6. LANGUAGE VERSUS DIALECT

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A matter of definition:

- Analytical linguistic definition, dialects are related to languages, because of:
  - lexical correspondence
  - grammatical similarly

- Politico-linguistic definition:
  - official status
  - literary standard
  - **dialect chains** cut by 'language' names: ethno-linguistic identification

- Toponymic definition: a language is 'a system providing a means by which the members of a community can communicate orally and/or graphically'

- The majority of toponyms has once been created by the (local) community.

- Those terms traditionally close to the communities' daily experience – like geographical generics – are the first to be distinctive.

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