

## Discussion questions for Chapter 5: 'Words Used in Wisconsin'

There are several good lexical surveys around. I've already mentioned this one, started at UW–Milwaukee. The second link is specifically to the Wisconsin results:

- <http://www4.uwm.edu/FLL/linguistics/dialect/maps.html>
- [http://www4.uwm.edu/FLL/linguistics/dialect/staticmaps/state\\_WI.html](http://www4.uwm.edu/FLL/linguistics/dialect/staticmaps/state_WI.html)

1. Isn't that an odd name for a chapter? What isn't it just called 'Wisconsin words' or something?
2. As you read the chapter, make a list of words that ...
  - a. you recognize as distinctively associated with Wisconsin that you use
  - b. you recognize as distinctively associated with Wisconsin that you don't use
  - c. you know but didn't think of as regional.
  - d. you didn't know at all
3. What patterns are there in those lists? For instance, were there more words than you expected that you didn't know? Words you expected to be discussed that weren't?
4. Vocabulary is often very local. What words do you associate with your hometown, family, friends as particularly distinctive?
5. Vocabulary also changes very quickly. What words do your parents or grandparents use that you would never use? What words do you use that they would never use?
6. What words do you use that people commented on when you came to Madison?
7. What new words have you learned on campus that you associate with being a UW student?
8. What names do you know that refer to people from Wisconsin? From other nearby states?