

Dialect & Accent

Languages

Two words often confused, and what separates a language from a dialect.

Accent

- Pronunciation only
- Everyone has one
- Says where and who you are
- Not a deviation from anything

Dialect

- Pronunciation, vocabulary AND grammar
- Regional or social
- All speech is in some dialect
- Standard forms are dialects with an army

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

The line between a language and a dialect is political, not linguistic. Mutual intelligibility does not settle it.

Danish, Norwegian and Swedish are largely mutually intelligible and called languages. Chinese 'dialects' often are not, and are called