



Intro to Language

A dark, textured world map is visible in the background of the slide. The map is rendered in shades of gray and black, with a fine, grid-like texture overlaid on it. The continents are clearly outlined, though the colors are muted due to the dark background.

Section A: What is Language



Language is a **system of communication** that uses signs, gestures, marks, or vocal sounds to communicate thoughts, feelings, and ideas.



What is the purpose of language?




Gives us the ability to communicate.



Allows us to teach new skills.



Provides us tools to transmit culture.



Create a context-sentence using the following words:
Language, Diffusion, Culture



The image features a circular arrangement of four lines of highly stylized, cursive script in gold on a dark green, textured background. The script is difficult to decipher but appears to be a form of calligraphy or a constructed language. The lines are arranged in a circle, with each line containing several characters or words. The overall appearance is that of a decorative or artistic representation of text.

Is this Language?

A dark, textured world map is visible in the background, showing the outlines of continents. The map is rendered in a dark grey or black color with a fine, grid-like texture.

How do languages differ?



**Writing
Direction**

Grammar

**Differences
In
Language**

Alphabets

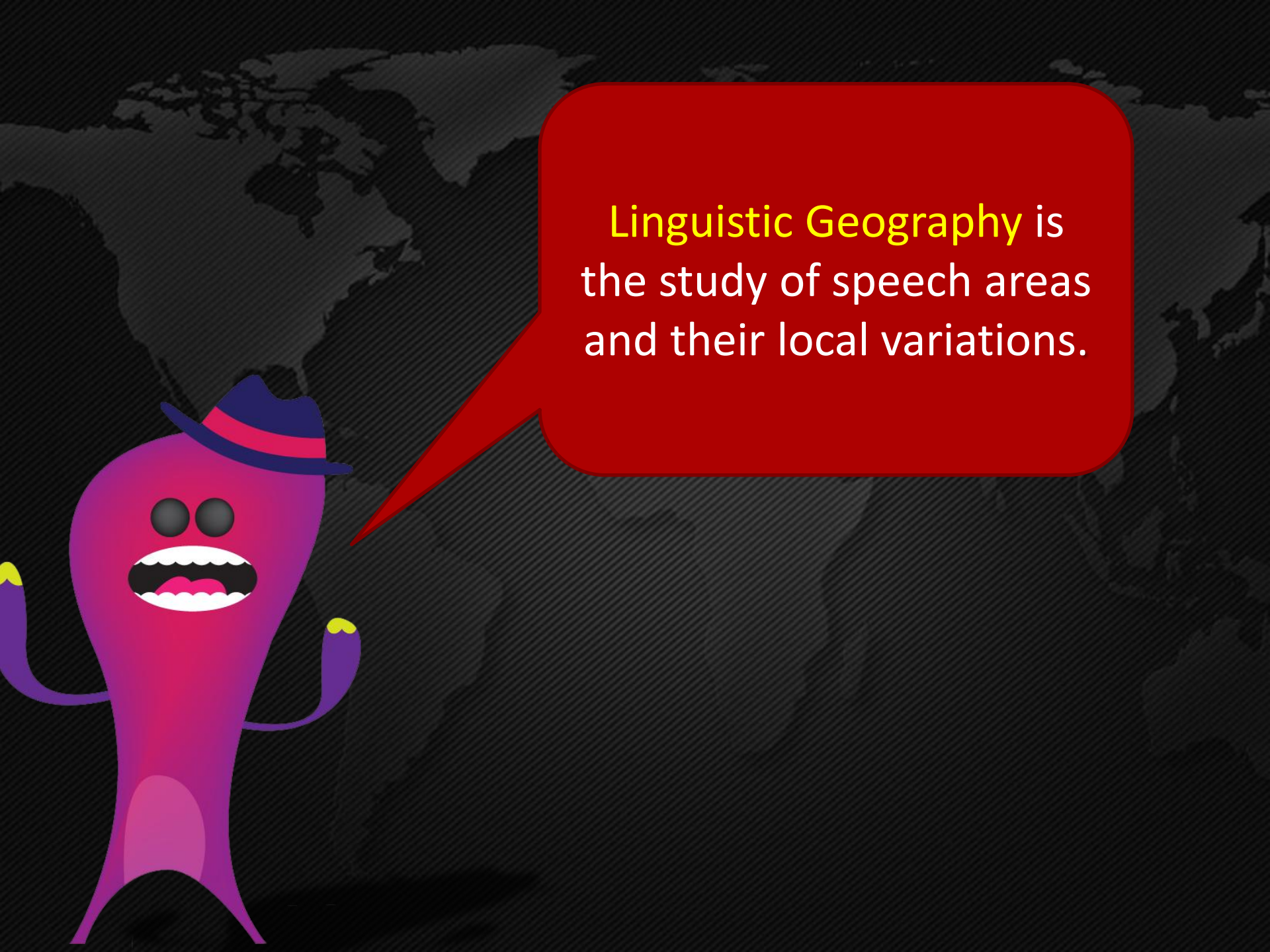
**Allowable
Sounds**

A dark, textured world map is visible in the background of the slide. The map is rendered in a dark grey or black color with a fine, grid-like texture. The continents are clearly outlined, though the details are somewhat muted due to the low contrast and texture.

Section B: Linguistic Geography

The background of the slide is a dark, textured world map. The map is rendered in shades of dark gray and black, with a fine, grid-like texture. The continents are visible but not clearly defined. In the center of the map, there is a horizontal rectangular box with a light beige or tan background. This box has a thin white border and contains the text "What is Linguistic Geography?".

What is Linguistic Geography?




Linguistic Geography is the study of speech areas and their local variations.



Interesting Facts about Language:

A dense field of small, colorful balloons (blue, yellow, and orange) against a clear blue sky. The balloons are scattered across the entire frame, creating a vibrant and festive atmosphere.

There are an estimated 7,100 languages spoken in the world.



Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish are the mother tongue or second language of about half of the world's population



Approximately 80% of languages are spoken by less than 100,000 people.

A dense field of black and white dots, with a single orange dot standing out in the center-left area.

Approximately 50 languages are only spoken by one person.

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**How do we track the history of
language?**



Language Divergence

Spatial Interaction between speakers break down causing new words to develop. British/Americans

Language breaks into dialects and then into new tongues.

Language Convergence

Two languages become one because of close spatial interaction.

This can also cause Language extinction

We track languages by looking at language divergence and convergence.

Latin: Crux

- Albanian: kryq
- Aromanian: crutse
- Catalan: creu
- Dalmatian: crauc
- English: crux, crucial
- French: croix
- Galician: cruz
- German: Kreuz
- Italian: croce

- Occitan: crotz
- Old Portuguese: cruz
- Portuguese: cruz
- Romanian: cruce
- Romansch: crusch, crousch
- Sardinian: cruche, crugi, cruxi, gruche, grughe, gruxi
- Serbo-Croatian: kríž / крѣж
- Spanish: cruz
- Venetian: cróxe

We can tell what languages played part in the development of others.

A dark, textured world map is visible in the background of the slide. The map is rendered in a dark grey or black color with a fine, grid-like texture. It shows the outlines of continents and oceans.

Section C: Categorizing Language

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How do we categorize languages?

Language Families

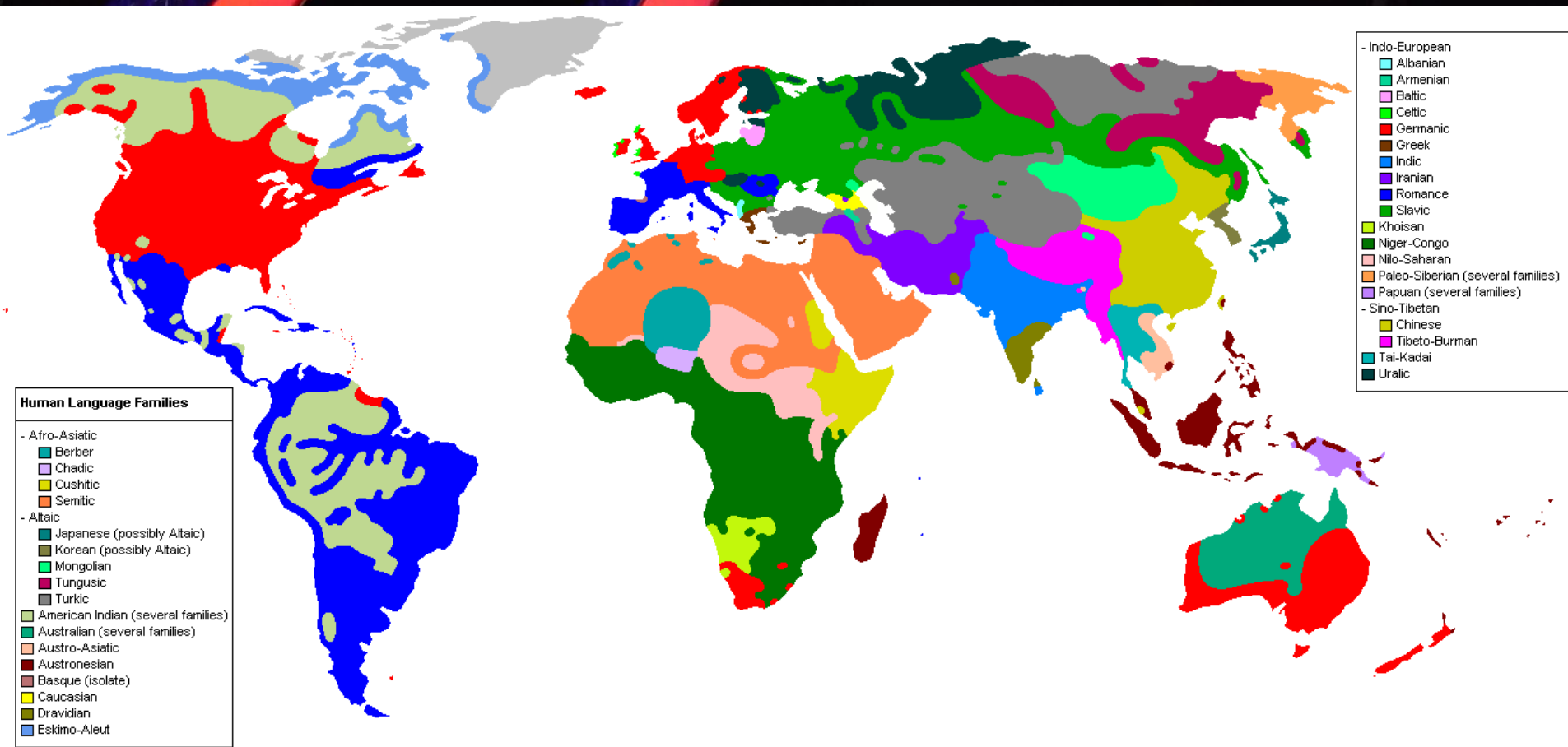
- Languages with a shared, but fairly distant origin.

Languages

- Culturally Defined.
- Standard Languages are those recognized by people for use in schools, government, media, and general use.

Dialects

- Regional Variants of a Standard Language.



What does the map above reveal about the **diffusion** of language?



Language families by speakers.

Language Family	Approx. # of Speakers	% of Pop
1. Indo-European	2.562 billion	44.78%
2. Sino-Tibetan	1.276 billion	22.28%
3. Niger-Congo	358 million	6.26%
4. Afro-Asiatic	340 million	5.93%
5. Austronesian	312 million	5.45%
6. Dravidian	222 million	3.87%
7. Altaic	145 million	2.53%
8. Japanese	123 million	2.16%
9. Austro-Asiatic	101 million	1.77%
10. Tai-Kadai	78 million	1.37%



List the following languages in order of **greatest to **least** based on number of **native speakers**:**

**Arabic, Bengali, English, Hindi, Japanese,
Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish,
Standard German**



Commonly spoken languages by native speakers.

Language	% of Pop
1. Mandarin Chinese	12.44%
2. Spanish	4.85%
3. English	4.83%
4. Arabic	3.25%
5. Hindi	2.68%
6. Bengali	2.66%
7. Portuguese	2.62%
8. Russian	2.12%
9. Japanese	1.8%
10. Standard German	1.33%