

**Abstracts for the 2005 Annual Meeting of the American Dialect Society, to be held in San Francisco in conjunction with the Linguistic Society of America.**

**Michael Adams**/North Carolina State University, ADS Session 8: Promoting Awareness of Language Diversity

Teaching About Language Diversity in Non-Diverse Settings

Many of us who teach about language variation do so in settings where just about everyone speaks the same. Sometimes, too, our students have little experience of other regions of the United States and think about variation mainly in stereotypes. Have you felt, at times, that your students had decided that you were making variation up, inventing AAE, creoles, the central Ohio layer? How does one teach variation to students (even to one's colleagues) when all they have to go on are books, teachers, and maybe some recordings? In this open discussion of the topic, we'll draw on the experience of the room and its expertise, too, in order to map some useful strategies for dealing with this pedagogical challenge. If you have assignments or other material that you have found successful, please send them in advance to Michael Adams (MAdams1448@aol.com).

**Betsy Barry**/University of Georgia, ADS Session 6: Atlanta Survey Project

The Atlanta Survey Project Interview

This paper briefly examines the one-hour interview method used for urban linguistic research in the Atlanta Survey Project, focusing on the quantity and quality of linguistic information produced by this interview format. In adjusting our research methodology to accommodate the conditions particular to fieldwork in an urban setting, we were able to place a reasonable time constraint on the field workers and interviewees while also producing a manageable amount of rich linguistic data, both of which are crucial in comprehensive urban research endeavors.

**Robert Bayley, Carlos Martín Vélez Salas, Belinda Schouten, and Norma**

**Cárdenas**/University of Texas, San Antonio, ADS Session 5: Language Contact

Spanish Dialect Contact in South Texas: Variable Subject Personal Pronoun Use by Puerto Ricans in San Antonio

This study examines variable subject personal pronoun (SPP) use in the Spanish of Puerto Ricans in San Antonio, Texas. Multivariate analysis of approximately 5,000 tokens indicates that Puerto Rican San Antonians use approximately twice as many overt SPPs as Mexican-background Texans. This result suggests that Puerto Ricans in San Antonio are maintaining their linguistic distinctiveness. However, results also show that speakers with predominantly Mexican social networks are accommodating to the local norm. We compare the results for these speakers with results from Mexican-background speakers and explore the implications for studies of Spanish dialect contact in U.S. Latino communities.

**Hans C. Boas**/University of Texas at Austin, ADS Session 5: Language Contact

What Happened to Texas German?

This paper is a contribution to the on-going research on the mechanisms underlying new-dialect formation (Trudgill 2004). Recently recorded Texas German data

(see <http://www.tgdp.org>) suggest that this variety never evolved into a “new” dialect exhibiting the types of phonological leveling found in other “new world” dialects such as New Zealand English or Pennsylvania German. Instead, the dialects of German immigrants coming to Texas from the 1830s through about 1880 went only through Trudgill’s first stage (some accommodation), and then stopped halfway through the second stage (extreme variability, but very little further leveling).

**Charles Boberg**/McGill University, ADS Session 7: Regional Phonology

A First Approach to Regional Phonetic Variation in Canadian English

Contrary to the established view that Canadian English displays very little regional variation, a new study of the phonetics of Canadian English shows that its two best-known phonetic patterns, Canadian Raising and the Canadian Shift, vary regionally. The nucleus of raised /au/ is more fronted in Ontario than elsewhere and the retraction of /æ/ is led by Ontario. Other regional patterns include the phonetic conditioning of allophones of /æ/ before front nasals and /g/; the fronting of /u:/; and the centralization of /ar/, which is almost absent in western Canada, intermediate in central Canada, and advanced in Atlantic Canada.

**David Bowie**/University of Central Florida, ADS Session 7: Regional Phonology

Acoustic Characteristics of Utah’s *card-cord* Merger

The *card-cord* merger is found throughout much of Utah, but researchers have described it many different ways. Therefore, I ask: Given that the *card-cord* merger exists, what exactly is going on when it occurs? A group of individuals rated words containing /or/ and /ar/ spoken by a Utah English speaker. An acoustic analysis of the vowels was then conducted and correlated with the listener judgments. Overall, the previous research has described this merger too simplistically. The actual phonetic characteristics of the merger are given.

**Jeannine Carpenter**/Duke University and North Carolina State University and **Janelle Vadnais**/North Carolina State University, ADS Session 3: Southern Dialects—Black and White

On the Shifting Social Significance of Receding Dialect Variables: The Case of Static Locative *to*

This study compares static locative *to* in the speech of African Americans on Roanoke Island and in Hyde County, North Carolina, with that of white regional cohorts on Ocracoke Island. Quantitative examination of locative *to* reveals a marked pattern of ethnolinguistic alignment following integration. In Hyde County and Roanoke Island, the use of locative *to* is sharply reduced in the speech of African Americans who first attended integrated schools. However, on Ocracoke, the decreasing use of locative *to* is gradual across time, marking the role of *to* as an active social variable in the development of African American speech after integration.

**Catherine Evans Davies**/University of Alabama, ADS Session 3: Southern Dialects—Black and White

Dialect and the Spread of Country Music: The Case of “Alabama”

This paper argues that Alabama's important role in the expanding popularity of country music is due partly to their selective use of Southern dialect in their lyrics. Retaining North Alabama accents and a set of general vernacular features, there is a decrease over time in distinctively Southern grammatical features, assumed to be more stigmatized for a wider audience. Lexicon and discourse features indicate an increasing knowledge of Southern culture in the rest of the US together with a sense of regional cultural pride. A comparison of early and recent lyrics reveals a change in attitude from defensive to imperialistic.

**Kristy D'Andrea**/North Carolina State University, ADS Session 3: Southern Dialects—Black and White

The Shifting Significance of Postvocalic *R*-Lessness in Southern African American English

This presentation examines the changing status of *r*-lessness over time in a rural mono-ethnic community, Princeville, North Carolina, the oldest U.S. town incorporated by blacks, and compares it with trajectories of change in other small rural Southern African American communities (e.g. Wolfram and Thomas 2002; Childs and Mallinson 2004; Carpenter 2004). The quantitative analysis, based on a sample of about forty lifetime residents, indicates that *r*-lessness is persistent, but change across generations is complicated by both social and linguistic factors.

**Sarah Hilliard**/Duke University and North Carolina State University, ADS Session 1: Usage, Labeling, and Lexicons

Representations of Southern Speech in Folk Dictionaries

Scholarly examination of folk perceptions of and attitudes toward language varieties has yielded valuable insights into the symbolic role of dialects in popular culture. One dataset for such representations is folk dictionaries, lexical inventories compiled by lay people. Among folk dictionaries, no region is more abundantly represented than the U.S. South. This paper examines the folk lexicographical tradition within this region, showing how common conventions and items within dictionaries construct an image of the South as embodied in its language. The analysis demonstrates how folk lexicographical data are ideal for exploring a range of issues, from language ideology to identity.

**Steve Hartman Keiser**/Marquette University, ADS Session 5: Language Contact When Speech Islands Collide

This study investigates dialect contact between two geographically adjacent yet dialectally and ethnoreligiously distinct speech islands of Pennsylvania German speakers. Data from sociolinguistic interviews in the Pennsylvania Amish settlement of Cooper\*, Wisconsin and in the Midwestern Amish settlement of Stanley\*, Wisconsin show that after six years of contact, speakers in each settlement retain their distinct lexical, morphological, and phonetic variants. Conversational data in each community reveal a mixed discourse of both solidarity and social distance with respect to the other community as speakers renegotiate distinct Amish ethnoreligious identities in these newly founded settlements.

**Mi-Ran Kim and Nicole Kong**/University of Georgia, ADS Session 6: Atlanta Survey Project

Vowel Formant Characteristics from the Atlanta Survey Project

This paper presents vowel formant characteristics from fixed-format elicitation conducted with eighteen speakers from the Atlanta Survey Project. F1/F2 vowel means were prepared for each speaker, based on acoustic analysis of nine tokens for each of nine vowels, and the speaker means were plotted together. Group means were then derived for speakers divided by race (African American vs. Non African American) and sex (female vs. male). These group means can be compared to the super-means created by Kent and Read, and to recent findings by William Labov, in order to evaluate Atlanta vowel patterns with respect to published regional and national norms.

**Andrea Kortenhoven**/Stanford University, ADS Session 2: Talkin' and Testifyin'; Using Large Corpora

Testifyin Performance and Ideology in a Black Church

This paper examines the form and function of the female-dominated discursive practice of *testifyin* in the black church. The data are drawn from ethnographic fieldwork in a Sanctified church in Northern California and includes recorded interviews with church members and more than 50 testimonies and mini-sermons performed by women. In analyzing performance structure and content and examining churchwomen's talk about *testifyin*, the genre is found to serve as a vehicle to display personal style, build community, and reinforce appropriate responses to suffering.

**William A. Kretzschmar, Jr.**/University of Georgia, ADS Session 6: Atlanta Survey Project

Publication of Full Interviews from the Atlanta Survey Project

One of the biggest current problems with much urban linguistic research is that the interview data is commonly unavailable to researchers besides the investigators. We are addressing this matter with a new manner of protecting the rights of our subjects while also making arrangements for full publication of the interviews. We have obtained copyright interest as well as informed consent from our subjects, have designed efficient transcription and text encoding protocols for the complete interview with a view to publication on the Web.

**Sonja Lanehart and William A. Krtetzschmar, Jr.**/University of Georgia, ADS Session 6: Atlanta Survey Project

Introduction to the Atlanta Survey Project

We have made a start to redress the problem that Atlanta, the center of the New South, deserves more detailed linguistic study than it has recently received. In this session, we will describe our methods and the initial results of our study, including our new one-hour interview protocol, fixed-format elicitation of stressed vowels, initial findings from acoustical phonetic analysis, and plans for complete publication of our interviews. We hope our new methods will be applied in other urban settings, in a new generation of research in dialectology.

**Katherine Connor Martin**/Oxford English Dictionary, ADS Session I: Usage, Labeling, and Lexicons

## Gendered Aspects of Lexicographic Labeling

This paper analyzes lexicographic labeling from a gender-based perspective, examining how the application of register labels to certain usages may have tended to under-emphasize creative and innovative usage of American English by women. The slang label, in particular, will be examined in this light: common-sense notions of slang conceive of it as male language, making the conclusion that men are the primary users and creators of slang inescapable. The relationship between ‘slang’ and ‘colloquial’ will be touched upon, and their usage as labels in various dictionaries compared from a historical perspective, with reference to the influence of social changes. Finally, the implications of this discussion for contemporary lexicographers will be addressed.

**Iyabo Osiapem**/University of Georgia, ADS Session 6: Atlanta Survey Project

## Fixed-Format Elicitation in the Atlanta Survey Project

This paper describes our experiences with the fixed-format portion of the interview used for the Atlanta Survey Project, particularly as regards race. Fixed-format elicitation, commonly used in speech science but rarely in dialectology and sociolinguistics, seeks to have all participants pronounce the same words in the same phonetic environments. Thirty one-syllable words were printed on cards, and participants were asked to read the word on the card. Although this format worked well for Non-African-American participants, it did not for African American participants.

**Allyn Partin-Hernandez**/Hollywood Accent Services/Regional Phonology, ADS Session 7: Regional Phonology

## You So Don't Talk Like Me: Exploring Southern California Sound Changes Across Generations

California was long claimed to have a dialect so lacking in coherent features that its representation on maps was vague, and casting directors claimed that its speakers could be from anywhere. Dennis Preston in *Perceptual Dialectology* has referred to California as a “hodgepodge of combinations and preservations of dialects from farther east.” This paper reports on a project that is taking steps to detail the Southern California features of this hodgepodge, and put them into the wider context of other dialect study. It documents several features that have not yet been treated extensively in the literature. Handouts will include CDs.

**Thomas Purnell**/University of Wisconsin, Madison, **Joseph Salmons**/University of Wisconsin, Madison, **Dilara Tepeli**, Universität Bonn, and **Jennifer Mercer**, University of Wisconsin, Madison, ADS Session 7: Regional Phonology

## Upper Midwestern Obstruent Variation: There's More of It Than You Might Think

With scattered exceptions, American dialectologists have ignored obstruents as geographically and phonetically invariant. We investigate one counterexample, Upper Midwestern final obstruent devoicing, having previously found that speakers systematically produce final laryngeal distinctions in ways that differ from those otherwise reported for American English. This dialect feature may well reflect substratal

influence. We hypothesize that such local patterns reflect broader regional ones and extend to at least some other immigrant groups. To understand the earlier history of these patterns, we report on an analysis of recordings from older dialect research (e.g., DARE and WELS) of various immigrant/ethnic backgrounds across eastern Wisconsin.

**Jacquelyn Rahman**/Miami University, ADS Session 3: Southern Dialects—Black and White

Talkin White at the Apollo: African-American narrative Comedians Portraying the Middle-class Establishment

Narratives that African-American comedians perform before their primarily African-American audiences are a rich source of information about perceptions and attitudes. In portraying members of the middle-class establishment, which the comedians racialize as white, they call on a set of phonological features to create a style that their audiences associate with traits representative of the middle-class establishment. The middle-class characters appear in situations where their attitudes and behavior serve as hyperbolic expressions of these traits. Portraying whites as embodiments of middle-class ideology serves as a backdrop for a self-affirming African-American ideology that portrays working-class African-Americans as humanly and culturally rich survivors.

**Jeffrey Reaser**/Duke University, **Carolyn Temple Adger**/Center for Applied Linguistics, and **Walt Wolfram**/North Carolina State University, ADS Session 8: Promoting Awareness of Language Diversity

Promoting Language Awareness in Schools via *Do You Speak American?*  
Disseminating linguistic research to schools requires confronting and circumventing prescriptive traditions centered on idealized language norms. This session demonstrates one such approach using *Do You Speak American?* (DYSA), produced for PBS and for commercial release. It highlights a set of curricular materials for its use in high school and introductory college classes. We show sample footage with interviews of linguists and present one of the units, pointing out how its content balances teachers' need to address the mandated curriculum; students' interests; the goals of the linguists who developed the curriculum; and the client's desire to create a market for DYSA.

**Erik R. Thomas and Phillip M. Carter**/North Carolina State University, ADS Session 2: Talkin' and Testifyin': Using Large Corpora

Evidence on the History of Prosodic Rhythm in African American English  
Most evidence presented on the origins of African American English has been morphosyntactic. A wider variety of variables could lead to new insights. We examined one phonetic variable, speech rhythm. Previous results showed that Southern African American and European American vernaculars are both strongly stress-timed. Here we compare contemporary African American timing with that of ex-slaves recorded in the 1930s and 1940s; that of speakers of Jamaican English, a reputedly syllable-timed creole; and that of Spanish. Our findings here suggest that African American speech was never monolithic but could have drifted toward stress-timing in the past 150 years.

**James Walker**/York University and **Miriam Meyerhoff**/University of Edinburgh, ADS Session 5: Language Contact

Another Look at Zero Copula in the CaribbeanZero copula, a feature of African American English (AAE) and Caribbean English creoles (CECs), figures prominently in the AAE origins debate, though results are inconsistent across studies. We report an analysis of zero copula on Bequia, a Caribbean island featuring two linguistic varieties. In Bequian creole, following grammatical category (FGC) is the paramount constraint, while in Bequian English, subject type and phonology are most important, although FGC is also significant. Internal variation within and between communities does not pattern as predicted by theories of decreolization. If decreolization affects copula variation, the process is not universal.

**Malcah Yaeger-Dror**/University of Arizona and MIT Lincoln Laboratory; **J.P. Campbell, W.M. Campbell, P. A. Torres-Carrasquillo, D. A. Reynolds**/MIT Lincoln Laboratory, ADS Session 2: Talkin' and Testifyin' Using Large Corpora  
Dialect Coding for Large Corpora

Corpora for sociolinguistic study are gathered from a demographic cross-section of speakers. Interviewers are trained to have similar interactions with all interviewees, and good interviewers vary their speech to accommodate to the interviewees' dialect and social-characteristics, but 'group interviews' are more reliable. Engineers have discovered independently that they also need a great deal of conversational speech to improve speech recognition, and they've collected large 'group' corpora, to train a system for dialect recognition. The paper will discuss corpora with a regionally balanced sample.

**Arnold M. Zwicky**/Stanford University, ADS Session 1: Usage, Labeling, and Lexicons  
Toni Morrison's Genius Puts Her in the Grammar/Usage Spotlight  
Manuals of English grammar/usage sometimes advance a constraint, the Possessive Antecedent Proscription (PAP), barring a pronoun from having a possessive antecedent. The PAP seems to have arisen from advice about avoiding ambiguity and hard-to-find antecedents in isolated sentences.

The PAP serves here as a case study for an attack on a mode of analysis that searches for errors and infelicities in sentences isolated from discourse or real-world context; formulates rules of grammar that proscribe the offending configurations; disregards the practice of skillful writers when it conflicts with these rules; and offers external justifications for the rules.