

Activity 3

Sound Differences in the Innu Dialects

Although dialects of a language have many things in common and the speakers of one dialect can often understand those of another dialect, there are also many differences that identify where a person comes from. Depending on the community, the pronunciation of ‘sh’ is different.

Instructions:

- ▶ Open the Linguistic Atlas found at www.atlas-ling.ca.
- ▶ Go to the ‘location and travel’ category.
- ▶ Select the phrase “on the road”.
- ▶ Click on each marker within the Innu language on the map and listen carefully.
- ▶ When you find the speakers listed below, write the sound on the corresponding line.

What do you notice about the pronunciation of ‘sh’ in the word ‘meshkanat’ for each Innu speaker?

	Sound
▶ Caroline Gabriel - Innu - Matimekush	_____
▶ Brigitta Piwas Aylward - Innu - Mushuau	_____
▶ Kanani Penashue - Innu - Sheshatshiu	_____
▶ Doris Vollant - Innu - Uashat mak Mani-utenam	_____
▶ Alice Lalo - Innu - Pakut-shipu	_____
▶ Délima Bellefleur - Innu - Unaman-shipu	_____
▶ Sylvie Malec - Innu - Nutashkuan	_____
▶ Yvette Mollen - Innu - Ekuanitshit	_____
▶ Hélène St-Onge - Innu - Pessamit	_____

Answer:

	Sound	IPA*
▶ Innu - Matimekush	sh	/ʃ/
▶ Innu - Mushuau	sh	/ʃ/
▶ Innu - Sheshatshiu	sh	/ʃ/
▶ Innu - Uashat mak Mani-utenam	sh	/ʃ/
▶ Innu - Pakut-shipu	h	/h/
▶ Innu - Unaman-shipu	h	/h/
▶ Innu - Nutashkuan	h	/h/
▶ Innu - Ekuanitshit	h	/h/
▶ Innu - Pessamit	h	/h/

(*IPA= International Phonetic Alphabet)