PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE PIGEONS

請勿餵白鴿

POR FAVOR NO DE COMIDA A LAS PALOMAS

Chapter 5

LANGUAGE
Chapter 5 Key Issue 1

WHERE ARE LANGUAGES DISTRIBUTED?
What is Language?

• System of communication through speech
  – Collection of sounds that a group of people understands to have the same meaning.
  – *Literary tradition* refers to a system of written communication.
  – Many countries designate at least one *official language*
    • Used for official documents and public objects—road signs/ money

• World Statistics
  – 46 Alphabets and Logograms are in use today
    • Examples Latin, Cyrillic, Greek, Arabic, etc
    • Logograms is the umbrella idea of symbols representing words
  – 6,909 languages and 11 spoken by over 100 million
    • German, Portuguese, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Bengali, Hindi, Japanese, Lahnda (Panjabi), and Mandarin
What is Language?

• World’s languages organized into:
  – Language Families: collection of languages related through a common ancestral language
  – Language Branches: collection of languages within a family
  – Language Groups: collection of languages within a branch, share a common origin, with similar grammar and vocab
Classification Of Languages

• 2/3 of the world speaks a language in the Indo-

• Austronesian, Austro-Asiatic, Tai Kadai, Japanese, Korean
Classification of Languages

• S.W. Asia, N. Africa, and Central Asia
  – Two largest language families are…
    1. Afro-Asiatic (ARABIC)
       – Official language in 24 countries of S.W. Asia and North Africa
       – One of the six official languages in U.N.
    2. Altaic (TURKISH)
       – Official language of several countries that gained independence when Soviet Union broke up—e.g., Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan.

• African Language Families
  – More than 1,000 languages and thousands of dialects
  – Most lack a written tradition.
  – Niger-Congo
    – Swahili
      – Spoken by 30 million Africans
      » Language used to speak with outsiders from different villages
Chapter 5 Key Issue 2

WHY IS ENGLISH RELATED TO OTHER LANGUAGES?
Origins of English and Spanish

- Distribution of Indo-European Branches
  - Four most widely spoken branches
    1. Indo-Iranian branch
       - Spoken primarily in South Asia
    2. Balto-Slavic branch
       - Spoken primarily in Eastern Europe
    3. Germanic branch
       - Spoken primarily in northwestern Europe and North America
         - Divides into High and Low Germanic subgroups
         - English is classified in the Low Germanic group
    4. Romance branch
       - Spoken primarily in southwestern Europe and Latin America
       - Most common are Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Italian
Origins of English and Spanish

- Modern English has evolved primarily from the language spoken by three Germanic tribes invading the British Isles.
  1. Angles - from southern Denmark
  2. Jutes - from northern Denmark
  3. Saxons - from northwestern Germany
- Over time, others invaded England and their languages influenced the basic English.
  - Vikings from present-day Norway
  - Normans from present-day Normandy in France spoke French.
Modern Spanish is a Romance Language – Roman Empire 2,000 years ago diffused language through conquest – Those who were conquered learned a low level Latin that helped show they were conquered.

- Vulgar Latin
  - After the fall of Rome geographic isolation caused the evolution into Spanish, Portuguese, French, Romanian, etc.

Origins of English and Spanish
Prominence of English Today

- English diffuses across the world
  - English language migrated with the people of England when they established colonies over four centuries.
  - Diffusion to North America: First successful colony was Jamestown, VA, in 1607. Defeat of France by England secured English as the dominant language in North America.
  - United States responsible for diffusing English to several places—e.g., Philippines, Guam, Liberia, etc.