



Dialect

One example of language variation is dialect. Dialect is a particular form of language peculiar to a particular region or social group. Dialect can be the specific words used, or it can be the way the speaker pronounces the words, i.e., accent.

Directions: The passage below is from the novel *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton. Read the passage. Can you identify the dialect? Fill in the chart below.

“It was a pretty bad smash-up?” I questioned Harmon, looking after Frome's retreating figure, and thinking how gallantly his lean brown head, with its shock of light hair, must have sat on his strong shoulders before they were bent out of shape.

“Wust kind,” my informant assented. “More'n enough to kill most men. But the Fromes are tough. Ethan'll likely touch a hundred.”

“Good God!” I exclaimed. At the moment Ethan Frome, after climbing to his seat, had leaned over to assure himself of the security of a wooden box—also with a druggist's label on it—which he had placed in the back of the buggy, and I saw his face as it probably looked when he thought himself alone. “That man touch a hundred? He looks as if he was dead and in hell now!”

DIALECT	VOCABULARY OR ACCENT?	MEANING