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**Presentation Abstract: *Yooper Talk: The History and Development of a Dialect***

In this presentation, I will describe the social and linguistic history of English in the Upper Peninsula, or, *Yooper Talk,* and explain how ideas about what it means to sound like a Yooper has emerged over time. In order to understand any dialect, we must understand its history: how the dialect has been developed, both consciously and unconsciously, by people and their everyday practices, beliefs, and values, as well as by the land and labor that shape not only the dialect but also the region. The history of a region is reflected in present-day life in many ways, from languages spoken, to economics, industries, politics, food, housing, literacy, religious practices, education, and land use. The history of a region is also a clue to the origins of the vocabulary, sounds, and grammar of that area’s dialect. Understanding the history of a given place can help us to understand language use by showing us which languages have come into contact as people have migrated, settled, mixed, and mingled in a particular area. From this perspective, dialect is something affected by history and different languages coming into contact, as well as something that individuals constantly create through their everyday interactions and experiences. Thus, a dialect is a result of historical, linguistic, economic, geographic, ideological, and cultural processes that come together to define it, but also to define the region in which it is spoken. Significant factors in these processes include historical events, immigration, settlement patterns, and local economies. These factors not only shape a dialect but also affect individuals’ perceptions about it and attitudes toward its speakers, and these, too, are affected by the history of a region. This presentation will demonstrate how the social and political history of the Upper Peninsula is reflected in the variety of English spoken there. In doing so, it will explore the intersections among land, labor, people, and language to describe the development of UP English and key linguistic features that characterize the dialect.