

THE CONSTRUCT OF 'STANDARD ENGLISH'



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LANGUAGE OR DIALECT?

Standardized language

“a superposed norm used by speakers whose first and ordinary language may be different. A 'language' is the medium of communication between speakers of different dialects” (Haugen, 1997).

ISSUES AND MISCONCEPTIONS

The inherent 'purity' of language

The 'stability' and 'uniformity' of language

The myth of a 'homogenous' Global English

Dialect as deviation from the norm

So, what is *‘Standard English’*?

“English, like other Ausbau* languages, can be described as consisting of an autonomous standardized variety together with all the non-standard varieties which are heteronomous with respect to it” (Peter Trudgill, 1999, p.118).

*Ausbau (Kloss, 1967) – ‘language by development’, is ‘recognized as such because of having been shaped or reshaped, molded or remolded – as the case may be – in order to become a standardized tool of literary expression’ (in Ayres-Bennett, 2021).

What it is **NOT** (Peter Trudgill, 1999):

- An autonomous language variety
 - A set of prescriptive rules
 - Accent
 - Style
 - Register

Garvin's measures of degree of standardization

- *Flexible stability*
 - stabilized by an appropriate codification process
 - the codification norms have to be sufficiently flexible so as to accommodate linguistic shift
 - *Intellectualization*
 - the capacity of a language to develop increasingly more accurate and detailed means of expression
- (Garvin, 1993, p.43)

The five functions of a standard
(according to Garvin, 1993):

Unifying despite differences

Separatist affirmation

Prestige of a community

Participatory (as a community)

Serving as frame-of-reference

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Northern

Washington D.C.

Southern

United Kingdom (UK)



Northern

Midland

London

Southern

THE PROCESS OF STANDARDIZATION

Haugen's (1997) model of standardization

	Form	Function
Society	Selection	Acceptance
Language	Codification	Elaboration

Milroy and Milroy's (2012) model of standardization

(1) Selection

(2) Acceptance

(3) Diffusion

Once the selected variety is well established and has defeated its competitors:

(4) Maintenance

(5) Elaboration of function → more value for purely utilitarian ends

(6) Acquisition of prestige → associated with the most successful people

(7) Codification

(8) Prescription

An elaboration of Haugen's model by Ayres-Bennett (2021)

	Form	Function
Society	Selection	Implementation
	Type of norm selected	Nature of the implementation
	Agents of selection	Agents of implementation
	Goals/outcomes of selection	Goals/outcomes of implementation
Language	Codification	Acceptance
		Nature of the acceptance
		Leaders and laggards
		Degree of acceptance
		Elaboration
		Nature of the elaboration
		Agents of elaboration
		Goals/outcomes of elaboration

Hornberger's (2006) six- dimensional integrative framework of language standardization

Types	<i>Policy planning approach (on form)</i>	<i>Cultivation planning approach (on function)</i>
Status planning (about uses of language)	Officialization Nationalization Standardization of status Proscription	Revival Maintenance Spread Interlingual communication – international, intranational
Acquisition planning (about users of language)	Group Education/school Literary Religious Mass media Work	Reacquisition Maintenance Shift Foreign language/second language/literacy
	<u>Selection</u> Language's formal role in society <i>Extra-linguistic aims</i>	<u>Implementation</u> Language's functional role in society <i>Extra-linguistic aims</i>
Corpus planning (about language)	Standardization of corpus Standardization of Auxiliary code Graphization	Modernization (new functions) Lexical Stylistic Renovation (new forms, old functions) Purification Reform Stylistic simplification Terminology unification
	<u>Codification</u> Language's form <i>Linguistic aims</i>	<u>Elaboration</u> Language's functions <i>Semi-linguistic aims</i>

DISMANTLING THE 'STANDARD'

From 'standard language' to 'language standard'

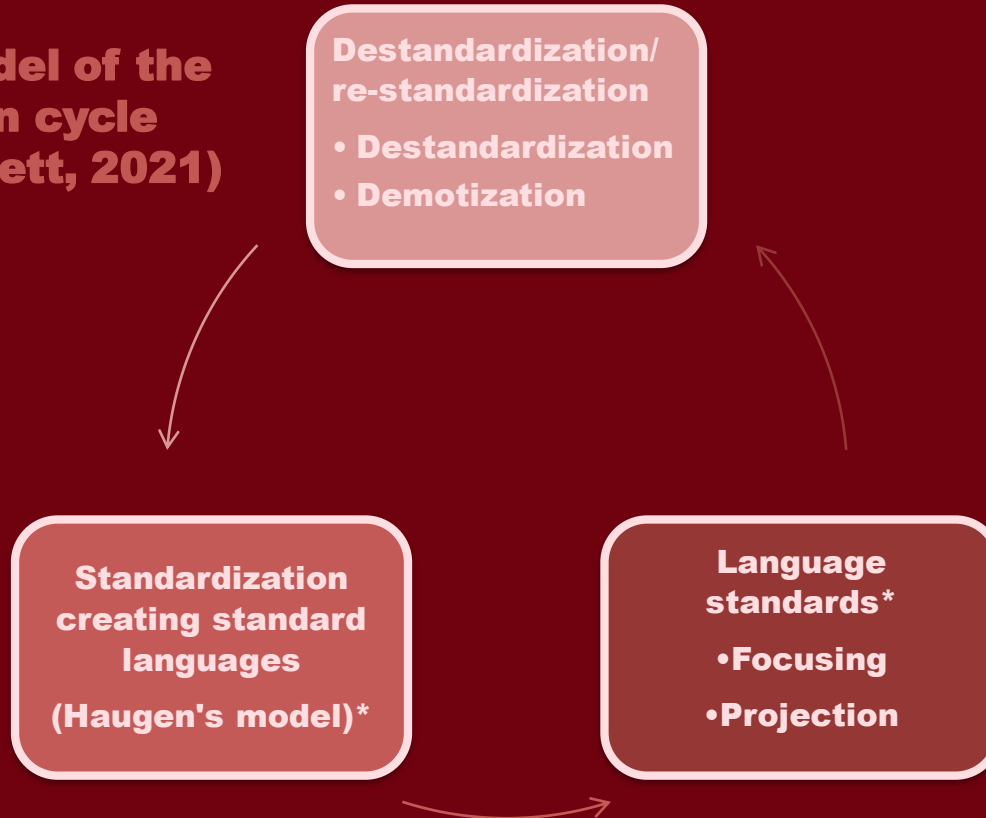
Top-down vs. bottom-up ideology

Destandardization, demotization
and re-standardization

Pluricentric restandardization

STANDARDIZATION CYCLE

Schematic model of the standardization cycle (in Ayres-Bennett, 2021)



“Linguistic activity is a process of *projecting* onto others images of the universe as we perceive it, and by implication inviting others to share our symbolization. ... If we feel that those we are speaking to are part of a group we wish to identify with, we may modify our behavior so as to be more like our percept of theirs. In that case, the behavior of the group will become more *focused*, and since our symbolization centers on the characteristics with which we have endowed groups which we imagine we perceive in society, our own behavior too will then in that particular respect become more *focused*, more *regular*”.

(Le Page, 1988, in Ayres-Bennett, 2021)

CONCLUSION
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