1910 Census overview of a community, 500-1000 words, plus tables

The last assignment asked you to start gathering data on a community. Now, we’re going to focus in on one key historical moment and look at language and immigration. You will probably want to use the same community as you did for the last assignment, but that’s not required.

You’ll need to get access to the full data from 1910 Census. The way I do that is going to a library on campus and accessing ancestry.com. (I don’t know if you can get it in any library ... worst case is that you need to go to the Historical Society — across from Memorial Union. Public libraries normally have it as well and you can probably get at the data in other ways.)

The 1910 Census provides data on people who reported being unable to speak English. Choose a community that had immigrants in 1910 and choose look at the numbers of immigrants and places or origin. PLEASE include a screen shot of one page of the material you used.

- How many non-English speakers were there?
  - Where were they from?
  - Were they recent immigrants?
  - How many were Wisconsin-born?
  - What did they do for a living?
- How many immigrants spoke English?
  - Were they from similar places?
  - As recent as non-English speakers?
  - Similar jobs?

You don’t need to do more than 300-400 people but please be clear about how you chose them, for instance: (1) The first X pages for the town or village, (2) some neighborhood you know well, (3) some area you found particularly interesting.

Compare what you find to the results in the Wilkerson & Salmons Hustisford article. You will probably have a more diverse set of immigrants and probably fewer monolinguals, for instance.

- What conclusions can you draw about the community in 1910 based on this?
- How has it changed since, based on what you know about more recent times and American Community Survey data / MLA Map data?

As before, you should feel free to explore issues and angles that look particularly interesting or promising, but the above should give you clear guidelines on lines of investigation.

(50 pts)