

Questions for reading: Introduction: Thinking about language and Wisconsin English

1. What are dialect, accent, brogue, lilt and slang? (Quick definitions are enough.) Which ones linguists use and not use? Are there other terms you know for kinds of language that might be useful?
2. How do geographical patterns and boundaries correlate or not correlate with language? Come up with **one example** beyond those given in the text.
3. Do you say *Don* ~ *Dawn*, *rot* ~ *wrought*, *not* ~ *naught*, *sot* ~ *sought* and *cot* ~ *caught* the same? Ask at least three other people to say those words (from a written sheet of paper) and see if they say them the same or different.
4. Do you pronounce *hiss* and *his* and *bus* and *buzz* the same or different?
5. On pp. 8-9, we describe some regional vowels changes in Wisconsin. Whether you're from here or not, do you think you have these patterns?
6. Are there verb forms (like those discussed) that you have non-standard forms of? Which ones? Are there verbs that you're not sure about the past tense forms of?
7. What's your reaction to these words/forms discussed in the chapter:
 - a. *warsh* for *wash*
 - b. anymore gas is expensive
 - c. *bag* pronounced like *beg* or rhyming with *vague* (more or less)
 - d. *bagel* pronounced with the vowel in *cat*
 - e. We're leaving. Are you coming with?
 - f. Hey, come here once!
 - g. He didn't do nothing.
 - h. The car needs washed.