

LIN 207 Language, Society, and the Individuals
 Fall 2026
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Assignment 2: Draw-A-Map Task

Submit your assignment as a single *PDF* file on UBLearns.

Objective:

This assignment aims to help you explore how people perceive linguistic variation across geographical regions. By drawing and analyzing dialect maps, you'll engage with key concepts in language variation and reflect on how language varies and how it's influenced by various factors.

Step-by-step instructions:

Step 1: Prepare for the Task

- Create two copies of a blank outline map of your chosen region (e.g., the United States, your home country, or a specific state/province). A blank outline map of the United States is provided.
- Find a consultant out of class who can draw their map for you.

Step 2: Draw the Perceived Isoglosses

- Without consulting external sources, examine the blank map.
- Draw lines to indicate where you believe people speak differently (can be at different linguistic levels (phonetic/phonological/morphological/syntactical/lexical/...)). This will give you a few areas in the map.
- For each area:
 - Label them with descriptive terms
 - Add brief annotations, explaining why you decide to separate it from other areas.
 - Provide at least one linguistic example that illustrates your explanation.
- After you finished, ask your consultant to draw theirs according to instructions above as well. Don't show them your map before they draw, as it may affect their judgments. This will give you two maps of the same geographical region to analyze.

Step 3: Reflect on the Maps

- Write a short reflection (one page, approximately 500 words) that addresses the following questions, using linguistic terms from class materials when applicable:
 1. What factors influenced your decisions in drawing the isoglosses?
 2. Did you encounter challenges in defining certain areas? Explain why.
 3. Compare your map with your consultant's map. Identify the similarities and differences.

4. Consider the factors that contributed to the similarities and differences between your maps.

Step 4: Submit Your Homework

Upload a single PDF file containing both the two completed maps and your written reflection on UBLearn.

Grading Criteria:

- **Completeness** (1 point):
 - Ensure that your submission includes both the two maps and the written reflection.
- **Clarity & Organization** (2 point):
 - Ensure that your maps are clear and easy to interpret, and that your reflection is clear and well-structured.
- **Thoughtfulness** (5 point):
 - Demonstrate critical thinking about language variation and its influencing factors through your maps and reflection.
- **Engagement with Course Materials** (2 points):
 - Connect your analysis to linguistic concepts discussed in class.

Tips:

- **Remember, there are no “right” or “wrong” answers! The goal is to explore your perceptions, not to create an objectively accurate dialect map.**
- Be as detailed as possible in your reasoning. Explain the reasons behind your boundary placements.
- If you’re unsure about a region, acknowledge that uncertainty in your response.
- Have fun! This is a creative and insightful way to engage with linguistic variation.
- Useful Resources: https://stanford.edu/class/linguist159/materials/slides/Perceptual_dialectology.pdf