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PAPER ABSTRACTS

Kenneth Baclawski Jr. (University of California, Berkeley)
Nathan A. Severance (Dartmouth College)
James N. Stanford (Dartmouth College)
146 years of "Canadian Raising" in New Hampshire

"Canadian Raising" (CR) phenomena involving /ai/ and /au/ have been reported in the U.S. as early as 1880, though their comparability to the Canadian process has been debated. Our study presents a comprehensive picture of CR in Central New Hampshire, comparing auditory data from speakers born between 1846 and 1993 taken from the *Linguistic Atlas of New England* (Kurath, 1939), the *Dictionary of American Regional English* (Cassidy et al, 1985), and our own fieldwork. Results indicate complex, but visible CR effects in Central NH throughout the timespan, enhancing our picture of North American diphthong development.

Robert Bayley (University of California, Davis)
Cory L. Holland (University of California, Davis)
Variation in Chicano English: The Case of Final /z/-devoicing

This study, based on data extracted from sociolinguistic interviews conducted in a south Texas *barrio*, shows that /z/-devoicing is systematic and subject to multiple constraints. Devoicing is conditioned by features of the preceding and following segments and by morphological status, with devoicing more likely for inflectional than monomorphemic /z/. Moreover, although the prevalence of devoicing in ChE is often attributed to Spanish interference, results show that devoicing is not affected by the speaker's first language. Finally, a comparison with previous research shows that young Chicanos devoice final /z/ at a rate similar to speakers of other U.S. and British dialects.

David Bowie (University of Alaska Anchorage)
Wendy Baker-Smemoe (Brigham Young University)
Linguistic ramifications of voluntary religious choices

It has been documented that Mormons and non-Mormons in Utah County, Utah exhibit phonetic differentiation in their linguistic production. We investigate this in a more fine-grained manner, splitting the Mormons into two groups, those who actively participate in Mormon religious practices ("active Mormons") and those who don't ("inactive Mormons"). We find that the active and inactive Mormons behave differently, with the inactive Mormons behaving more like the non-Mormons, sometimes even to the point of behaving less like the active Mormons than the non-Mormons do, and we provide possible explanations for this fact.

Katie Carmichael (The Ohio State University)
An Update on the Short-a System in Greater New Orleans

New Orleans was historically home to a split short-a system, in recent years supplanted by a nasal system (Labov 2007). This study examines data from 57 speakers, split between those who returned after Katrina and those who relocated. The best predictor of short-a system was age, not returner/relocater status, with speakers under thirty almost exclusively featuring nasal systems. Speakers over thirty with high extra-local orientation scores were most likely to feature nasal systems. Thus while displacement is not directly affecting the shift towards a nasal system, those speakers with the greatest extra-local exposure are those leading the change in progress.

Kjerste Christensen (Brigham Young University)
A. Arwen Taylor (Indiana University)
"Haters gonna hate, Mormons gonna Morm": Boundary maintenance and lexis in Mormon English

The language and culture of Mormonism provide a unique entry into the effect of religion on dialectical development. This paper explores one rich element of the Mormon dialect, the word "Mormon" itself, with its compounded and derived forms. These terms are of particular sociolinguistic value as they operate within Mormon usage to maintain the cognitive and ideological borders of the Mormon community. We gather attestations from both corpora and online sources and analyze them to determine the semantic range of various words, to show how "Mormon" and its derivations take on sociolinguistically specific meanings within the Mormon dialect.

May F. Chung (North Carolina State University)
Michael J. Fox (North Carolina State University)
Joel Schneier (North Carolina State University)
Marching to the beat of a different drum: cross-regional variation in prosodic rhythm

Traditionally prosodic rhythm is described as a binary with languages exhibiting either syllable-timing or stress-timing (Abercrombie 1967). This dichotomy has been shown to lack adequate empirical evidence, existing along an acoustically measureable continuum (Low et al. 2000; Deterding 2001) We compare two regional varieties of American English found in Wisconsin and North Carolina. Prosodic rhythm was measured via Pairwise Variability Index (PVI) (Low et al. 2000). Results show significant differences based on dialect, North Carolina PVI scores are higher for older speakers and lower for younger speakers PVI scores in Wisconsin are lower in general with no change in apparent-time.

Katie Drager (University of Hawaii at Manoa)
Erik R. Thomas (North Carolina State University)
Regional variation in the cognition of a vowel merger

A speech perception experiment was conducted to test listeners' ability to identify tokens containing the bot and bought vowels. Stimuli consisting of real and nonsense words spoken by natives of Hawaii, North Carolina, and New York City were played to listeners from Hawaii, where the merger is nearing completion, and North Carolina, where it is incipient. Both groups were least accurate with the Hawaii voice and were better at identifying real words than nonsense words. Additionally, North Carolinians were most accurate with the North Carolina voice. These results illustrate the importance of variation to cognitive aspects of language.

David Durian (College of DuPage)
Another Look at the Regional Distribution of Split Short-a in US English in Real and Apparent Time

We present an analysis of the historical occurrence of the split short-a system of US English that focuses on: a) documentation of its occurrence in the US Midland city Columbus, OH; b) comparative analysis of the historical development of the system in Columbus with other US English-speaking cities. We find the historical occurrence of the split system to be much wider geographically than many previous accounts, with a pronounced consistency in the development of the system in all areas compared. Additionally, the development of the system's phonetic constraints likely occurred contemporaneously across areas, rather than first in New York City, and then diffusing to other areas, as Labov (2007) argues.

Jon Forrest (North Carolina State University)
Adding production to our impression of (ING): Investigating vowel quality and social factors for (ING) in Raleigh, NC

(IN)/(ING) alternation has been studied since the earliest days of sociolinguistics; however, since the work on (ING) is still mainly impressionistic, the production aspect of the variable is underexplored. This study attempts to fill that gap, exploring vowel quality in the (IN) and (ING) morpheme and any associated social factors. Results show younger speakers increasing differentiation between (IN) and (ING) at F2 midpoint in addition to F2 offset. This result suggests both that vowel quality differences may be playing a strong in role in perception, and that there may be a change in progress in (ING) vowels with separate social conditioning from dialect contact effects.

Michael J. Fox (North Carolina State University)
Phonetic condition of /æ/-raising in Northwestern Wisconsin

A number of studies have examined /æ/-raising in Wisconsin English, particularly in the environment of /g/ versus /k/. It's been shown that while the former significantly promotes raising, the latter inhibits it (Purnell 2008). It has been suggested that there is a connection between the NCS and /æg/-raising, in that the phonetic conditioning has changed as the NCS diffused (Purnell 2008, 399). Results show that the order of most to least raised is /g/>/nasals/>/d/>/t/>/k/ and that / / is backing the younger speakers are.

This suggests that /æ/-raising in Wisconsin is independent of the NCS rather than a derivative of diffusion.

Valerie Fridland (University of Nevada, Reno)
Tyler Kendall (University of Oregon)
A view of earlier English in the Western United States

This paper reports on a project centering on two historical questions: When a Western American koiné formed and how variable the inputs were. Conducting acoustic analysis of talkers in archival recordings, we ask how much Western speakers born in the late 19th century anticipate the vowel systems in contemporary speech and how much they show individual variability and/or evidence of conforming to other regional patterns further East. In particular, we examine the status of the low back vowels—vowels pivotal in sound changes occurring in modern American English and almost uniformly merged for modern Western speakers (Labov et al. 2006).

Jessica Grieser (Georgetown University)
Third wave race in a first wave place: The role of African American English in stancetaking about gentrification

The paper examines topic-based style shifting in sociolinguistic interviews with ten professional class African American residents of a rapidly-gentrifying neighborhood of Washington, D.C. While on the whole, professional class speakers use fewer AAE features than do their non-professional class neighbors, instances where the speaker takes a positive stance toward the neighborhood and a negative stance toward the processes of gentrification occasion greater use of AAE features relative to other stretches of talk. This suggests that for these speakers, the use AAE is a means of affirming the positive affiliation with the predominantly African American neighborhood, and might be read as a linguistic expression of opposition to its change.

Thomas Kettig (McGill University)
The Canadian short vowels in motion: Real-time change and regional diffusion

Acoustic studies of the Canadian Shift (CS), involving the retraction and backing of the front short vowels – *"Bill pet the cat"* sounding more like *"bell pat the cot"* – have failed to agree on a unified description for English speakers across Canada. This paper presents the results of a sociophonetic study of the CS in Montreal; by comparing the current status of /æ/ and / / with previous findings from Montreal and other Canadian cities, it is argued that these results represent real-time movement of the Montreal short vowels as well as an apparent-time perspective on geographic diffusion across Canada.

Chris Koops (University of New Mexico)
Fortition or lenition? A pilot study of (dh) in two dialects

The sociolinguistic variable (dh)/(th)—stopping of the dental fricatives /ð, θ/—can be analyzed as a case of fortition, i.e. the less common type of sound change whereby the degree of articulatory complexity increases. This gives it particular relevance from the perspective of sociolinguistic identity construction. The focus of this talk is on (dh), specifically its phonological constraints in case studies of two dialects known for this feature: classic NYCE and African-American English. The phonological constraints argue against a fortition analysis. They also reveal interesting cross-dialect differences. It appears that (dh) can have independent and fundamentally different motivations.

William A. Kretzschmar, Jr. (Universities of Georgia, Glasgow, and Oulu)
Ilkka Juuso (University of Oulu)
Computer simulation of diffusion for multiple variants

Computer simulation is the only practical way to model diffusion. This paper describes the use of a cellular automaton to model dialect feature diffusion as the adaptive aspect of the complex system of speech. Throughout hundreds of iterations that correspond to the daily interaction of speakers across time, we can watch regional distributional patterns emerge as a consequence of simple update rules. We show how ten variants for one feature drawn from Atlas data all diffuse at the same time, and show how the existence of multiple variants can lead to different clustered patterns.

Gaëlle Le Corre (University of Western Brittany)
Final Consonant Reduction and Deletion in Virginian Civil War Letters

The study of the letters written by under educated soldiers from Virginia during the Civil War tends to indicate that consonant reduction and deletion were already rather common phenomena. The reduction of final [t] and [d] in consonant clusters seem rather homogenous between the Valley Ridge area and the Piedmont. Final consonant deletion is usually described as specific to AAVE, however its presence in the corpus may indicate that this variation was also used by white speakers. On the other hand, the simplification of final -ing may corroborate Houston's findings on the specificity of this variation in the South.

Brittany McLaughlin (University of Pennsylvania)
John Rickford (Stanford University)
Towards understanding AAE phonology: A multi-city study of merging and shifting

This corpus study analyzes the phonological systems of African American English (AAE) speakers in Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, LA, and NYC, recorded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Moving to Opportunity residential mobility experiment (reported in Rickford & Ludwig 2013). Features examined include the low-back merger and the Northern Cities Shift (NCS), traditionally considered non-AAE features (Labov et al. 2006, Gordon 2000), and *r*-vocalization. We describe a possible change in apparent time in AAE short-a tensing, and contribute to the understanding of AAE's participation in sound changes characteristic of the local speech community and region.

David Mitchell (The Ohio State University)
Marivic Lesho (The Ohio State University)
Abby Walker (The Ohio State University)
Folk perception of African-American English regional variation: Perspectives from African-Americans in Ohio

Contrary to "sociolinguistic folklore" that African-American (Vernacular) English is monolithic, recent studies show that it varies regionally, especially phonologically (Wolfram 2007). However, there is little research on how Americans perceive AA(V)E variation. Based on a map-labeling task, we investigate the folk perception of AA(V)E by 46 African-Americans in Columbus, Ohio, including the dialect regions recognized by the participants, features associated with different regions, and attitudes associated with these beliefs. Participants recognize substantial phonological and lexical variation and identify "proper" dialects that do not necessarily sound "white". This study also demonstrates how perceptual dialectology methods can be integrated with community-based fieldwork.

Sravana Reddy (Dartmouth College)
Joy Zhong (Dartmouth College)
James Stanford (Dartmouth College)
A Twitter-Based Study of Newly Formed Clippings in American English

Following Baclawski (2012), this study uses Twitter to examine newly formed clippings among younger speakers, including *awks (awkward)*, *adorb (adorable)*, *ridic (ridiculous), hilar (hilarious)*. We analyzed 94 million tweets from 334,000 U.S. Twitter users who posted during 2013 (cf. Eisenstein et al. 2010; Bamman et al. 2012). We find that while women and men both use truncated forms, women are the leaders of the newer, primarily adjectival forms. These recently coined forms are also more common in tweets from urban locations. We compare our results to classic principles (Labov 2001), illustrating how large-scale Twitter analyses can be valuable in American dialectology.

Paul E. Reed (The University of South Carolina)
Rising pitch in Appalachian English

This paper examines how Appalachian English (AE), a divergent American English variety (Wolfram and Christian 1976, Montgomery 2006), realizes L+H* pitch accents and shows that AE differentiates from other varieties in phonetic realization. Results suggest that the F_0 maximum occurs earlier in the syllable in AE and that there appears to be greater local excursion (change in F_0 from the previous minimum to the maximum) than other American varieties, including Southern English. Since previous work suggests that some AE features are in decline (e.g. Labov, Ash, and Boberg 2006), this could be a socio-pragmatically productive means to demonstrate regional orientation.

Silas Romig (University of Alaska Anchorage)
David Bowie (University of Alaska Anchorage)

The vowel system of Southcentral Alaska

This study fills a gap in our knowledge of the form of English spoken in Alaska analyzing the English of forty lifelong residents of Southcentral Alaska. Acoustic analysis of the vowel systems of these speakers shows that Southcentral Alaskans exhibit features of what has been called the California Shift and the Canadian Shift. Based on findings here and elsewhere, we suggest that these are not separate, regionally-bounded processes of change, but that they are all part of a single restructuring of the vowel system.

Walt Wolfram (North Carolina State University)
Stephany Brett Dunstan (North Carolina State University)
Audrey Jaeger (North Carolina State University)
Danica Cullinan (North Carolina State University)

Educating the Educated: The Role of University-Based Linguistic Diversity Programs

Notwithstanding the current emphasis on embracing diversity on most university campuses, language diversity is still typically excluded as an explicit topic for consideration. We present an innovative language diversity program currently being implemented at NC State University that targets faculty, staff, and students. Products include a 5-minute documentary on language diversity at the university endorsed by the Chancellor, students, faculty, and administrators for student, faculty, and staff orientation, and specific workshops, discussion groups, and presentations targeting language as part of the overarching on-campus diversity initiative. Examples of materials, audiovisual productions, and resources currently available are integrated into the presentation.

Ben Zimmer (Vocabulary.com)
Anne Curzan (University of Michigan)

Educating the Educated: Talking Linguistics in the News Media

Linguists are rightly troubled by the widely held misperceptions about language variation and change in public circulation and concerned about the difficulty linguists have experienced countering those beliefs with linguistically-informed perspectives. In the form of a conversation about "lessons learned," we present our experiences writing for *The Boston Globe, The Wall Street Journal*, and the blog *Lingua Franca* and appearing as experts on various National Public Radio shows. We reflect on reader/listener feedback and provide advice to scholars interested in participating actively in public conversations about American dialects and language change.