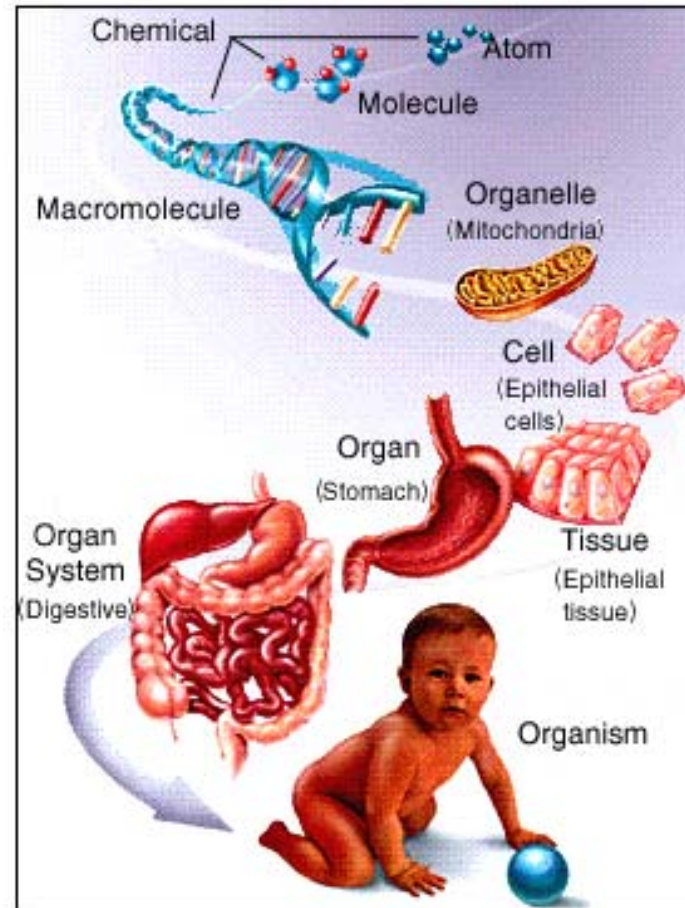


Levels of Dialect

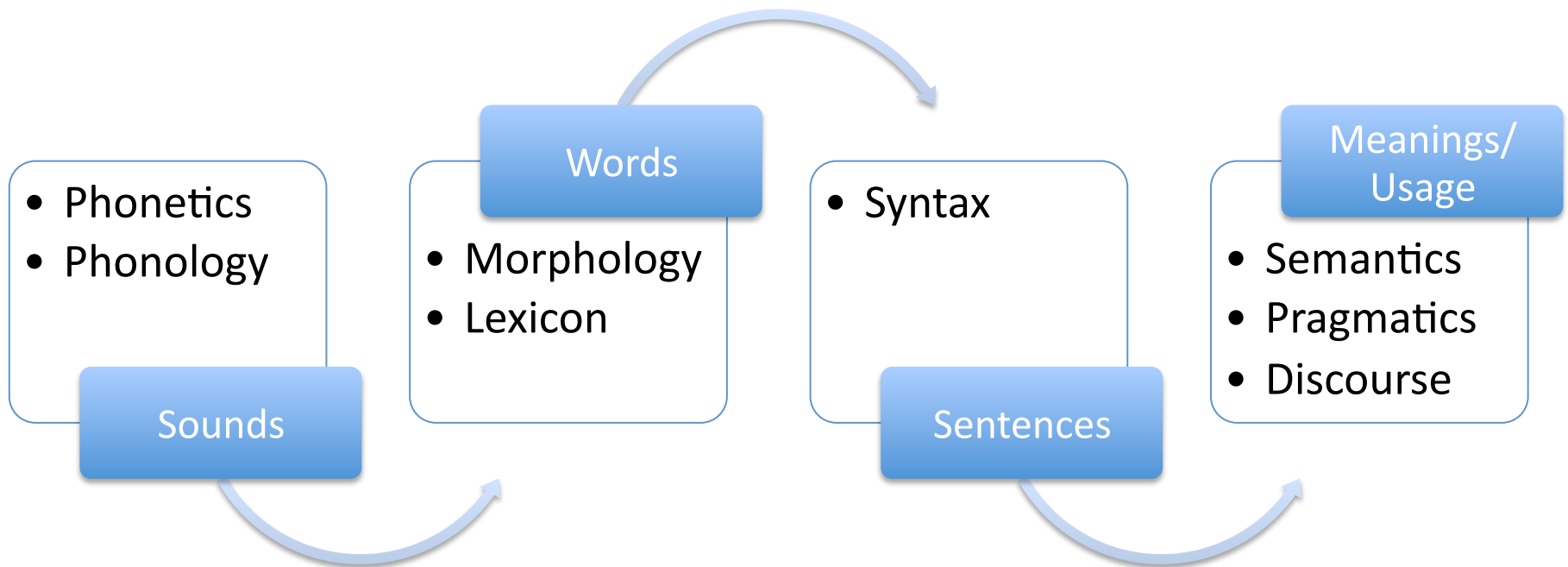
Linguist 159 – American Dialects

September 30, 2014

Building Blocks of Language



Building Blocks of Language



Building Blocks of Language

Variation at each level of language:

- Types of features we can examine?
- What processes can lead to **variation/change**?
- Connection to the other levels?

Phonetics/Phonology

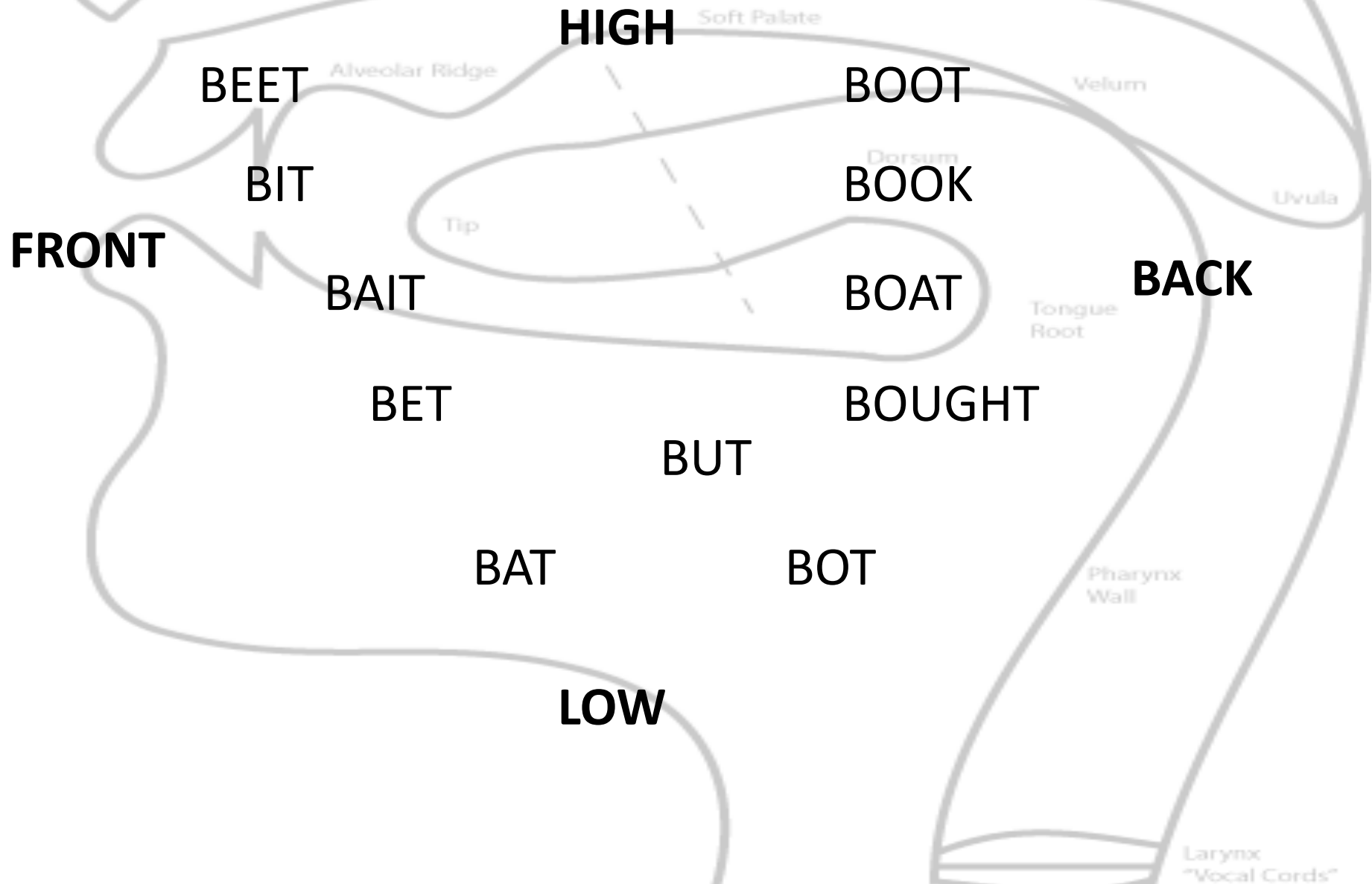
- The study of **speech sounds**
 - Phonetics = physical manifestations of sounds
 - Phonology = representations of sounds
- **Phoneme** = the smallest unit of sound that can create a meaning distinction
- **Accents** typically refer to phonetic/
phonological differences between dialects

Phonetics/Phonology

What types of *sounds* can vary across dialects?

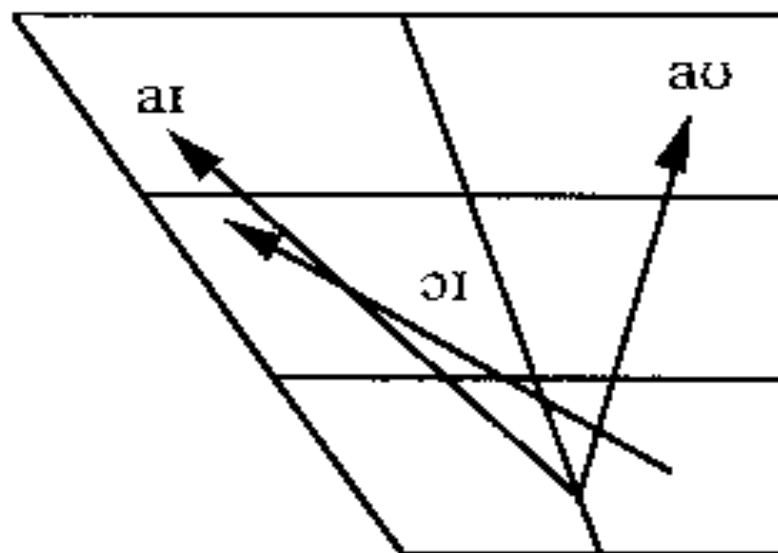
- Vowels
- Consonants
- Suprasegmentals

American English Vowel System



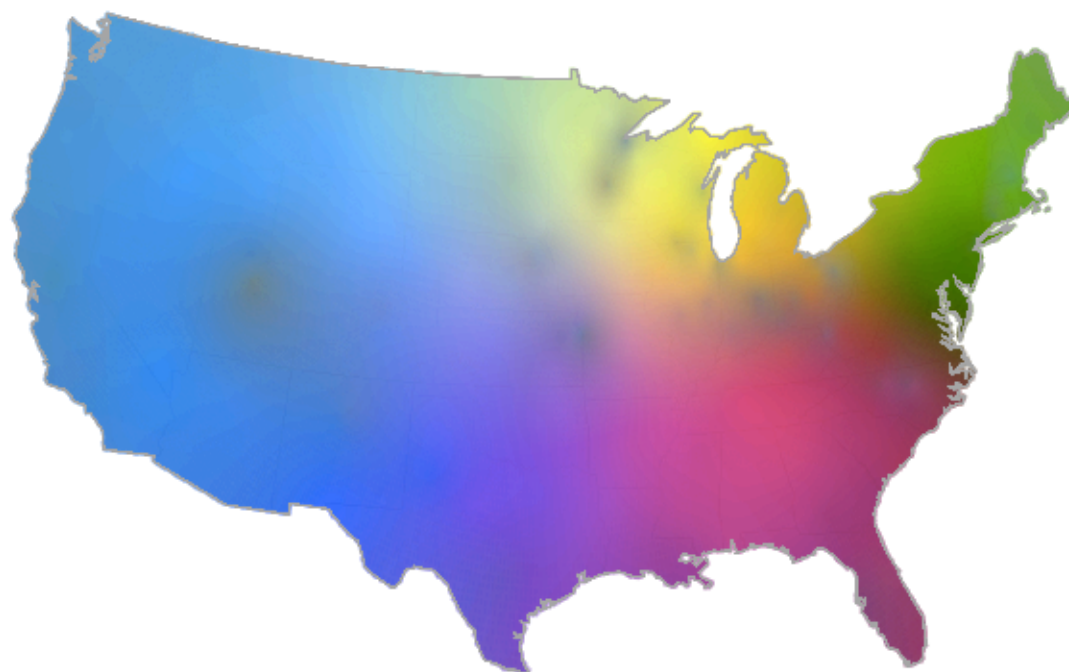
Vowels

- **Monophthongs**
- **Diphthongs**
 - Nucleus
 - Glide



Vowels

ANAE Vowel Formants Gi* z-scores MDS



Grieve, 2014

Vowels

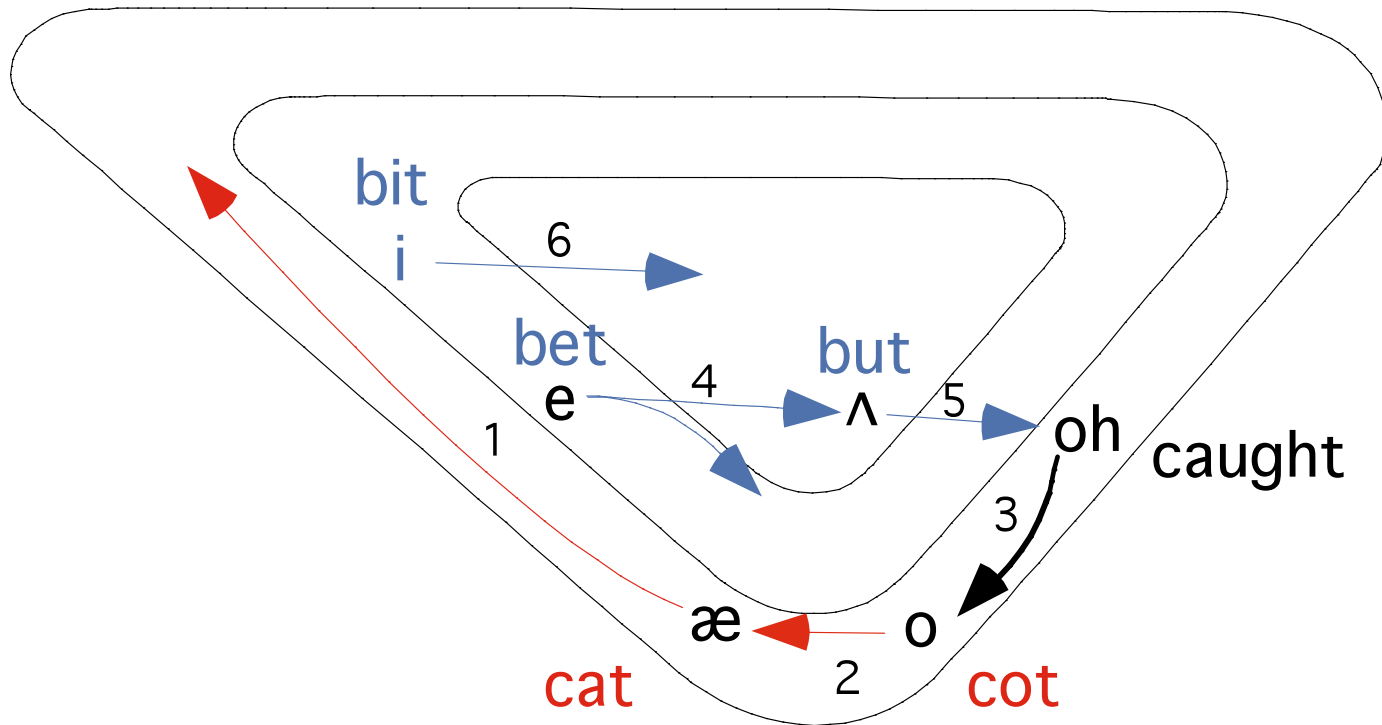
How can vowel systems be different across dialects? = How vowels change over time?

Chain Shifts



Chain Shifts

The Northern Cities Shift



The Southern Shift

COT

CAUGHT

PIN

PEN

FEEL

FILL

MARY

MERRY

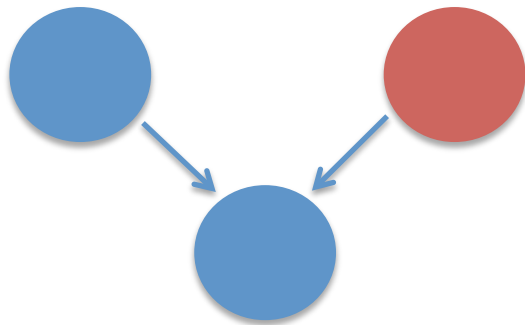
MARRY

Mergers and Splits

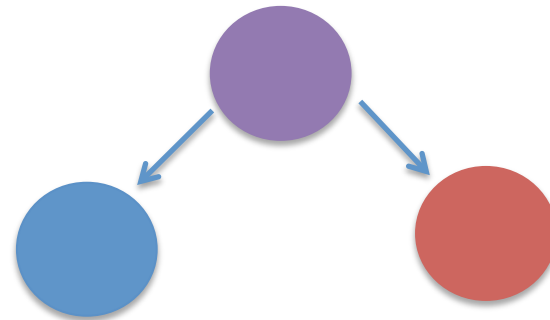
How can sound systems be different across dialects? = How sounds change over time?



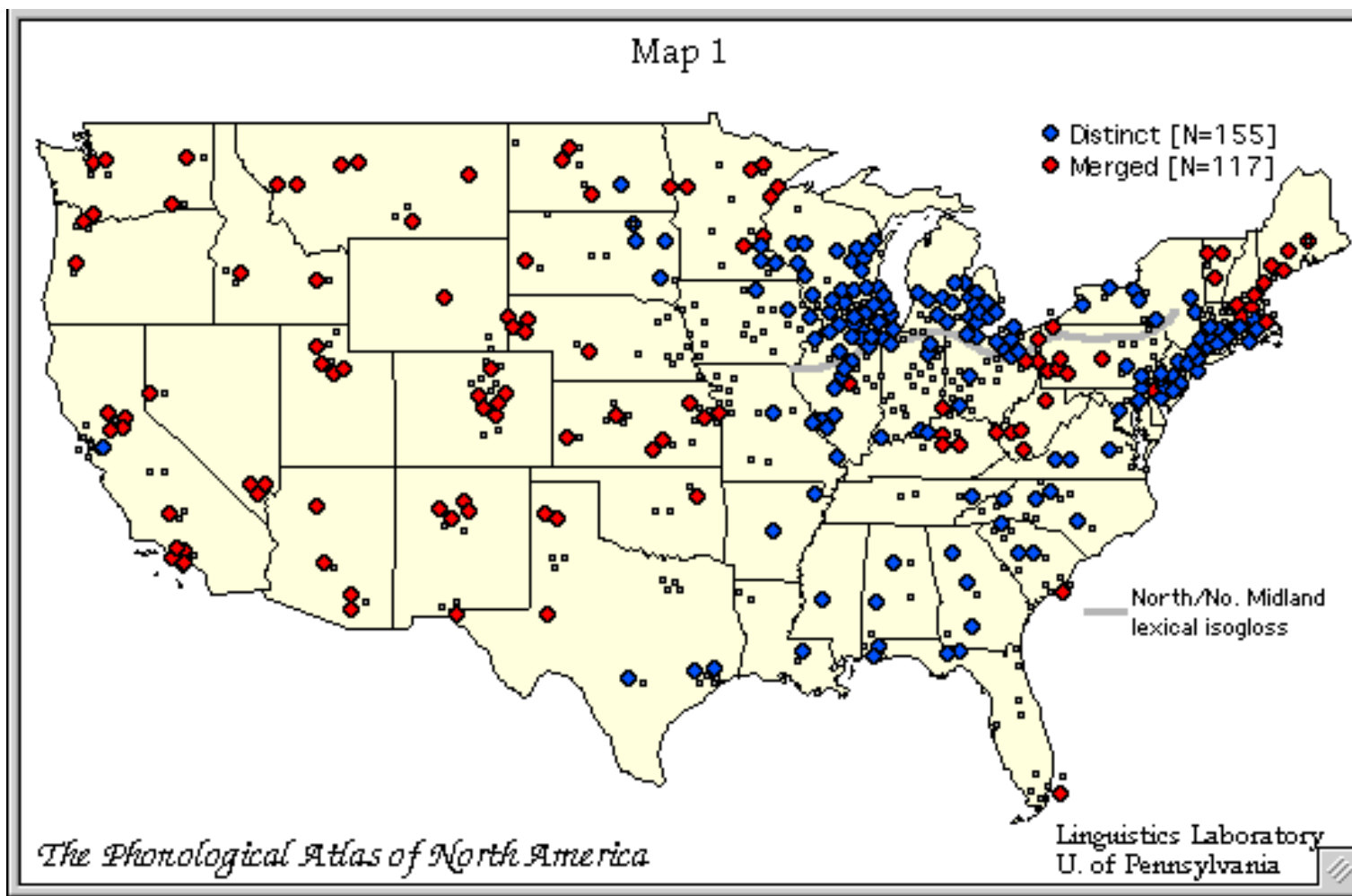
Mergers



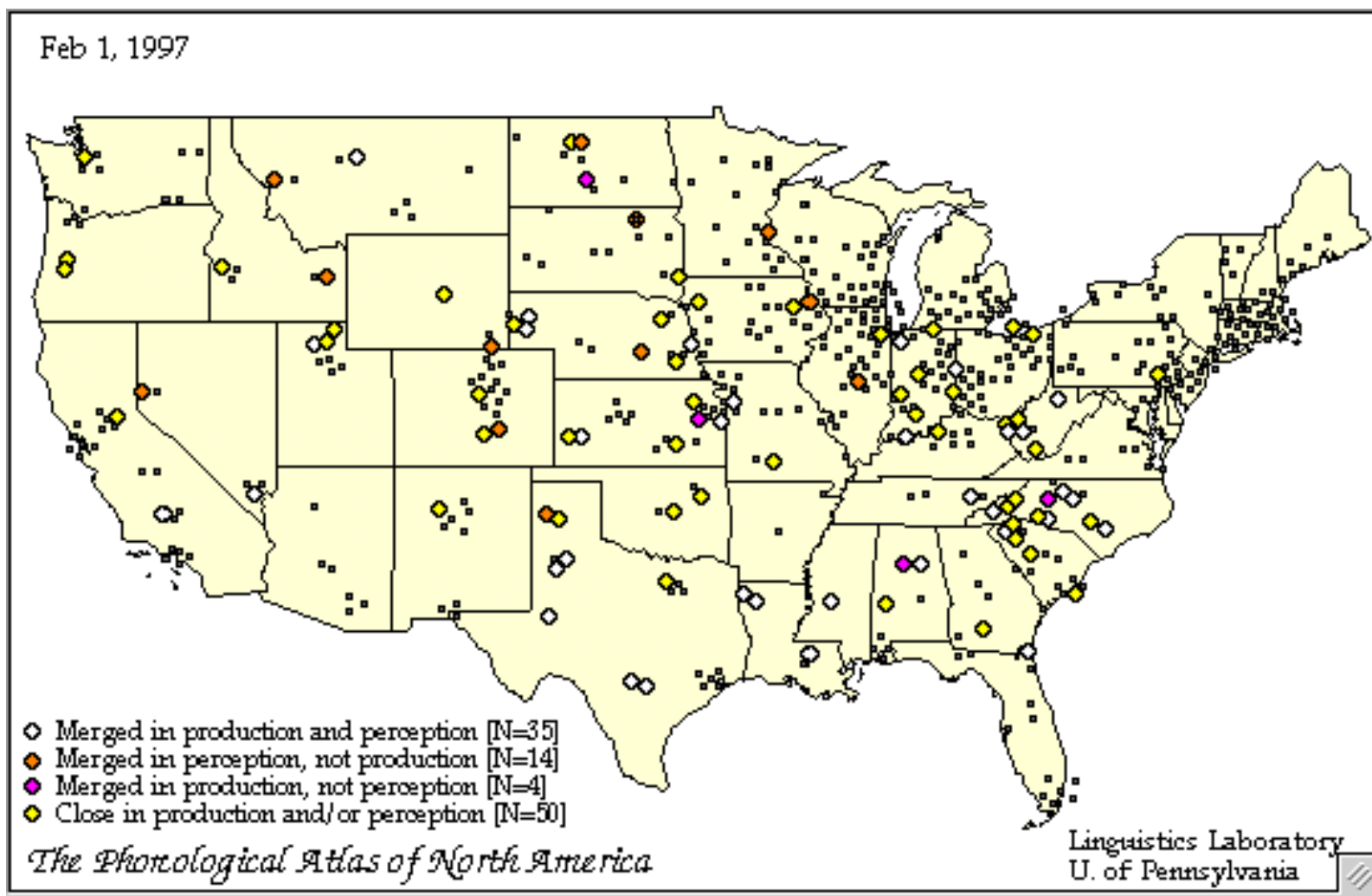
Splits



COT-CAUGHT



FEEL-FILL



FEEL-FILL



Consonants

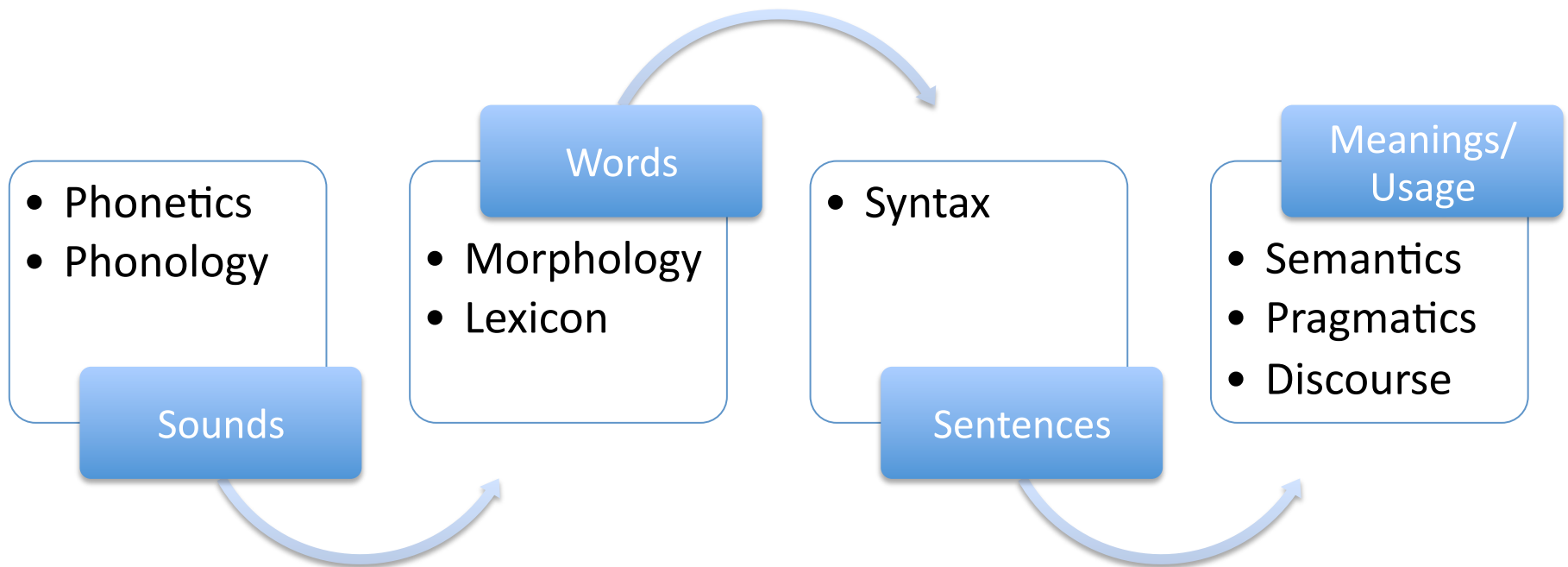
- Neutralization
- Adding consonants (insertion)
- Deleting consonants (deletion)

Suprasegmentals

- **Stress patterns**
- Voice quality
- Intonation



Building Blocks of Language



Morphology

- **Morpheme** = smallest unit of language that itself carries meaning (words and meaningful affixes)

| | Content morphemes | Function morphemes |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Free morphemes | ▪ Content Words | ▪ Function Words |
| Bound morphemes | ▪ Bound roots ▪ Derivational affixes | ▪ Inflectional affixes |

Lexicon

- **Lexical item** = word
- **Lexicon** = set of words used in a particular dialect or language; vocabulary

How are words created? How can words vary = change meaning over time?



Was Shakespeare a Good Actor?
By John Paul Rollert



Study: Bullies Mess Kids Up for Life
By Julie Beck




Going to Space Can Mess With Astronaut Brains
By Adrienne LaFrance



The Doctor Who Coaches Athletes on Sleep
By Danielle Elliot

The New York Times' Most Popular Story of 2013 Was Not an Article

VIDEO



Where Time Comes From
The clocks that coordinate your cellphone, GPS, and more



As Big Data Grows, a New Rol...
Adding this new position to the C-Suite will help companies utiliz...

QUESTION 17 OF 25

What do you call something that is across both streets from you at an intersection (or diagonally across from you in general)?

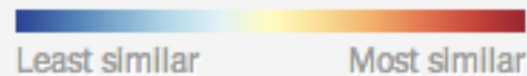
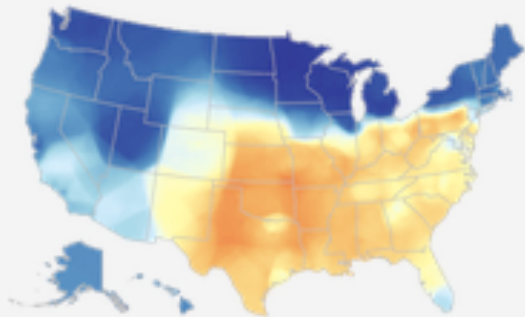
- kitty-corner
- kitacorner
- catercorner
- catty-corner
- kitty cross
- kitty wampus
- I would use only *diagonal* for this
- I have no term for this
- other

Next ▶

YOUR LAST ANSWER

What do you call something that is across both streets from you at an intersection (or diagonally across from you in general)?

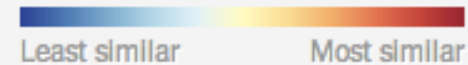
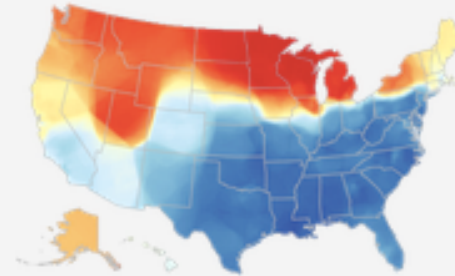
catty-corner



YOUR LAST ANSWER

What do you call something that is across both streets from you at an intersection (or diagonally across from you in general)?

kitty-corner



QUESTION 6 OF 25

What do you call the rubber-soled shoes worn in gym class or for athletic activities?

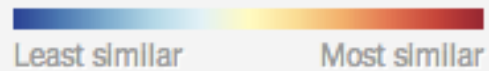
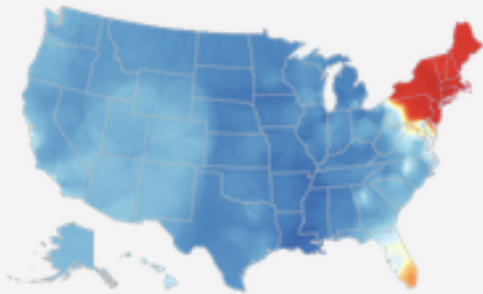
- sneakers
- shoes
- gym shoes
- sand shoes
- jumpers
- tennis shoes
- running shoes
- runners
- trainers
- I have no general word for this
- other

Next ▶

YOUR LAST ANSWER

What do you call the rubber-soled shoes worn in gym class or for athletic activities?

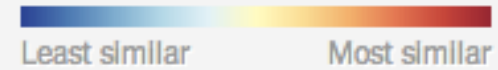
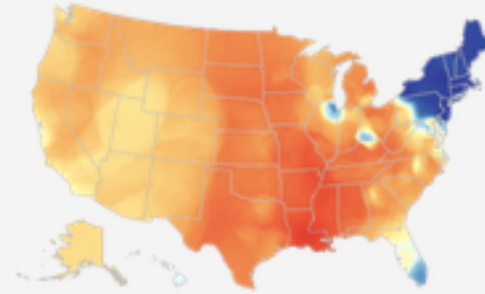
sneakers



YOUR LAST ANSWER

What do you call the rubber-soled shoes worn in gym class or for athletic activities?

tennis shoes



QUESTION 24 OF 25

What do you call the night before Halloween?

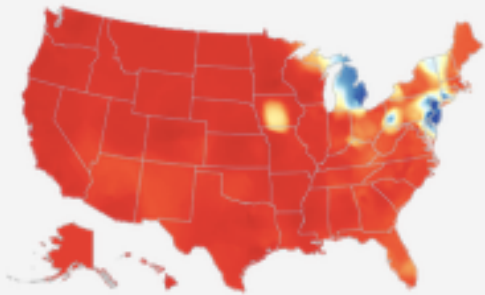
- gate night
- trick night
- mischief night
- cabbage night
- goosy night
- devil's night
- devil's eve
- I have no word for this
- other

Next ▶

YOUR LAST ANSWER

What do you call the night before Halloween?

I have no word for this



Least similar Most similar

QUESTION 18 OF 25

What do you call a drive-through liquor store?

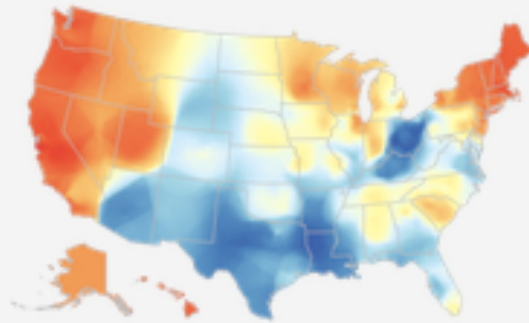
- brew thru
- party barn
- bootlegger
- beer barn
- beverage barn
- we have these in my area, but we have no special term for them
- I have never heard of such a thing
- other

Next ▶

YOUR LAST ANSWER

What do you call a drive-through liquor store?

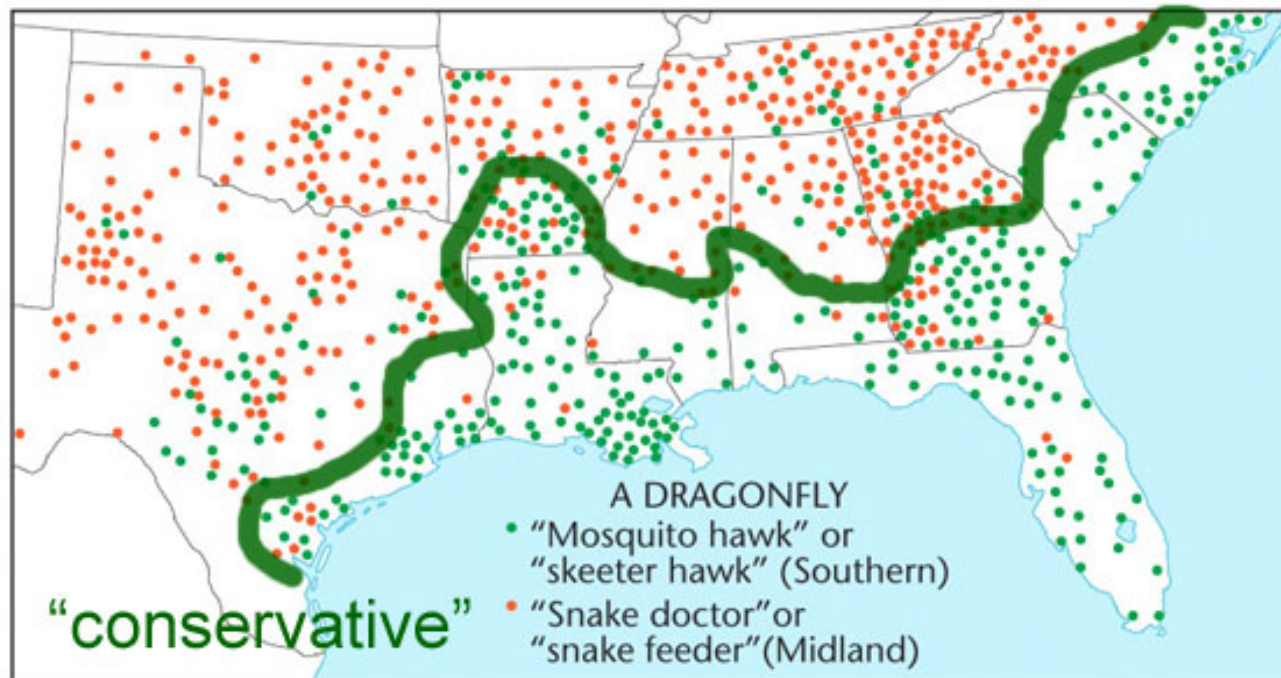
I have never heard of such a thing



Least similar Most similar

Lexicon

- **Isogloss** = boundary between linguistic features on a dialect map



Lexicon

**How are words created? How can words vary
= change over time?**

- Broadening
- Narrowing
- Meaning shift
 - Figurative extension
- **Coining**



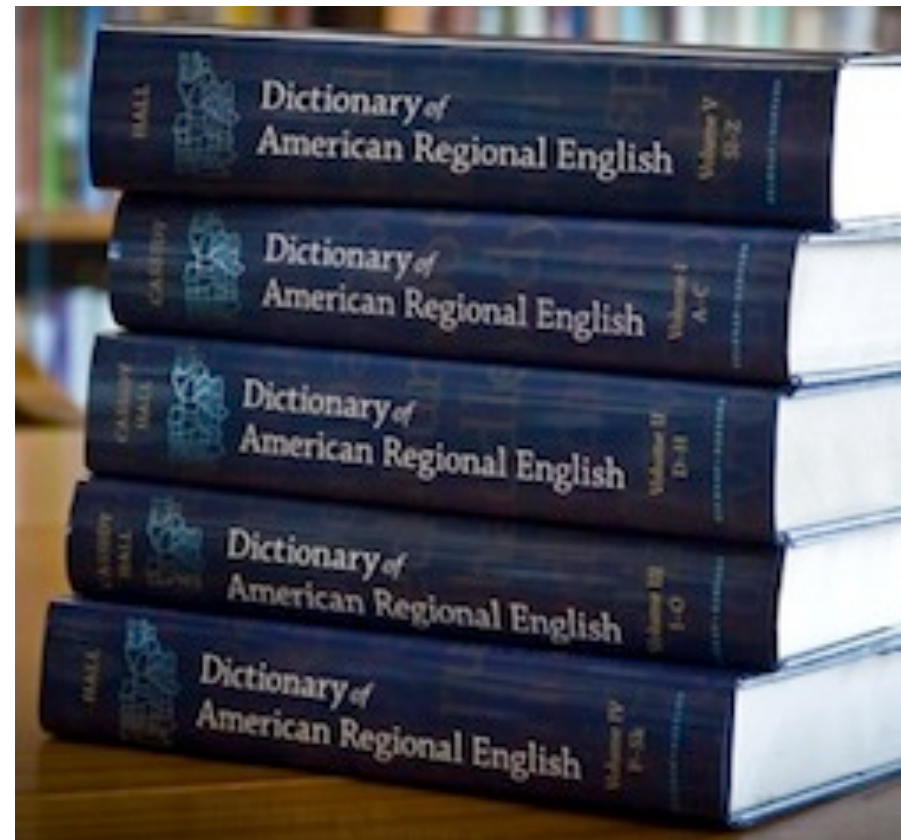
Lexicon

What is **slang**?

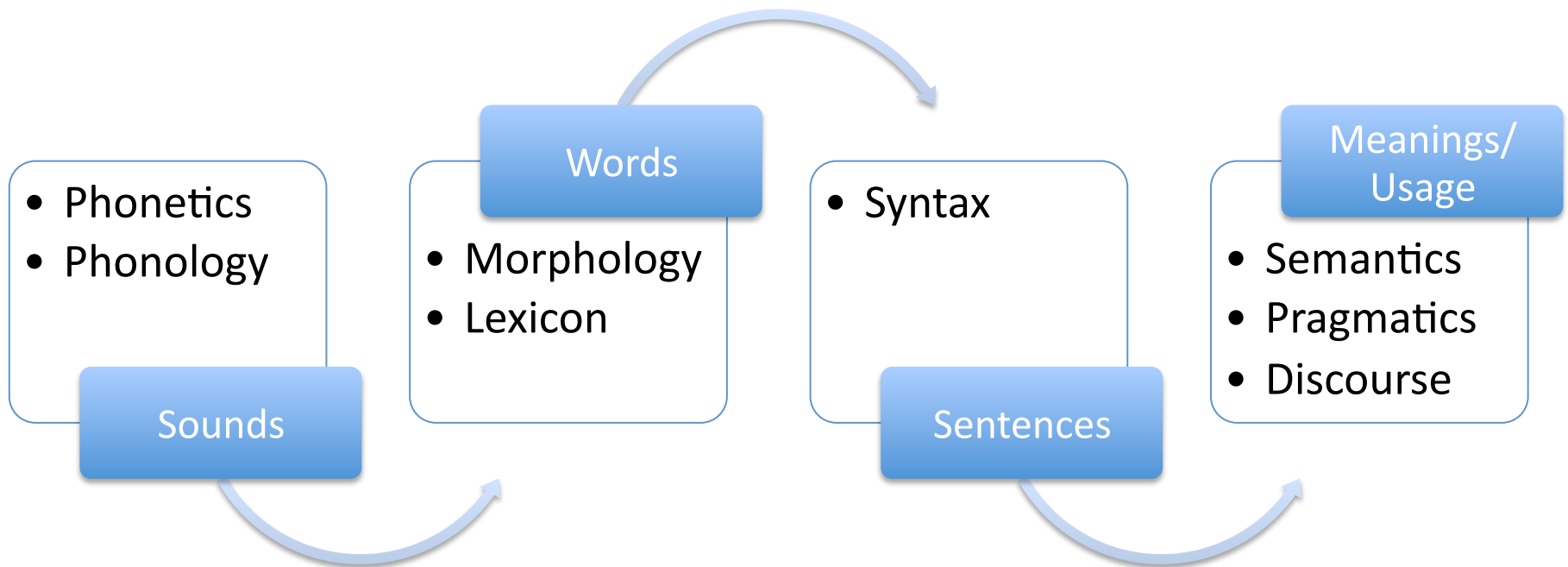
Slang word v. lexical
variation?

“Slang is vocabulary
with attitude”

(Eble 2004)



Building Blocks of Language



Syntax

- **Syntax** = arrangement of words into larger units (phrases/sentences)
- Often intimately tied to morphology:
morphosyntax
- Variation found in **auxiliaries, co-occurrence, agreement, order**

Morphosyntax

- I don't go to that bar anymore.
- I go there a lot anymore.
- Anymore I buy everything online.

- The car needs to be washed.
- The car needs washing.
- The car needs washed.

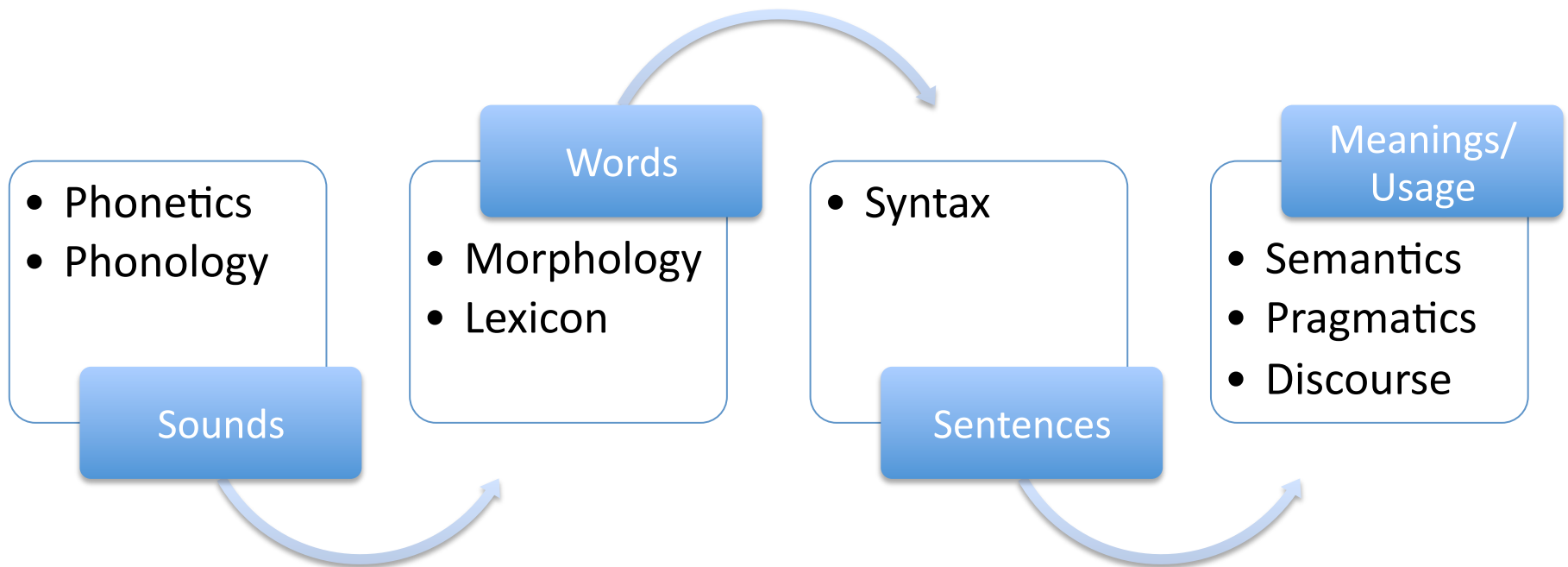
- I could maybe go there
- I might could go there.

Morphosyntax

A few commonly studied morphosyntactic differences between AAVE and MAE

| AAVE | MAE |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| “He nice” | “He is nice” |
| “We was going” | “We were going” |
| “They be working weekends” | “They [habitually] work weekends” |
| “Don’t nobody know” | “Nobody knows” |
| “It’s five people on the team” | “There are five people on the team” |

Building Blocks of Language



Language Use

- **Discourse** = arrangement of phrases/ sentences into conversational units (e.g. “turns”)
- Variation found in:
 - **discourse markers**
 - **turn-taking**
 - **organization of discourse**

Language Use

- **Pragmatics** = how language is used in context to achieve particular purposes; implicit meanings in context
- Variation found in **when, where** and **how** linguistic features are expected/acceptable