

## Assignment: My Linguistic Autobiography

Adapted from [MIT Open Courseware on Linguistics](#)

Your first written assignment is to write your linguistic autobiography. In 1000 words or less, you will trace the development of your own speech variety or varieties. Of course, to do this, you'll need to also trace some of your family history, especially those of your parents, siblings (if any) or any other relatives, care-takers, acquaintances and/or peers whose speech and linguistic varieties have influenced your own in some way or another.

While you write, please identify and share specific details—especially personal and socio-economic factors—that you think may have shaped your language patterns and your and others' feelings and attitudes toward these patterns. Relevant biographical data may include: place of birth, where you grew up, and what language(s) and language attitudes you've been exposed to. Please share any relevant events that, as you remember them, may have influenced, or challenged or affirmed, your identity in some decisive or memorable fashion.

Please also share some detail on patterns or words that you use in your everyday language. How have these patterns or words shaped your identity? Do you think your linguistic variety/varieties are accepted by others? Etc. Below are some examples:

- Hudley, Anne Charity. "[My linguistic autobiography.](#)" *The William & Mary Blogs*, Feb. 2, 2009.
- Anonymous author. "[Linguistic Autobiography.](#)"
- Chin, Tiffany Y. "[Sociolinguistic Autobiography \(PDF\).](#)"
- Anonymous author. "[Linguistic Autobiography \(PDF\).](#)"
- Mallinson, Dr. Christine. "[My Linguistic Autobiography.](#)" (PDF)