

**American Dialect Society (Midwest Region) Sessions
at the Midwest Modern Language Association Convention
St. Louis Union Station Marriot, St. Louis, MO**

**Friday, November 4, 2011
8:00am-11:15 am (2 panels)**

8:00 am – 9:30 am

Panel 1 (MMLA Session 10)

Location: Grand Hall 2

Chair: Erica J. Benson, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

1. Alyson Sewell, University of Wisconsin-Madison, "Code-switching in Bilingual Interactions: Language Alternation to Report Speech in German"

This paper examines code-switching in the production of reported speech by bilinguals in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin. Based on approximately seven hours of conversation recorded in the fall of 2010, the analysis shows current conversational functions of code-switching in the speech of Wisconsin-born German-English bilinguals. Alternations between German and English demonstrate these speakers' ongoing ability to create and employ German utterances as an effective part of their linguistic repertoire, specifically in the production of reported speech. Using Matras' (2000, 2009) integrated functional approach to language contact, this paper shows that code-switching is a discourse-strategy available to speakers whereby the juxtaposition of German and English functions (1) to create contrast and (2) to evoke the original conversational context. The contrast between the two languages guides listeners in distinguishing reported speech in German from the main narration line in English while simultaneously evoking and integrating associations with the German language into the context of the ongoing English conversation, thereby promoting authentic demonstrations of the antecedent events being described (see Excerpt 1). Since verbatim quotation of utterances is rarely possible (Holt 2000), the data suggest that these bilinguals can and do creatively employ structures of German as an effective part of their linguistic repertoire, despite living in a community that has almost fully shifted to English. These findings contribute to our understanding of code-switching and its implications for language contact phenomenon such as language shift.

Excerpt 1

01 BR: and, just in German he said that time to me, (0.4) he says
02 (0.9) well (*je*) *seid all hier, für das erste mal.*
03 (0.6)
04 BR: you know what that [means?]
05 LE: [huh]yeah [you]
06 ?: [yeah,]=
07 BR: =>you were< here for [the first time]
08 ?: [the first time]=
09 BR: =you are here for the first time.
10 (0.5)
11 *und ich will dich wieder nächste woch sehen. (0.6) und jede*
12 *einer muss komm und you bleibt hier >bis i< fertig bin=*
13 ?: =((laughter))

References

- Holt, Elizabeth. 2000. Reporting and reacting: concurrent responses to reported speech. *Research on Language and Social Interaction* 33(4), 425-454.
- Matras, Yaron. 2000. Fusion and the cognitive basis for bilingual discourse markers. *International Journal of Bilingualism* 4, 505-528.
- Matras, Yaron. (2009). *Language contact*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

2. Emily Heidrich and Elizabeth Mackie Suetmeier, University of Wisconsin-Madison, "Dialect and Language Contact in Hustisford, Wisconsin: A Shift towards an English-Influenced Standard"

This paper examines the German language spoken today in and around Hustisford, Wisconsin. Based on roughly 8 hours of conversation recorded between fall of 2010 and spring of 2011, we argue that this variety is a result of contact among High German, German dialects, and English, with an original Low German dialect, resulting in a form of High German exhibiting strong English influences. Some scholars claim that dialects of German, Standard German, and English existed in an essentially trilingual system in Wisconsin and that "[p]ractically no inter-German influence could be identified" (Eichhoff 1971). In contrast, Nützel & Salmons (forthcoming), Louden (forthcoming) and others have argued that speakers often shifted from dialect to the standard language, losing this trilingual system. Even though our speakers had Low German ancestry, they spoke a form of High German with many distinctly non-Low German features. For example, the shift of front rounded vowels such as ö [ø:] and ü [y:] to [ej] and [i] is inconsistent with Low German dialects. Additionally, our speakers' German exhibits lexical and grammatical influences from English, such as the prevalence of English loanwords and constructions like "der guckt noch fier der Fresch" for "he still is looking for the frog," Standard German "er sucht nach den Frosch." This evidence shows clear English and inter-German influence, supporting the view that language contact played a large role in the development of the German spoken in the Hustisford area, which in turn furthers our understanding of language maintenance and change in multilingual contexts.

References

- Eichhoff, Jürgen. 1971. German in Wisconsin. *The German Language in America*, ed. by Glenn Gilbert. Austin: University of Texas Press. 43-57.
- Nützel, Daniel & Joseph Salmons. forthcoming. Language contact and new dialect formation: Evidence from German in North America. *Language and Linguistics Compass*.

3. Marcus Cederstrom and Brandy Trygstad, University of Wisconsin-Madison, "L1 Attrition and Code-Switching in Minnesota Swedish"

In this study, we examine the speech of J.M., an L1 speaker of Swedish and L2 speaker of English, as an example of L1 attrition as exhibited through code-switching behavior. The data for this study were collected during an informal interview of approximately 45 minutes. Of particular interest for this study is the nature of J.M.'s code-switching during the first 15 minutes of the interview, which consists of primarily Swedish language interspersed with occasional English language discourse markers and other closed class

lexical items. In addition to exploring the speech of this informant, we anticipate collecting additional interview data from other speakers in the region before the conference. Fuller (2001) demonstrates that the use of English alongside German discourse markers is common among speakers of another immigrant language, Pennsylvania German. She argues that the discourse markers borrowed from English into Pennsylvania German have a high degree of pragmatic detachability, meaning they serve an indispensable pragmatic purpose which cannot be easily translated or substituted for in the other language. As we show, like Fuller's Pennsylvania German-speaking informants, J.M. transfers discourse markers from the L2 (English) into the L1 (Swedish). This study thus contributes to our understanding of code-switching and the role it plays in displaying L1 attrition in immigrant languages such as German and Spanish in the United States. In addition, the study documents the linguistic legacy of less commonly studied immigrant language communities in the United States.

References

Fuller, Janet M. 2001. The principle of pragmatic detachability in borrowing: English-origin discourse markers in Pennsylvania German. *Linguistics*, 39(2), 351-369.

9:45 am – 11:15 am

Panel 2 (MMLA Session 25)

Location: Grand Hall 2

Chair: Erica J. Benson, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

4. Xuehua Xiang, University of Illinois, Chicago, "Third-Person Attributions in TV/Radio Celebrity Interviews: An American-English and Mandarin Chinese Comparative Discourse Study"

Television/radio interviews are a widely studied media genre of multi-faceted hybridity (e.g., a hybrid between institutional talk and ordinary conversation; public discourse in the guise of a private conversation; Blum-Kulka, 1983; Ilie, 1999, 2001; Fairclough, 1989, 1995; Heritage and Roth, 1995; Heritage, 2002; Lauerbach, 2007, 2010; Simon-Vandenberg, 2000; Scannell, 1991; Tolson, 2001, inter alia).

Drawing on 13 TV/radio interviews in the US and in China (e.g. *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* in American English; *One-on-One with Yan Lan* in Mandarin Chinese), the current study is a comparative discourse analysis of a sub-genre of TV/radio interviews--the celebrity interview. Particularly, the study focuses on the interviewers' use of Third-Person Attributed Statements as strategy for eliciting commentary and narratives from the celebrity guest. Unlike news interviews in which third-person attribution is a common strategy to posit different opinions and provoke arguments, the celebrity interview elevates narratives and personal experiences over opinions, and third-person attributions become "warrants" for the interviewer to probe the celebrity guest's private experiences. The study's findings suggest that American interviewers tend to use third- person attributed statements for displaying narrative uptake and empathy. This contrasts with third-person attributions in Chinese interviews in which others' experiences become the presuppositions on which the interviewee builds a narrative (e.g. 老人哭了。你为什么没哭? "The old men (=they) cried (on the day you won the race). Why didn't you cry [too]?)

5. Kristine A. Hildebrandt and Larry LaFond, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, "Going There and Mapping It: The Status of the COT and CAUGHT Vowels in Southwestern Illinois English"

This study, emerging from a new project, takes a first look at the status of the low back vowels in words representing COT (/ɑ/) and CAUGHT (/ɔ/) for residents of southwestern Illinois. This area lies along the southern edge of the "I-55 Corridor", and is claimed to share some lexico-phonetic features with the Inland North (which shows no vowel merger). It also lies on the northern edge of Bigham's (2007, 2008) "Southern Illinois" (which is undergoing a merger).

We recorded representative words from 26 speakers from Madison (15), St. Clair (8), Macoupin (2) and Clinton (1) counties. We see a mixed picture, similar to Bigham's findings for "Southern Illinois". Data from three speakers indicate that CAUGHT-COT vowels remain distinct (females, varied ages and counties). Data from eleven speakers indicate a complete merger (but socio-factors vary). Another 14 speakers show a partial merger along either F1 or F2 parameters (socio-factors are also varied):

Another interesting phenomenon is that even for those speakers demonstrating an overall merger, specific words may remain distinct. The averages here are based on F1-F2 values at the vowel onset. Majors (2005) notes that while static formant values may paint one kind of a portrait, it is also instructive to examine the dynamic properties of vowel formant trajectories through time. We hypothesize that while the overall vowel patterns of this region may be moving towards merger, its uneven distribution is better appreciated by considering a more holistic picture of dynamic vowel quality, among other factors.

6. Nicholas Williams and Thomas Purnell, University of Wisconsin-Madison, "Gender Differences in Low Vowels and Prosody in Wisconsin English"

Gender plays an important role in speech, influencing physiological and social speech cues. While Wisconsin English (WE) dialects have been phonologically characterized in the literature, little is known about their sociolinguistic variation (e.g., Purnell et al. 2005). This study helps fill that gap, characterizing sex-correlated differences of WE speakers while sober and while intoxicated, using alcohol intoxication to elicit more natural and colloquial speech patterns. We tested an additional hypothesis that women are less likely than men to change their speech patterns in laboratory settings.

In this study two areas were investigated: pitch and the distribution of the low vowels in the vowel-space. Measurements were taken from 10 native WE speakers while sober and intoxicated, and from 5 native WE control speakers during two sober periods two weeks apart. The speakers read "The Rainbow Passage," a standard passage used for phonetic variation research. The low vowels /a ɔ æ/ were examined. Forced alignment was used to mark vowels (see Yuan and Liberman, 2008), and F1 and F2 measurements were extracted. The low vowels were examined for their relative positions in a speaker's vowel-space across intoxication levels. Pitch curves for various phrases and syntactic phrase types were looked at for characteristic sex-correlated differences. Significant changes were found in both phonetic areas.

This line of research is an effort to not just describe American English dialects phonetically, but show how phonetic characteristics are influenced by intoxication and complex social factors.

References

Fairbanks, Grant. 1960. Voice and articulation drillbook. 2nd ed. New York: Harper and Row, 124-139.

Yuan, Jiahong & Mark Liberman. 2008. Speaker identification on the SCOTUS corpus. *Proceedings of Acoustics 2008*, 5687-5690

Purnell, Thomas, Joseph Salmons & Dilari Tepeli. 2005. German substrate effects in Wisconsin English: Evidence for final fortition. *American Speech* 80(2), 135-164.