

Discussion questions for Chapter 4: 'The Non-Wisconsin Sound of Southwest Wisconsin'

We'll talk a little generally about some **major dialect patterns in Wisconsin**.

1. What are the major dialects of American English that are found within Wisconsin?
2. Roughly where are they spoken?
3. Be able to give some characteristics of each.
4. Do these characterizations correspond to your own sense of the parts of Wisconsin you know well? How or how not?

Then, we'll turn to this chapter on a **southwestern Wisconsin English**, especially the area around Mineral Point.

1. How and why is the English of southwest Wisconsin different from the English of the rest of the state?
2. How does that connect with patterns of immigration?
3. What's 'Cornish'? What language family does it belong to?
4. What's distinct about the English spoken in Cornwall?
5. What kind of evidence does Speth have for earlier speech patterns in Mineral Point?
6. What periods does she provide evidence on, from pre-settlement to the present? (I'll bring some sample recordings.)
7. How and where do 'Cornish' features show up in the recordings?
8. How does the type of material recorded matter? (We can talk about the broader issue of how you gather linguistic data.)
9. Based on that evidence, how has the dialect of Mineral Point changed over its history?
10. What is the relationship between the perception of 'Cornish heritage' in this area and the linguistic reality on the ground today? How has that come about?