



University of Athens  
Dpt. of Communication and Media

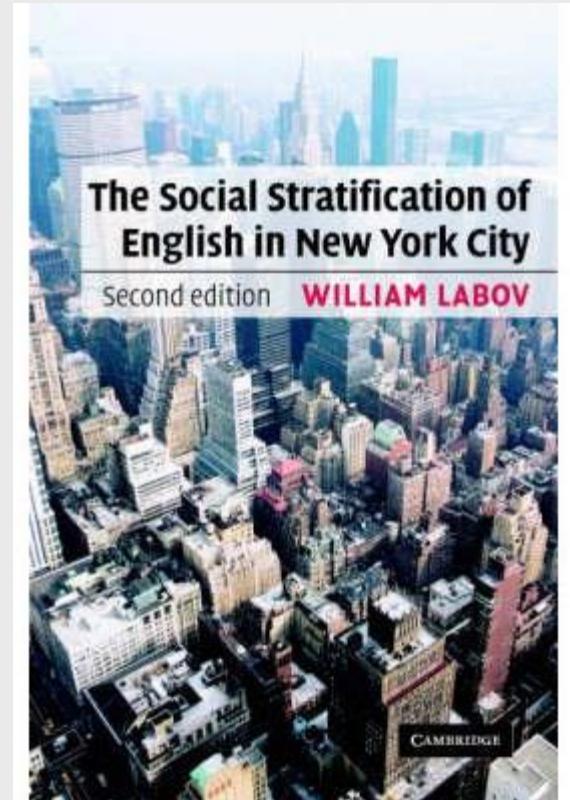
**Spiros A. Moschonas**

# **Metalinguage, Language attitudes, Language ideologies**

29/3/2023

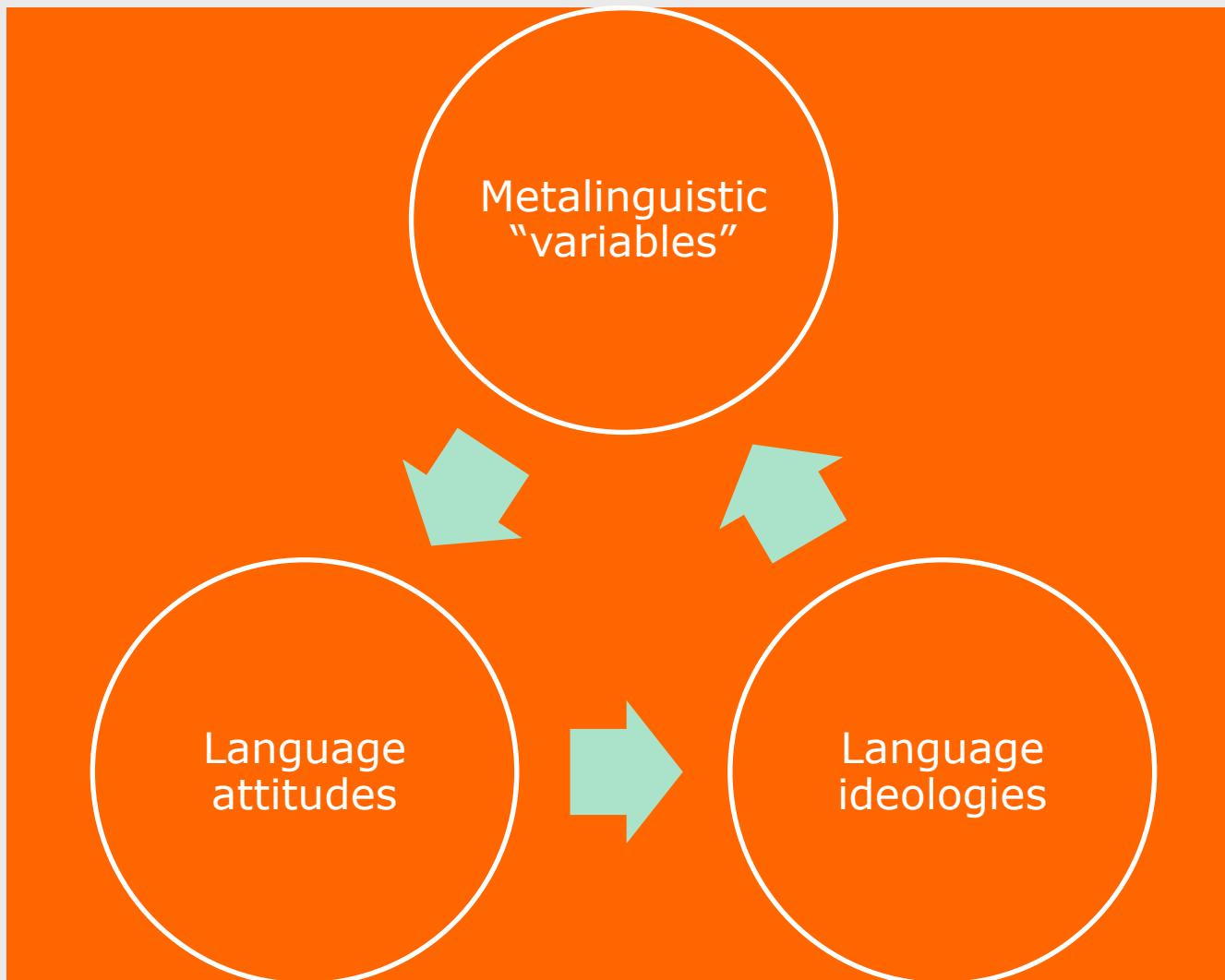
### 4. Writing a variationist report the easy way

### 5. Attitudes, ideologies. Evaluations of media-dependent variables.



## Overview

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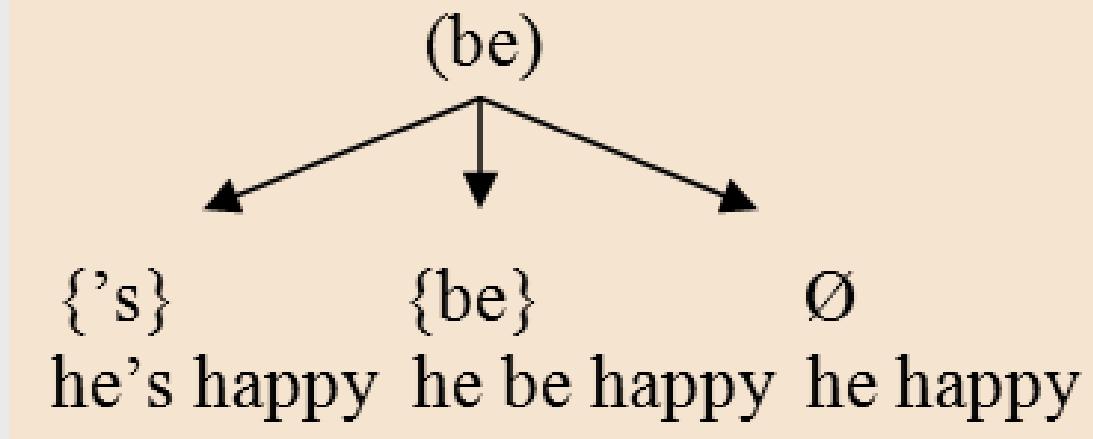
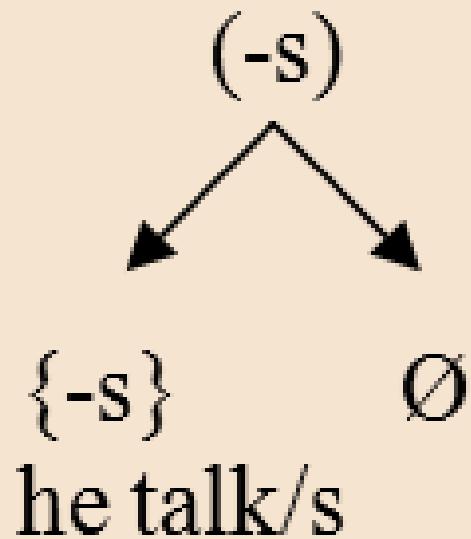
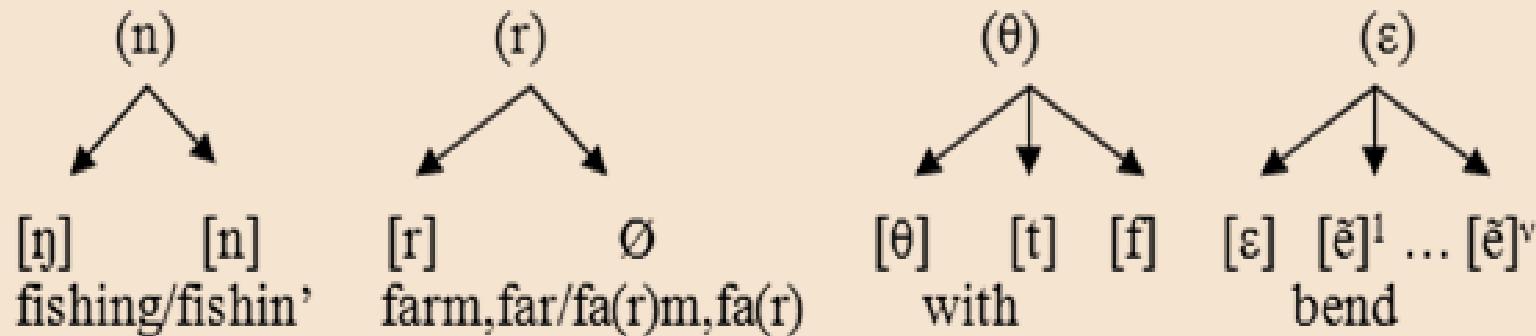
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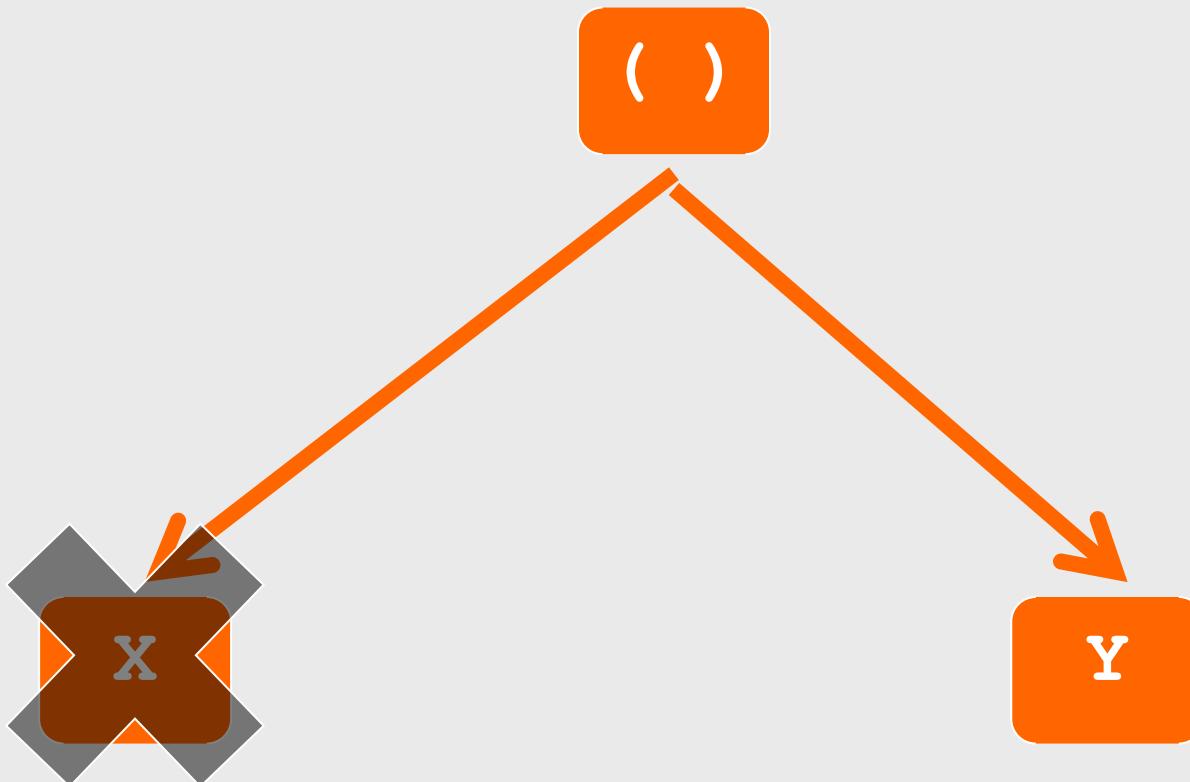
Metalinguistic  
“variables”

## Prescriptivism: Back to linguistic variables



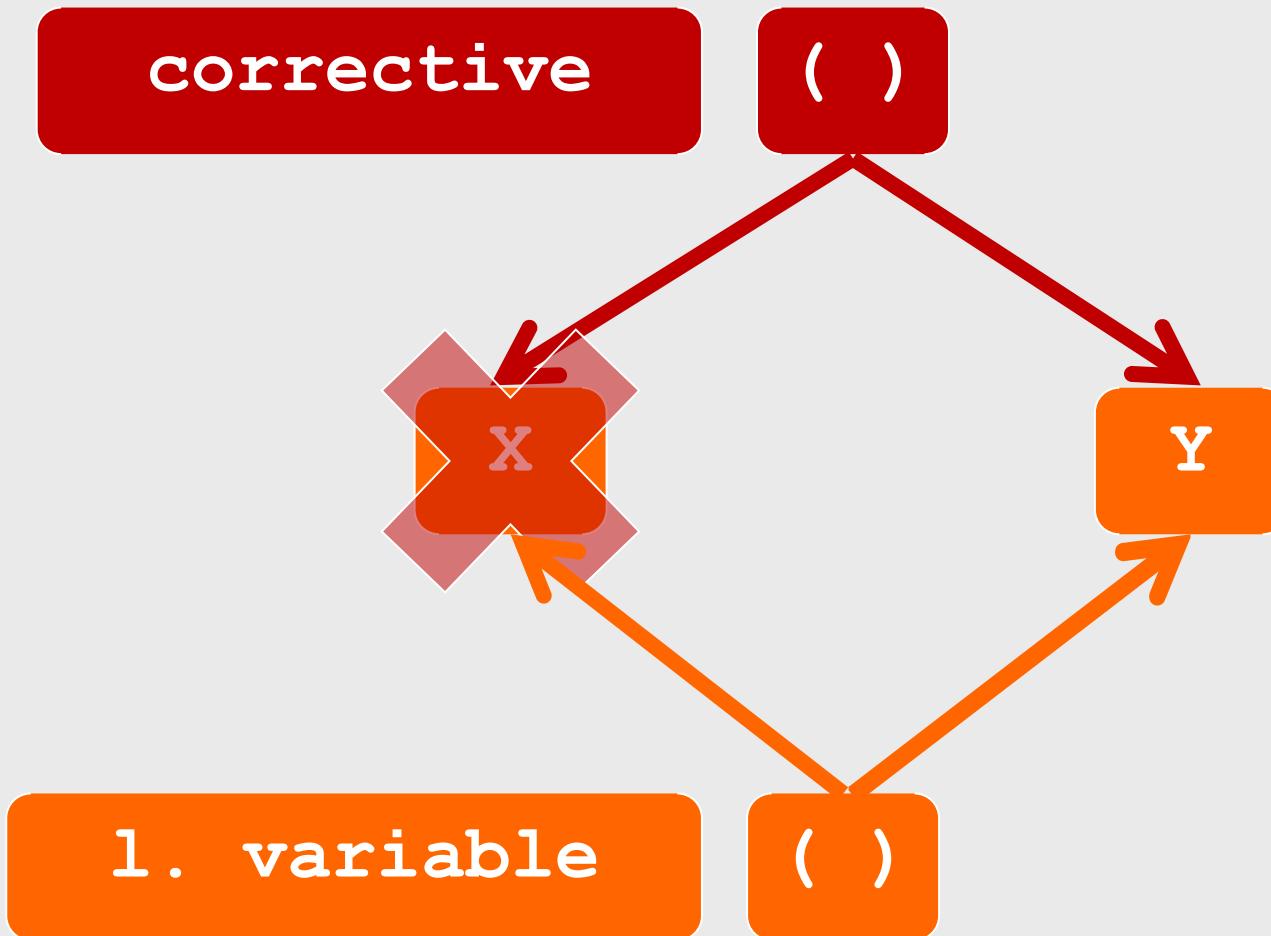
## Prescriptivism: Correctives

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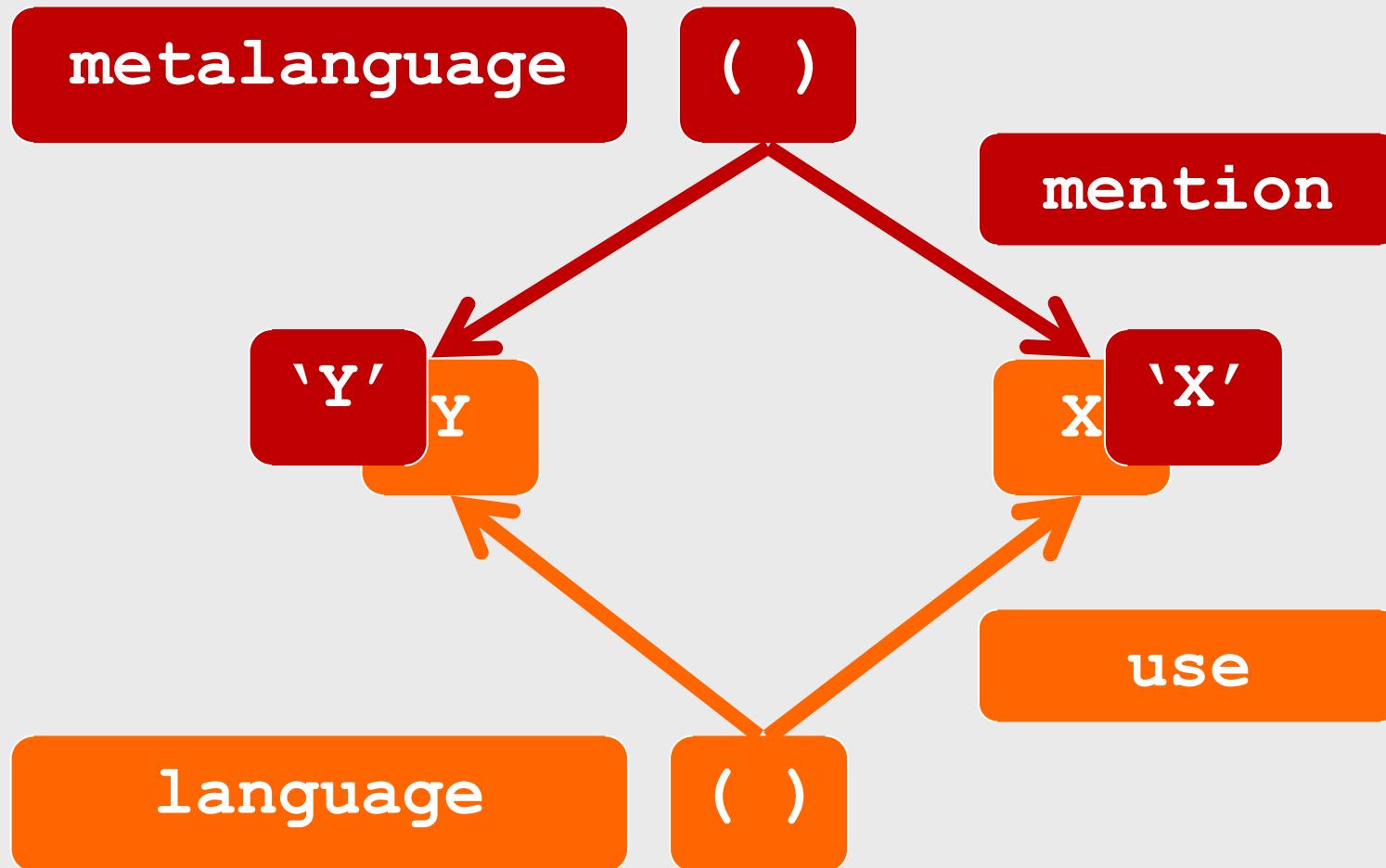
## Prescriptivism: Correctives

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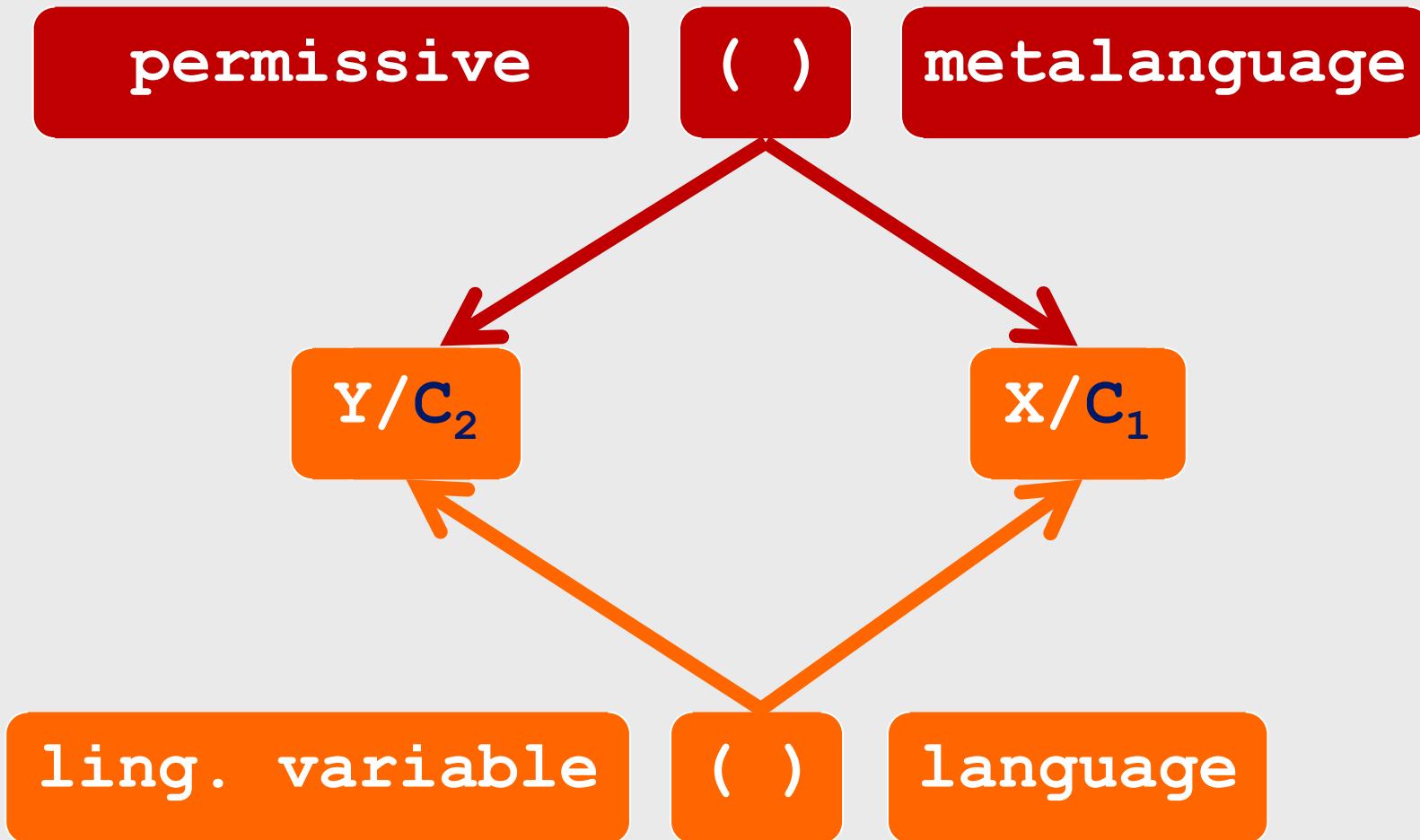
## To be more precise: Linguistic (use) vs. metalinguistic (mention)

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## Prescriptivism: Permissives

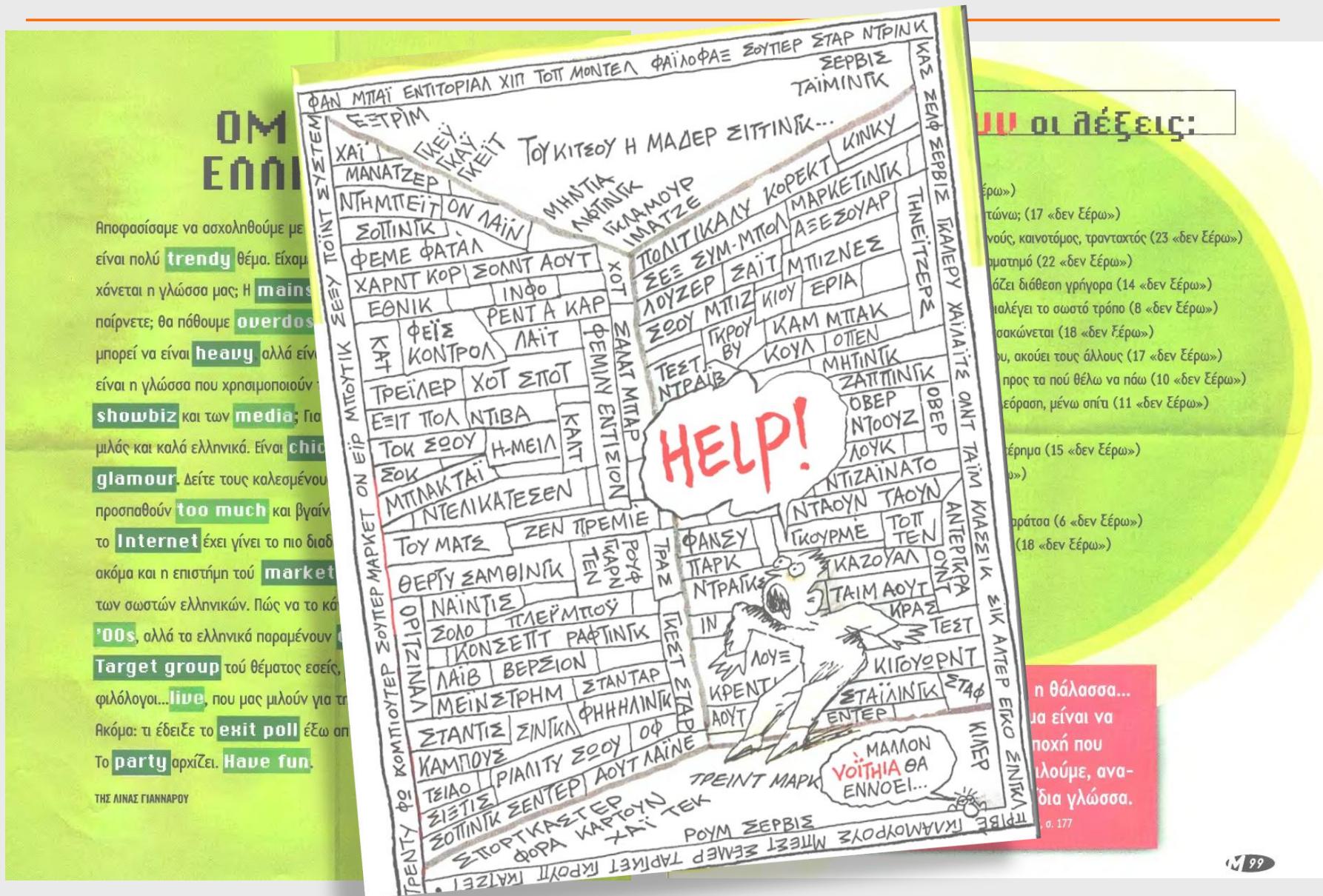
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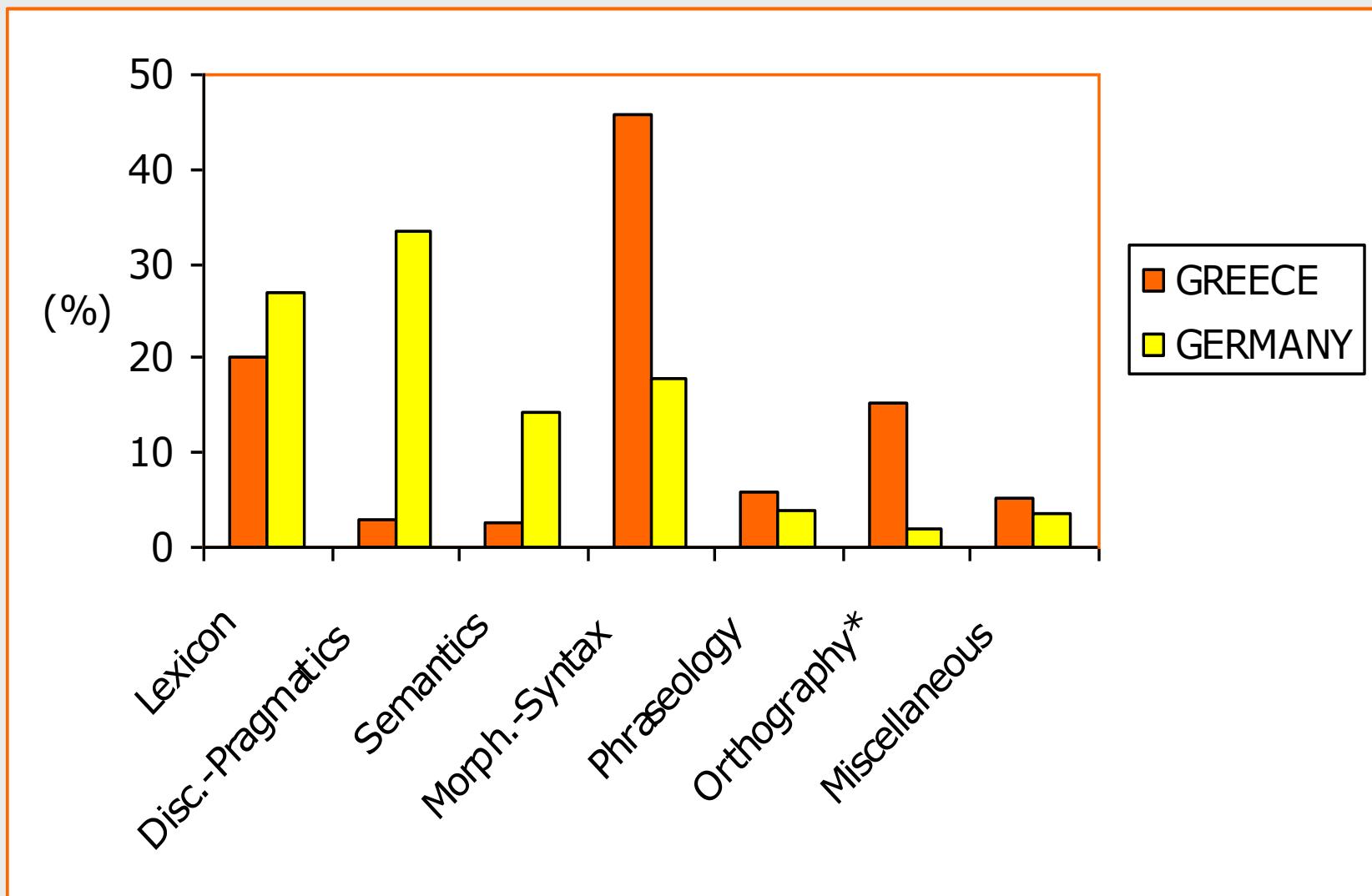
## Corrective repertoires: The Usage Guide

- » **ADVICE/ADVISE** "Advice" is the noun, "advise" the verb. When Ann Landers advises people, she gives them advice.
- » **DOUBLE NEGATIVES** It is not true, as some assert, that double negatives are always wrong; but the pattern in formal speech and writing is that two negatives equal a mild positive: "he is a not untalented guitarist" means he has some talent. In informal speech, however, double negatives are intended as negatives: "he ain't got no talent" means he is a lousy musician.
- » **SPLIT INFINITIVES** For the hyper-critical, "to boldly go where no man has gone before" should be " to go boldly. . . ." [...] so many people are offended by split infinitives that it is better to avoid them
- » **ENDING A SENTENCE WITH A PREPOSITION** A fine example of an artificial "rule" which ignores standard usage. The famous witticism usually attributed to Winston Churchill makes the point well: "This is the sort of pedantry up with which I cannot put."

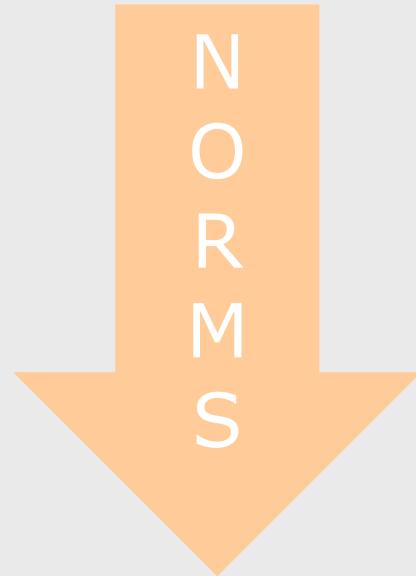
## Corrective repertories: The press (*Metro* Feb. 1, 2000)



## Correctives: A comparative study (Moschonas & Spitzmueller 2010)



## Standardization: E. Haugen, "Dialect, Language, Nation" (1966)



	μορφή – <i>form</i>	λειτουργία - <i>function</i>
πρωτοβουλία - <i>initiation</i>	επιλογή – selection (=status planning)	επεξεργασία - elaboration
ολοποίηση - <i>implementation</i>	κωδικοποίηση – codification (=corpus planning)	αποδοχή - acceptance

## Who contributes to standardization?

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- » “Fathers” of a standard (language)
- » Elite, philologists, linguists, educators, writers, politicians, (copy-)editors, “language mavens”, “language police” («γλωσσοτοποτηρητές»)
- » Institutions: Academies, Language Associations, Education, Media, ...
- » Constitutional works: a Grammar and a Dictionary (→ Usage Guides).

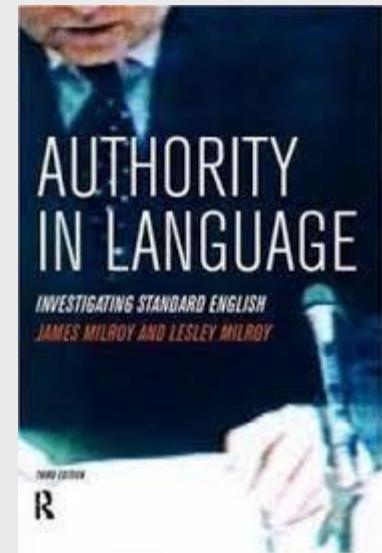
A language is a dialect with an army and navy

א שפראך איז א דיאלאקט מיט אן ארמיי אויל פלאט  
a shprakh iz a dyalekt mit an armey un flot

## Milroy & Milroy, *Authority in Language*, 1999 [1991<sup>1</sup>]

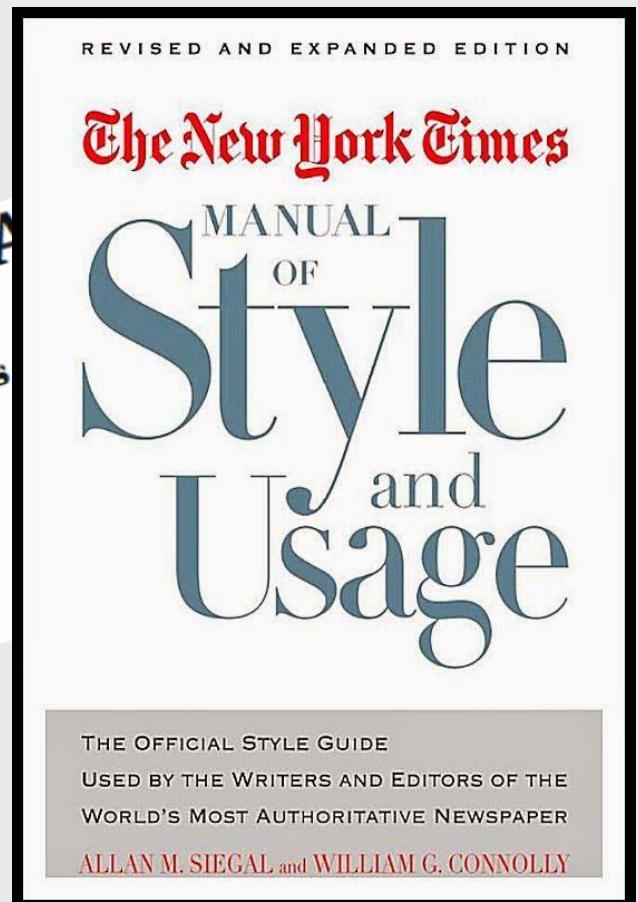
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- » absolute standardisation of a spoken language is never achieved (the only fully standardized language is a dead language). Therefore it seems appropriate to speak more abstractly of standardisation as an ideology, and a standard language as an idea in the mind rather than a reality—a set of abstract norms to which actual usage may conform to a greater or lesser extent.



## News Usage (Style) Guides

The screenshot shows the BBC News style guide homepage. At the top, there's a red header with the title "BBC News style guide". Below it, a navigation bar has "Home" and "A-Z complete guide" as options. A large, tilted banner across the page contains the text "Guardian and Observer style guide: A" at the top, followed by a quote from Aristotle: "'Style to be good must be clear. Clearness is secured by using words that are current and ordinary.' Aristotle". Below the quote is a bullet point: "Follow the style guide on Twitter: @guardianstyle". At the bottom of the banner, there's a red, slanted text "A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z".





# Language attitudes

## (Language) attitudes

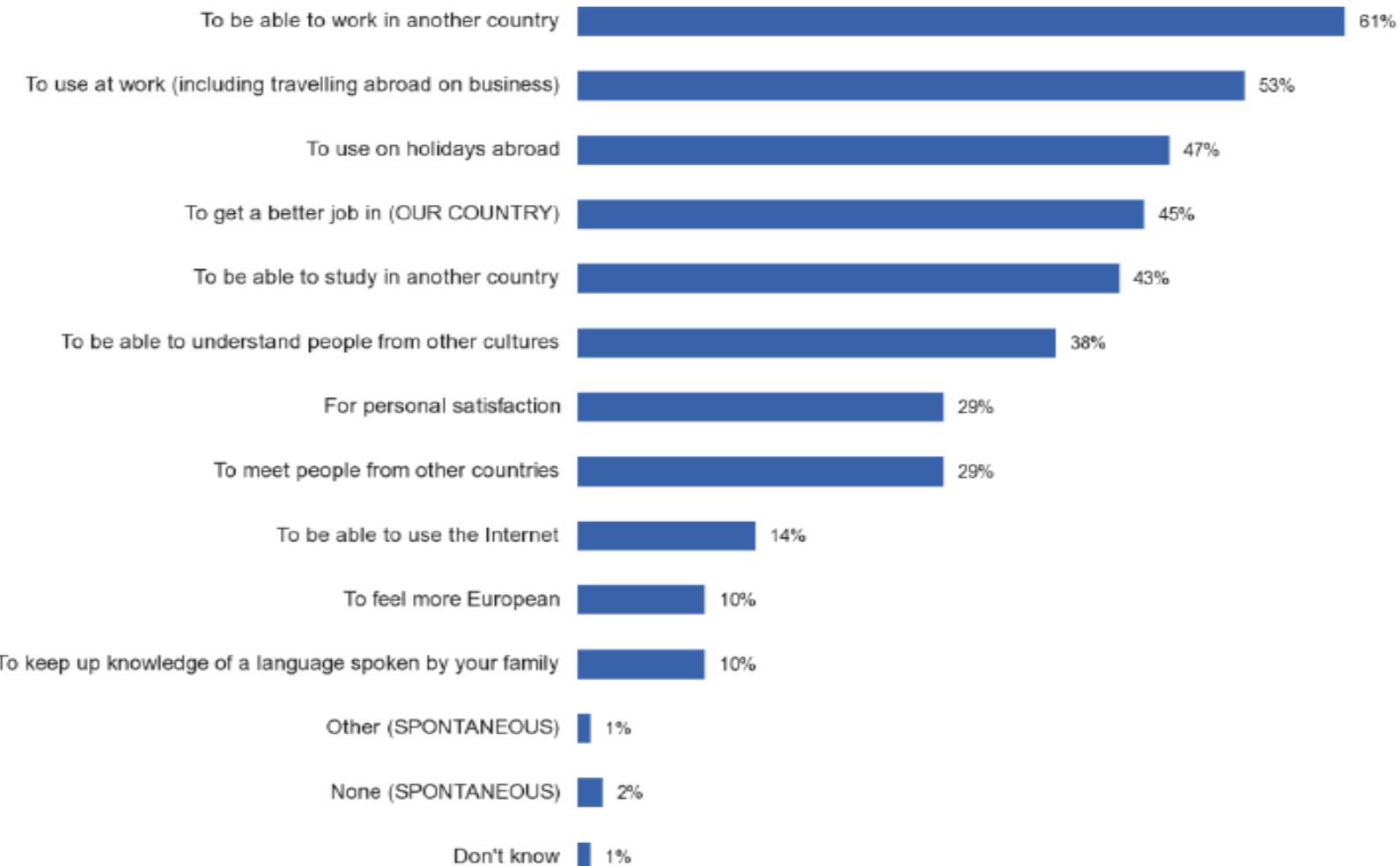
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- » «Affect for or against a psychological object»(Thurstone, 1931)
- » «A learned disposition to think, feel and behave towards a person or object in a particular way»(Allport, 1954)
- » «A construct, an abstraction ... an inner component of mental life ... [expressed in] stereotypes, beliefs, verbal statements or reactions, ideas and opinions, selective recall, anger or satisfaction» (Oppenheim, 1982)

- ▶ Γνωστικό (cognitive)
- ▶ Συναισθηματικό (affective)
- ▶ Βουλητικό (conative)

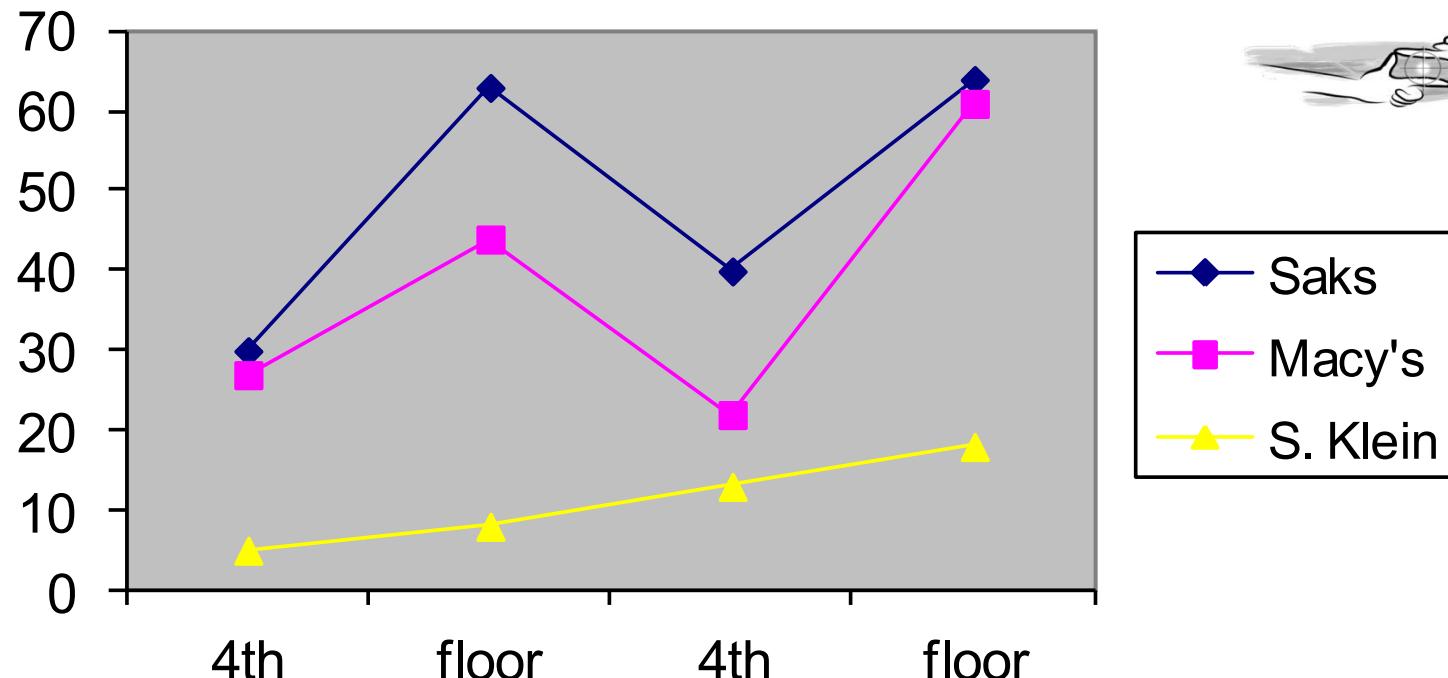
## Questionnaire: multilingualism (Special Eurobarometer 386, 2012)

QE2. In your opinion, what are the main advantages of learning a new language?



## Dependent – Independent variable (Do you remember this?)

Percentage of all (r-1) by store for four positions



- dependent variable: a linguistic variable;
- independent variable: social groups; ideologies

W. Labov, "The Social Stratification of (r)  
in NY City Department Stores"

## Independent – Dependent variable (matched-guise)

*Independent variable:*  
4 bilinguals read a paragraph in English and in French  
= 8 paragraphs

*Dependent variable:*  
Height, good looks, leadership, sense of humour, likeability, intelligence, religiousness, self-confidence, dependability, kindness, entertaining, ambitious, sociable character

- In variationist studies, the linguistic variable is the **dependent** variable;
- In language attitude studies, the linguistic variable is the **independent** variable!

## Matched-guise (Εναρμονισμένες αμφιέσεις ): diglossia

	ΧΑΡΑΚΤΗΡΙΣΤΙΚΟ	Y	X	F-RATIO / Z-TEST	P
ΚΥΡΟΣ	Ευφύτα	4.79	4.78	Z=0.074	p>0.05
	Αυτοπεποίθηση	5.05	4.89	F188, 194=1.78	p<0.05
ΔΛΛΗΛΕΙΓΤΥΗ	Φιλικότητα	3.69	4.54	Z=5.55	p<0.05
	Αξιοποιία	4.47	4.87	F189, 196=1.42	p<0.05
	Προοδευτικότητα	2.81	4.45	F187, 195=1.39	p<0.05
	Καλή χρήση	4.43	4.82	F189, 195=1.44	p<0.05

Μαρία Αραποπούλου, «Δημοτική, καθαρεύουσα  
και οι στάσεις των νέων» (1998)

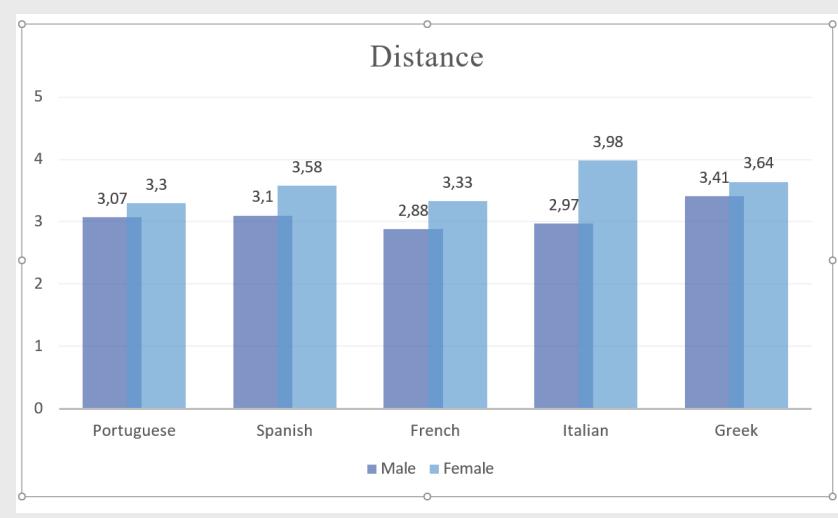
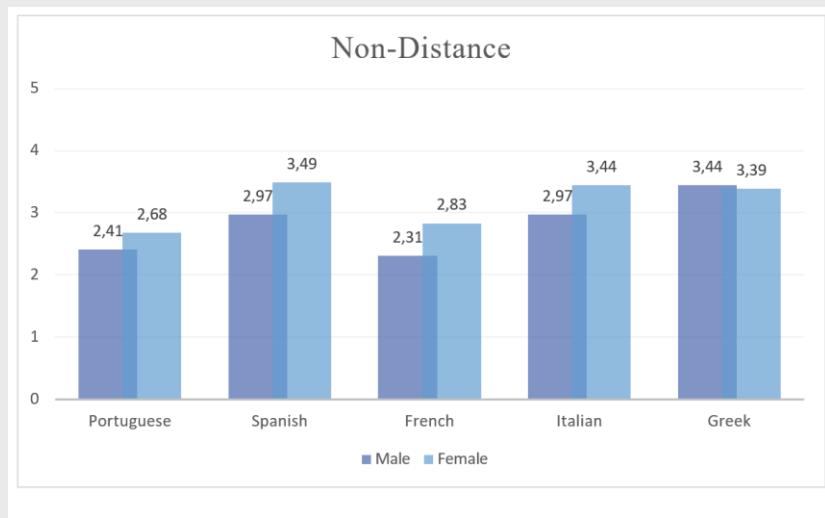
## Matched-guise: Our Dpt's news anchor. The guises



The person speaking is...	Very little			A lot
Funny	1	2	3	4
Attractive	1	2	3	4
Friendly	1	2	3	4
Self-confident	1	2	3	4
Polite	1	2	3	4
Tall	1	2	3	4
Trustworthy	1	2	3	4
Ambitious	1	2	3	4
Efficient	1	2	3	4

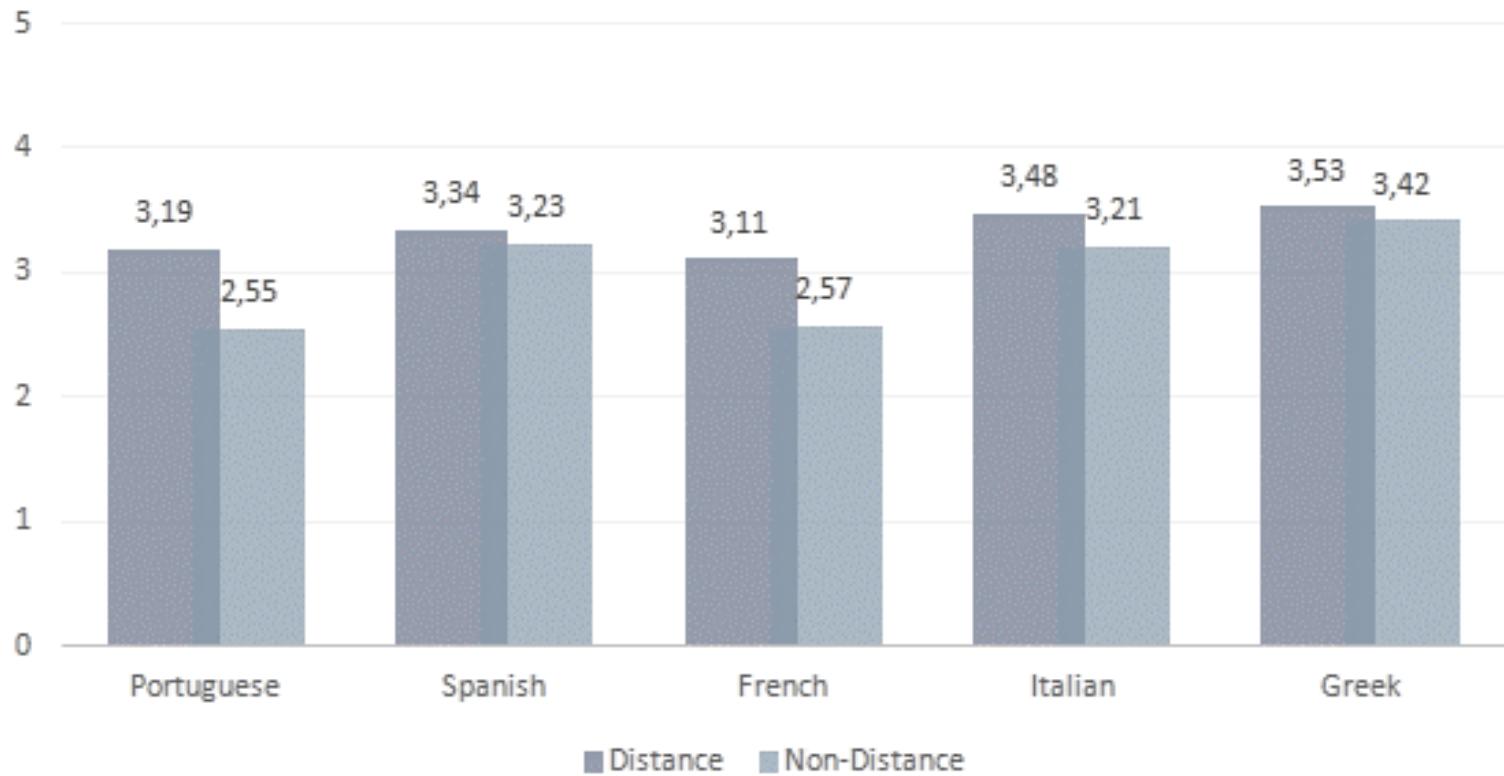
Beatrix Jorge, Carmen Grandío, Margarida Cruz,  
Sara Marques

## Matched-guise: Our Dpt's news anchor. Results



## Matched-guise: Our Dpt's news anchor. Results

Average Values according to Distance and Non-Distance Groups



Beatriz Jorge, Carmen Grandío, Margarida Cruz,  
Sara Marques

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# Language ideologies

## Silverstein, "Language Structure and Linguistic Ideology", 1979

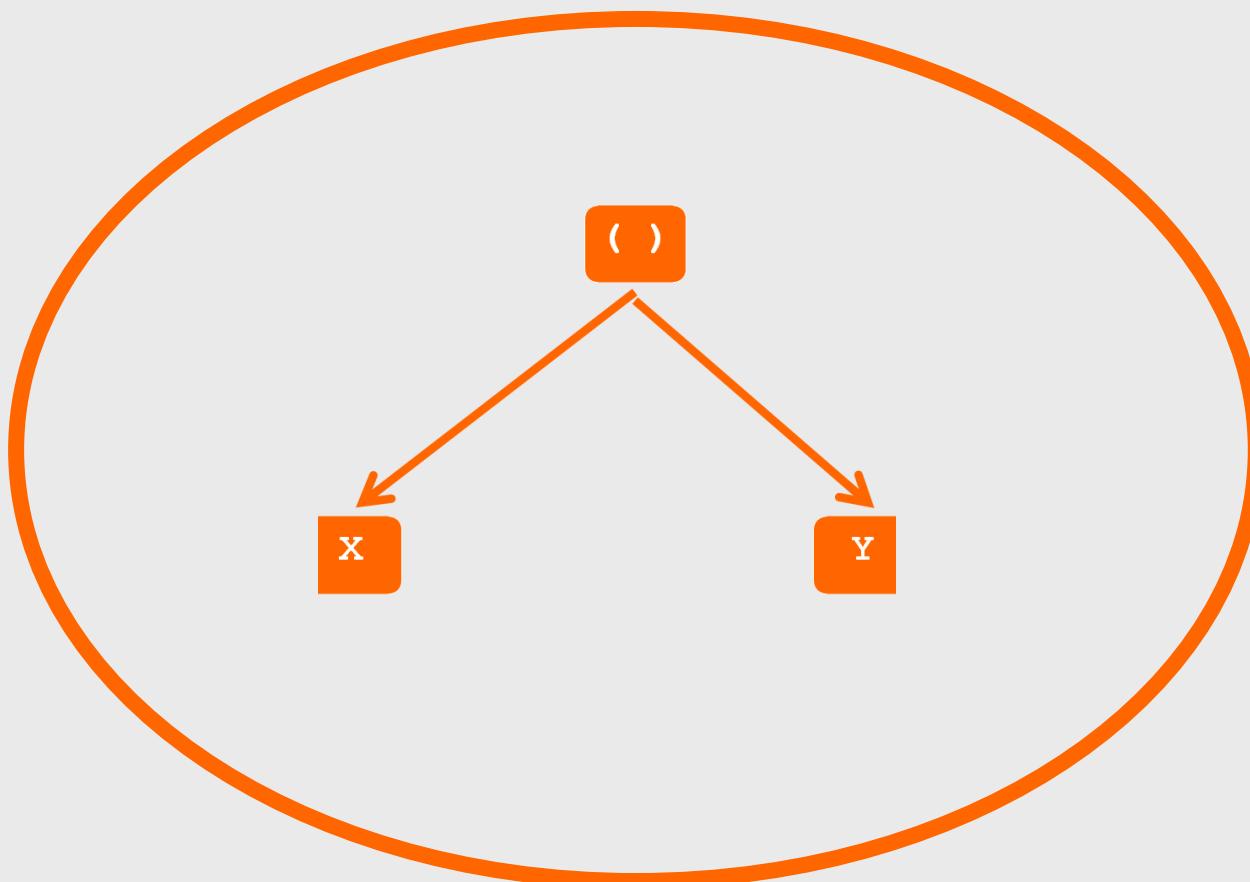
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"But I do not address myself only to articulated beliefs that are incorrect or contemptible. I should clarify that ideologies about language, or linguistic ideologies, are any sets of beliefs about language articulated by the users as a rationalization or justification of perceived language structure and use. [...] [I]n certain areas the ideological beliefs do in fact match the scientific ones, though the two will, in general, be part of divergent larger systems of discourse and enterprise".



## Attitudes and their encompassing discourses: ideologies

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## Ideologies as representations of representations

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## Perceptual Dialectology (Weijnen, Rensink, Preston et al.)

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- » how folk respondents evaluate the linguistic difference of surrounding localities
- » which linguistic facts are more salient to perception
- » Preston: explores folk knowledge for its own sake (= dialectology / cultural geography)
  - ▶ asked U.S. respondents to rank areas on a scale of one to four (same ↔ unintelligibly different)
  - ▶ respondents were asked to outline speech areas on a blank map, label them with names of the dialect and/or area and of typical speakers, and jot down examples; computerized generalization of such maps
  - ▶ ratings of respondents for correct or pleasant speech



## Perceptual Dialectology (Preston)

Hawaiian Perceptions of U.S. Dialect Distribution

39



- satisfies representational requirement
- maps individual as well as collective perceptions
  - satisfies correlation requirement: real-perceptual / literal-metaphorical can be easily contrasted

Figure 2.15: A Texas respondent's perception of US dialects



Figure 2.16: A California respondent's perception of US dialects

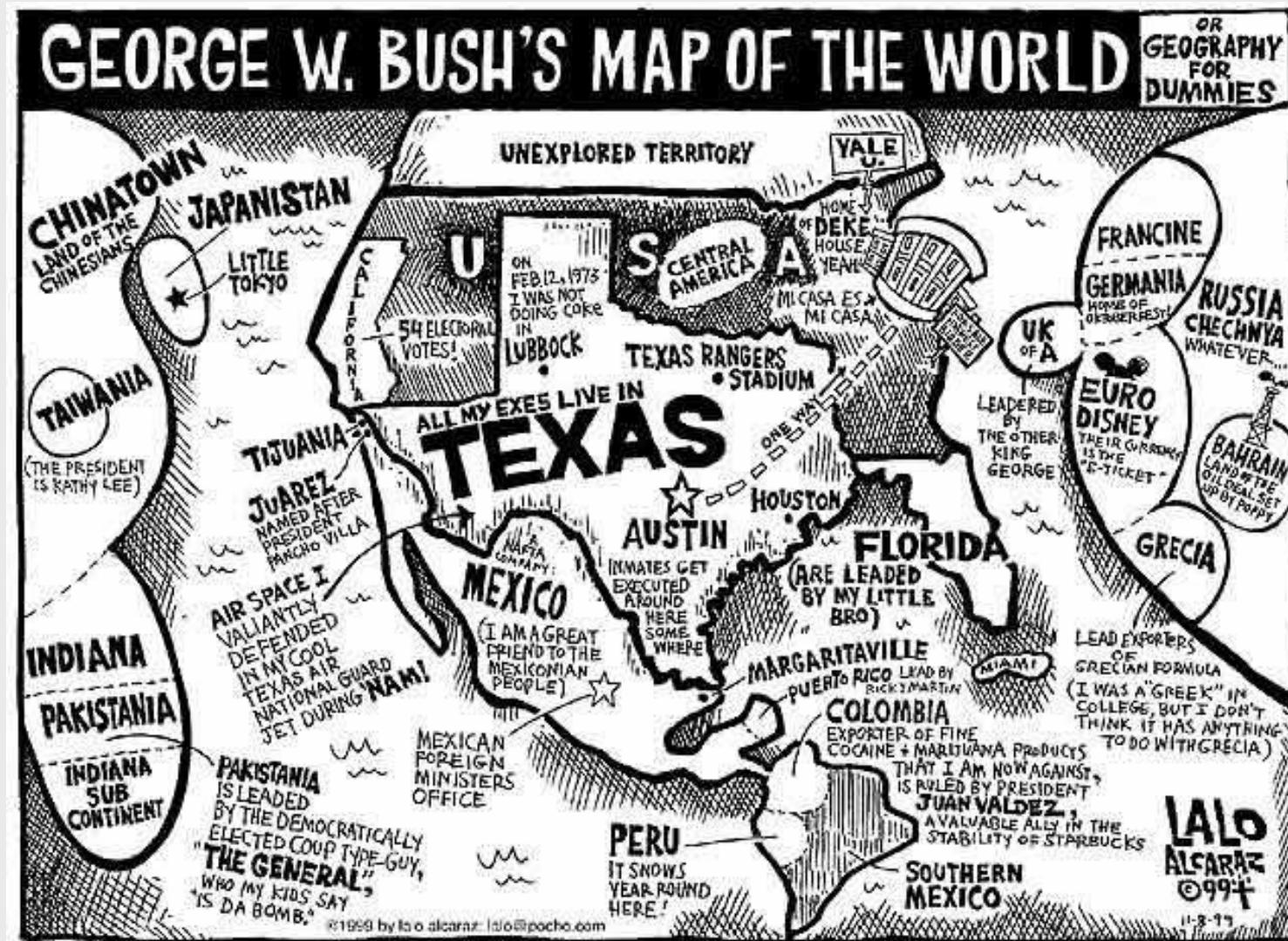


\* New York City

† Washington, D.C.

Michigan pleasantness scores

## Perceptual Dialectology: Analogies



# Perceptual Dialectology: Analogies



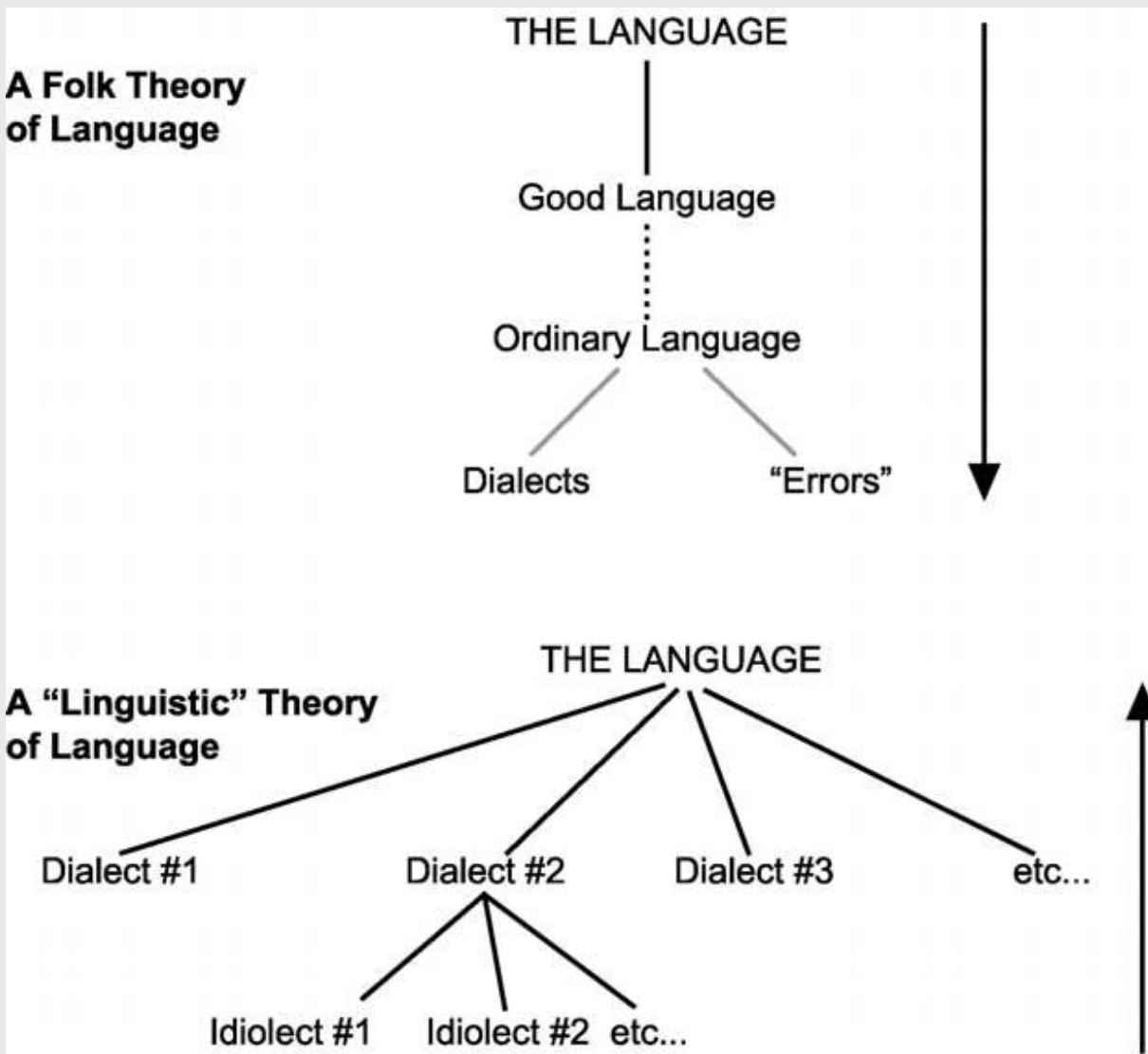
## Niedzielski & Preston, *Folk Linguistics*, 2000

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- » overt knowledge of and comment about language by nonlinguists
- » 'folk' ≠ 'trained professionals'
- » discourse / conversation analysis, largely based on the analysis of **presuppositions**
  
- » **Metalanguage<sub>1</sub>**: overt, conscious comment about language (accurate or inaccurate)
- » **Metalanguage<sub>2</sub>**: mention of talk (automatic and unconscious)
- » **Metalanguage<sub>3</sub>**: shared folk knowledge, 'folk philosophy', presuppositions (**ideology proper**)
  - ▶ cf. also Preston, "Folk metalanguage", 2004

## A folk vs. a 'linguistic' theory of LANGUAGE



## Metalinguistic comments: “Concern” about language

Into a position for battle for the Greek language

We should protect Greek!

Greek ostracized

They ban the Greek language

Greek, the maternal language of Europe

Europe is going to lose its maternal language

*If they take out of the French language its 30% of Greek words, the French people will not be able to communicate with each other.*

.. so, in this case, how is Europe to be called?

## Greece. The fear of Latinization (Romanization)

Οα «λατινοποίησι»  
η γλώσσας μας

Μετά την διεύρυνση των σαράντα  
Ακαδημαϊκούς για την κατάπολη λατινο-  
ποίησης του ελληνικού αλφαριθμητικού  
συμπολιτισμού που επέβαλε τότε τη  
μητρική του για το Σύντερο της

ΟΙ ΑΘΑΝΑΤΟΙ ΚΑΤΑ

Οχι λατινοποίηση της ελληνικής γλωσσής

Is our language in danger of latinization  
[romanization]?

No to the latinization of the Greek  
language!

Another case of latinization!

Risk of latinization of the Greek language

Our language is going to be latinized!

The monotonic orthography is a step  
towards the latinization of our  
language!

To νεονοτονικό σχεδια προπομπός  
της λατινοποίησης της γλώσσας μας!

## “Language issues” in the Greek press (1976-2001)

1. English as a “second official language”
2. The Academy on the “Romanization” of the alphabet
3. “Bulgarians” vs. Babiniotis
4. “Macedonian” (Irvine & Gal 2000)
5. The “five-language regime” in the EU
6. Youth’s “word poverty” (‘ευδοκίμηση’ and ‘αρωγή’)
7. Post-diglossia issues [teaching Ancient Greek in secondary education, 1981 orthographic reform, the “Language Problem”]
8. Foreign words, influence of English, purism
9. “Monotonic” vs. “polytonic” orthography
10. “Greek abroad”, Greek as a second language
11. Erased or Censored [minorities, ...]
12. Miscellaneous [Greek in Cyprus, ...]

moral panics

routine

## "Language issues": A coherent conceptual framework

Greek abroad (10)  
in Cyprus (12)

"word poverty" (6)  
post-diglossia  
issues (7)  
orthography (9)  
usage (12)

an Interior  
within the  
Exterior

Greek spreads

Interior

Exterior Greek threatened

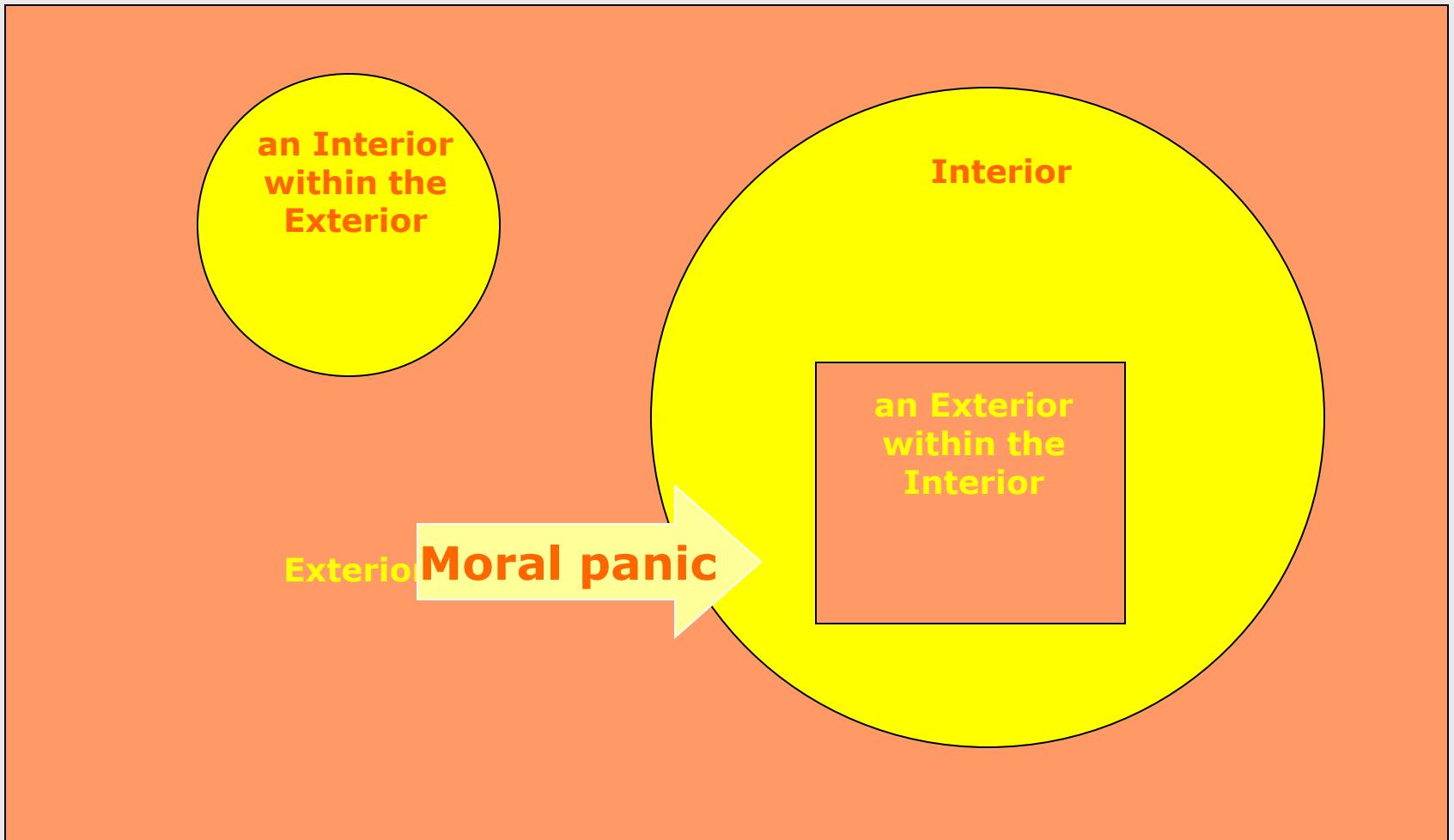
an Exterior  
within the  
Interior

"Macedonian" (4)  
"five-language  
regime" (5)

bilingualism (1)  
diglossia (7)  
Romanization (2,9)  
foreign words (8)  
"Bulgarians" (3)  
minorities (11)

## “Language issues”: Moral panics

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## France. The fear of globalization

Cette menace n'est pas seulement linguistique : elle est idéologique et politique puisqu'elle sape ces valeurs progressistes que sont la souveraineté des peuples, la liberté de pensée, la pluralité des cultures, l'attachement au progrès social, la coopération pacifique entre peuples égaux : ainsi, laisser assassiner le français, et avec lui la littérature, le théâtre, la philosophie, la chanson, le cinéma et la science d'expression française, c'est capituler devant l'idéologie insidieusement totalitaire de la mondialisation néo-libérale qui règne encore plus « naturellement » quand elle est portée « spontanément » par la prétendue « langue de l'avenir ». [...] Si le français, l'une des langues les plus « reconnues » au monde, est attaqué en France même, quelle autre langue n'est-elle pas en péril de mort, notamment dans le tiers-monde ? A travers le français, c'est le droit à la différence culturelle, politique et idéologique que met en cause mondialement une entreprise totalitaire qui menace l'humanité d'un appauvrissement sans précédent. [...]

<http://www.defenselanguefrancaise.org/10.html> (2/2)

## Exercise: Specify the attitudes

Quartz Media LLC (US) | https://qz.com/942367/what-is-the-most-useful-language-to-learn/

OUR PICKS LATEST POPULAR QUARTZ OBSESSIONS ...

ASK EMILY

# The most useful language for English speakers to learn, according to an economist

