Five Useful Linguistic Principles

1. Language is always changing
   - Change is OK
   - Language is infinite
   - Changes follow general patterns
     - Simplicity
     - Analogy
     - “Gresham’s Law”

Example 1

Example 2
   - “Hook Up”

2. Language and Culture are Interconnected
   - Sapir-Worf hypothesis
   - Example 1: ASL debate
   - Example 2: French email
3. All native language varieties are grammatical, but some varieties have more prestige than others

- Language communicates directly and indirectly
- Code switching
- "Standard Written English"

4. Oral and written languages are distinct

- Oral language precedes written
- Our class will discuss elements of both systems

5. Ethical language use is a choice

- Language is power
- Words can hurt and heal
- Example: “Political correctness”