

## Re: prestige dialects Re: Why is Hindi perceived as being more refined than Punjabi?

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2005-12/msg01884.html>

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- *From:* "Seán O'Leathlóbhair" <jwlawler@xxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* 22 Dec 2005 13:17:06 -0800
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Peter T. Daniels wrote:

> Seán O'Leathlóbhair wrote:

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>> Peter T. Daniels wrote:

>>> Seán O'Leathlóbhair wrote:

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>>>> Peter T. Daniels wrote:

>>>>> Brablo wrote:

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>>>>>> Brilliant answer! Thanks for your time and dedication to enlightening

>>>>>> us all!

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>>>>>> An analogy would be why Southern Dialect English (spoken in Alabama,

>>>>>> for example) is perceived as being less refined than Washington DC

>>>>>> English.

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>>>>>> What do you mean by "Washington DC English"?

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>>>>>> Peter T. Daniels grammatim@xxxxxxx

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>>>> I would guess that it was an attempt to indicate a prestige AmE

>>>> dialect. In many countries, the dialect of educated speakers from the

>>>> capital is, or is close to, the most prestigious dialect. The writer

>>>> may have supposed that this applies to the US. Can you suggest a

>>>> convenient short label for the most prestigious AmE dialect(s)?

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>>>> "General American." I.e., "accentless" American. Americans recognize

>>>> varieties as regional, not social.

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>> I didn't realise that "General American" was regarded as a prestige

>> dialect. Over here, "General English / British" would be an unlikely

>> name for a prestige dialect. "General" and "prestige" are more likely

>> to be antonyms than synonyms. Consider cars, are "general" cars and

>> "prestige" cars the same