

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY

# NADS 33.3

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**Vol. 33, No. 3      September 2001**

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*NADS* is sent in January, May and September to all ADS members. Send news and queries to editor and executive secretary Allan Metcalf, English Department, MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois 62650, phone (217) 479-7117 or (217) 243-3403, AAllan@aol.com. Erin Klee, administrative assistant.

*ADS Annual membership* for 2002 is \$40, students \$25; plus \$10 outside the United States. Write Cindy Foltz, Journals Fulfillment, Duke University Press, Box 90660, Durham, NC 27708-0660; phone 1-888-387-5765 or 919-687-3613; fax 1-919-688-2615; cfoltz@dukeupress.edu.

*ADS Web site* (Grant Barrett, webmaster):  
<http://www.americandialect.org/>

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*From:* AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY

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**FIRST CLASS**

## ADS at MLA, New Orleans, Dec. 27–30: Change and the South

For details on MLA registration and hotels, go to their website, <http://www.mla.org>.

*ADS-sponsored MLA session 23: English is Changing Now.*

Thursday, Dec. 27, 5:15–6:30 p.m., Gallier A and B, Sheraton. Chair: Michael Adams, Albright College.

1. “What Neutral Theory and Punctuated Equilibrium Offer Dialectology.” **Lesa Dill**, Western Kentucky Univ.

At the molecular level, biologists are debating an issue of interest to linguists, especially dialectologists and historical linguists. Since the 1970s, data from DNA sequencing projects have highlighted discrepancies between classification schemes and relatedness models, suggesting that two phenomena are evaluated incorrectly in one model: one phenomenon reflects the newly acquired bulk of molecular data, showing a wide occurrence of polymorphisms or variations at the present time in individuals within a species; yet other phenomena obviously follow principles of Darwinian natural selection.

Linguists may find the biological debate instructive. For instance, the relationship between synchronic variation, in the form of idiolectal and dialectal tokens, and the much bigger diachronic picture, is a persistent dilemma for linguists. Clearly, Darwinian natural selection or “selection of the fittest” plays no part in language variation and fixation of tokens at any one point in the history of a language, yet our family-level evolutionary models seem inherently to assume some overarching mechanism of change that allows the generation of rules or laws. Neutral theory and punctuated equilibrium may bear on discussions of idiolect and dialect: we have no problem with the intrusion of rules or prescriptive dicta because we can easily observe the number of tokens at the present time and describe their features, yet no rules need apply. Likewise, we can comprehend the fixation of one token for no apparent, “logical” reason.

2. “Telling the Fortune of English: Prescription and Its Limits.” **Anne L. Curzan**, Univ. of Washington.

Samuel Johnson, in the oft-quoted preface to his 1755 dictionary, explicitly recognizes the limits of prescription: no dictionary can “fix” the language and prevent language change. Johnson’s observation effectively highlights the conflict between the pervasive desire within language communities for regulation and authority in language use and the constant participation of speakers in language change. One very good source of information about language change in progress is, in fact, prescriptive works, such as grammars, usage manuals, and editorial comment about language use: when a linguistic feature is changing, grammarians and language commentators take notice and prescribe correct choices.

This paper examines a set of features that have been “under comment” over the past two or three centuries, in order to compare historical prescriptions of usage and actual language use: for example, singular generic pronouns, as well as uses of *who/whom* and *that/which*, have been controversial since at least the beginning of the nineteenth century. Within this historical framework, the paper turns to more recent published opinion pieces about English language standards, to examine what examples of “proper” and “improper” English reveal about the interaction of prescription and language change today—as well as about our desire and ability to tell the fortune of English.

3. “English is Changing Now.” **Richard W. Bailey**, The Univ. of Michigan.

Language change in the here and now is a wonderful beginning point for students starting courses in the history of English or a language course for preparing teachers. Going down the rows and asking people to say *Don* and *Dawn* produces immediate curiosity (at least among students in this part of the country). Who says *pop/soda/tonic*, *in line* or *on line*? For many students, there are some obvious shibboleths: *Washington* with an /r/ in it, for instance. But others are startling to them because they have not noticed them before. In my paper I plan to offer a list of features that might prove useful to teachers of these courses—or perhaps provide entertainment for the curious. I hope that others will bring favorites to add to mine.

*ADS-sponsored MLA Session 234: Language in the South.*

Friday, Dec. 28, 12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Salon 828, Sheraton. Chair: Michael Adams, Albright College.

1. “Local Language and Local Identity in New Orleans.” **Connie C. Eble**, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Despite lack of attention from academics, the language practices of New Orleans have not gone without notice or commentary by the natives themselves. New Orleans is a self-conscious city that revels in its mixed non-Anglo-Saxon heritage, its hedonism, its semitropical torpor—and its shibboleths that unmask dissemblers. New Orleanians love having street names from Greek mythology, like *Melpomene* and *Terpsichore*, just so that they can pronounce them in their own way. They disdain the use of *north*, *south*, *east*, and *west* and instead say *river side*, *lake side*, *uptown*, *below the bridge*, and so on. (The designation *north* or *south* in a street name does not refer to a point on a compass but to a position relative

*(Please turn to Page 23)*

## Annual Meeting 2002: San Francisco

It's the left coast this time: the ADS annual meeting in the heart of San Francisco and in the heart of the annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America.

*LSA Registration:* As guests of LSA, we must register with them; as kindred spirits, we get the LSA members' rate. That would be \$60 in advance, \$25 for students and unemployed. Send a check (sorry, no credit card charges) to LSA Secretariat—Annual Meeting, 1325 18th St. NW Suite 211, Washington DC 20036-6501, to arrive no later than December 3. After that, registration on site costs \$70, students \$30. Registration gets you a meeting handbook and admission to all LSA sessions.

*Hotel:* The Hyatt Regency Embarcadero in downtown San Francisco: 5 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco CA 94111. Call (800) 233-1234 or (415) 788-1234, tell them you're with the Linguistic Society of America, and you'll get a room (single or double) for \$109. (This rate may not be available after Dec. 2.)

*ADS registration:* Additional and *entirely optional*, but those who attend ADS sessions are encouraged to register with the ADS Executive Secretary for \$20, students \$10. This helps defray the cost of the refreshments for which our meetings are noted and earns you a distinctive decoration for your LSA badge.

*Annual luncheon:* 1:15 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5. Speaker: **Ronald Macaulay**, Pitzer College (see Page 12). Cost is \$30 all inclusive. LSA friends are welcome. Make reservations with ADS Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf (address on cover).

*Words of the Year:* As usual, we will be choosing Words of the Year, this time for 2001—words that were new, notable, or especially characteristic of this grim year. To nominate a word or phrase in advance, send it to New Words Committee Chair **Wayne Glowka**, Dept. of English and Speech, Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville GA 31061, wglowka@mail.gcsu.edu.; or to **David Barnhart**, PO Box 2018, Hyde Park NY 12538, Barnhart@highlands.com. Then come to the committee meeting and the final vote on Friday, January 4. To see previous years' choices, go to the ADS website at [www.americandialect.org](http://www.americandialect.org).

*Bring your latest book* to the B.Y.O.B. exhibit and reception after the New Words vote.

*Future LSA-ADS meetings:* 2003 Jan. 2–5 Atlanta, Hilton; 2004 Jan. 8–11 Boston, Sheraton; 2005 West Coast; 2006 Midwest.

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## Thursday Afternoon, January 3: African American

*Session 1: African American English, 12:30–2:30 p.m.*

Seacliff A/B, Bay Level, Hyatt Regency

1 • 12:30 “The Regional Accommodation of African American English: Evidence from a Bi-ethnic Mountain Enclave Community.” **Christine Mallinson** and **Walt Wolfram**, North Carolina State Univ.

Recent studies of bi-ethnic enclave dialect communities in coastal North Carolina (Wolfram, Thomas, and Green 2000) suggest that earlier African American speech accommodated localized dialect norms while it exhibited a persistent substratal effect from the early African-European contact situation. To determine if such situations were the norm or an anomaly, we examine Beech Bottom, North Carolina, a small, long-term, bi-ethnic enclave mountain community of former feldspar miners. The population of Beech Bottom ranged from 80 to 110 residents in the early 1900s; due to the decline of feldspar mining, the community size dwindled and currently fewer than 20 residents remain, about half of whom are African Americans. To what extent do Beech Bottom African Americans share the local Appalachian dialect with cohort European Americans, and what does this reflect about the status of earlier African American English here and elsewhere? Is there a contemporary ethnolinguistic divide, and if so, how is it manifested? We examine these questions by considering a representative set of diagnostic structures for a sample of current African American and European American Beech Bottom residents. Phonological variables include postvocalic *r*-lessness, syllable-coda consonant cluster reduction, and regional vowel traits such as prevoiceless /ay/ ungliding. Morphosyntactic variables include 3rd plural *-s* attachment, 3rd singular *-s* absence, copula absence, and *was* leveling. The analysis supports the conclusion that earlier African American speech accommodated to local dialect norms, and it also suggests that there has been subtle but persistent substrate influence in the historical development of AAVE.

2 • 1:00 “The Antebellum Observations on African American English by Francis Lieber and Their Relevance to the Origins Controversy.” **Stuart Davis**, Indiana Univ.

A major controversy in American dialectology concerns the origins of African American English. Different types of evidence have been used to argue for one hypothesis or another. This paper presents evidence from observations on slave speech made by Francis Lieber, a professor of political economy at South Carolina College from 1835-1856. Lieber was linguistically trained in Germany before immigrating to America. Lieber was the first editor of the *Encyclopedia Americana* (1830-1835) and compiled a popular Latin synonym dictionary. The present paper brings together Lieber's occasional comments regarding slave speech made in both his published writings and unpublished papers (housed at the Huntington Library). Some of his comments are relevant to the origins controversy. For example, in an unpublished 1839 manuscript written to his son, Lieber describes the developing language of Laura Bridgman: “. . . it is not unlike the language of some of our most untutored field negroes, who likewise strip language of all inflection, all expression of mood, nearly all of time, of gender, number or whatever else may serve to express anything more than what I would feel tempted to call the roots of ideas and depend almost wholly upon bare juxtaposition.” In another observation he distinguishes the speech of the “low country” (i.e. the Gullah area) noting that, “The negroes of the “low country” (near Charleston etc) will say ‘I done for go’ i.e. ‘I have been going there.’” These and other observations of Lieber will be discussed in light of the origins controversy.

3 • 1:30 “‘On the Black Hand Side’: An Examination of Black South African and African American Women’s Language Patterns.” **Denise Troutman**, Univ. of North West, South Africa.

Comparative research conducted on the linguistic behavior of African and European American women shows that African American women use some speech patterns that vary from European American women, as influenced, in part, by African American culture and African American women’s social construction of themselves (Houston Stanback 1982; Morgan 1996; Troutman 2001). Analyses of African American women’s language within the African American speech community suggest that these Black women construct their identities in similar ways, which may lead to their similar speech behavior, regardless of socioeconomic status and educational level (Houston 1997; Troutman 2001).

One area that has not received attention in the field of sociolinguistics is an analysis of Black women’s speech behavior on the African continent in comparison to Black women’s language patterns in the U. S. This presentation examines the language patterns of Black South African women and African American women as a beginning point of inquiry. Turner (1925) and Herskovits (1941) have respectively identified morphological and cultural “carry-overs” from Africa to America. Do ancient things remain in African American women’s ears? Do these women use similar speech behavior as their South African mothers and sisters?

The researcher will present findings based upon tape-recorded conversations of Black South African women, comparing the observed language features to those already identified for Black women in the U. S. by African American

women researchers (e.g., Houston Stanback 1982; Houston 1997; Morgan 1996; and Troutman 1996, 2001). Informal observations have already demonstrated that some similarities do exist at the morphological and semantic levels of analysis. The influence of race and gender at the discourse level, despite a transcontinental divide, may prove to be a critical area of examination.

4 • 2:00 “African American Vernacular English Tense/Aspect Markers in Hip Hop Films.” **Elizabeth Dayton**, Univ. of Puerto Rico.

Hip hop culture emerged from African American urban life roughly 25 years ago. Although it has received increasing media exposure through film/television, its product does not seem to have been diluted; instead, consumers are called on to participate in the culture. In fact, as hip hop culture has crossed linguistic and cultural boundaries, it has played a role in the formation of “youth’s global village” (Perkins 1996). Research on language crossing and affiliation shows that young people connect through using each other’s languages (Rampton 1995). Similarly, in a multicultural U.S., ethnic identity, particularly among the young, may become a matter of “symbolic ethnicity” involving cultural affiliation and choice about belonging. As cultural transmission is one function of the media, it is not surprising that linguists have pointed out that the media provide exposure to varieties of English. This paper focuses on the variety of English used by participants in hip hop culture in hip hop films/television and, thus, available for the expression of symbolic ethnicity and/or membership in hip hop culture. It specifically examines core features of the African American Vernacular English tense/aspect system such as Invariant *be*, *done*, *bedone*, and *BIN* as they occur in hip hop films/television.

*Session 2: Phonetics and Perception, 3:00–5:00 p.m.*

Seacliff A/B, Bay Level, Hyatt Regency

5 • 3:00 “Low Vowel Merger in Indiana: “A *Naughty, Knotty* Problem.” **Betty Phillips**, Indiana State Univ.

The merger of the stressed vowels in words such as *naughty* and *knotty* has been well documented for a path from western Pennsylvania through central Ohio and Indiana, expanding then to include most of the western U.S. The current study focuses on Terre Haute, Indiana, and the apparent time differences between ten younger (age 18-24) and ten older (age 47-53) female speakers.

Bailey (1973: 19) purports that this shift began before /t/ + vowel (e.g., *naughty*), then extended to other environments involving a following alveolar (e.g., *caught*, *dawn*). However, in our auditory analysis of Terre Haute natives reading a prepared passage, the pair *naught/knot* had the highest percentage of merger for both younger and older speakers (90% and 70% respectively), with the merger of *naughty* and *knotty* far behind (50% and 17%). The environment before /n/ and /l/: *Dawn/Don*, *Pauley/Polly*—showed more frequent merger than the other words ending in /t/: *Dawn/Don* (70% and 30% for younger and older speakers, respectively), *Pauley/Polly* (90% and 50%), *taught/taut/tot* (50% and 20%), *wrought/rot* (40% and 30%). In addition, one speaker merged *taught* but not *taut* with *tot*, indicating that for this speaker, at least, perhaps word frequency or word class might be a conditioning factor.

6 • 3:30 Devoiced Obstruents in Pennsylvania Dutchified English: German Devoicing with an American Twist.” **Vicki Michael Anderson**, Indiana Univ., Bloomington.

Although scholars specializing in Germanic linguistics have been discussing Pennsylvania Dutch (also known as Pennsylvania German) for over 100 years, almost no attention has been given to its English counterpart, Pennsylvania Dutchified English (PDE), a native dialect of several hundred thousand speakers in southcentral Pennsylvania. This dialect reveals the profound influence of the local varieties of Pennsylvania German as well as the regional standard of American English, but it also has aspects which are unique to itself. One of these is its use of widespread obstruent devoicing. This presentation will focus on patterns of this devoicing in PDE, showing how it is a function of a complex interaction between an obstruent’s voicing and aspiration, position within a foot, and position within a syllable. Data used include taped interviews, native speaker intuitions, and spectrographic analysis.

7 • 4:00 “Perceptual Cues Used for Ethnic Labeling of Hyde County, North Carolina, Voices.” **Erik R. Thomas** and **Jeffrey Reaser**, North Carolina State Univ.

Numerous investigations have established that Americans can readily distinguish the voices of African Americans from those of European Americans, even those who reside in the South and share many dialect features with AAVE. Linguistic differences, whether absolute or quantitative, between the two ethnicities are well documented in various linguistic domains, including segmental variables, morphosyntax, prosody, voice quality, lexicon, and discourse style. However, only a few studies have investigated which cues listeners use to determine the ethnicity of speakers. Further, these studies have afforded results that are sometimes contradictory. In order to shed some light on this topic, we conducted a perception experiment investigating whether listeners can access some of those potential cues and which of

## Thursday, January 3 (Cont.): Phonetics and Perception

these cues are most crucial to correct identification. We used excerpts from sociolinguistic interviews of both African Americans and European Americans from Hyde County, North Carolina. Hyde County is unusual because African American residents show vowel variants typical of the local European-American dialect. We also included control samples of speakers from inland communities who do not exhibit this vowel patterning. Two samples were taken for each Hyde County speaker—one that prominently exhibited diagnostic vowel variants (usually /o/) and one that did not. Each excerpt was given three treatments: unmodified; monotonized to eliminate intonational information; and lowpass filtered at 330 Hz to eliminate most segmental information. Each treatment was tested with a different group of subjects in Raleigh.

The results showed that both the unmodified and the monotonized stimuli were identified with a high level of accuracy, but the lowpass filtered stimuli were identified at around 50% accuracy. For all three types of stimuli, there were statistically significant differences between stimuli that featured diagnostic vowel variants and those that did not: the local variants were associated with European-American speech. Hyde County African Americans were identified less accurately than European Americans or inland African Americans. Younger Hyde County speakers of both ethnicities were identified more accurately than older speakers. In addition to the presence or absence of diagnostic vowel variables, various features of prosody and voice quality present in the stimuli were measured. Multiple regression analyses were conducted, using these measures as independent variables and the responses as the dependent variable. For the unmodified treatment, only the presence of diagnostic vowel variables proved statistically significant at  $p < 0.05$ . For the monotonized treatment, no factor reached  $p < 0.05$ , but presence of diagnostic vowel variants was nearly significant. These results indicate that listeners can utilize vowel variants, especially fronted forms of /o/, as a cue to a speaker's ethnicity. The lowpass filtered stimuli seemed at first to be identified randomly, but the regression analysis showed that there was actually a gender difference. Certain prosodic and voice quality factors were statistically significant or nearly so for male speakers, while no factor was significant for female speakers. Thus it appears that listeners can access factors besides vowel variants, at least for male speakers.

8 • 4:30 “If you don't sound like me then you must not be as good as I am: Linguistic Security and the Decision to Hire.” **Patricia Cukor-Avila** and **Dianne Markley**, Univ. of North Texas.

This study expands the research by Markley (2000) that opinions formed about people based solely on their U.S. regional accents play a major role in the decision to interview and/or hire job applicants. Specifically, the present study investigates the correlation between respondents' linguistic security and their subjective reactions to the speech of job candidates in a variety of workplace settings.

Markley's analysis strongly suggests that preference for particular accents influences the decision to interview and/or hire job applicants. In addition, the data show a strong statistical correlation between negative judgments and high accent recognition, such that the more recognizable an accent, the more likely it is to have a negative association. The respondents also answered a series of questions about their own linguistic security to determine a possible effect on hiring decisions. Markley's hypothesis is that listeners with high linguistic security will prefer speakers with accents similar to their own, and as a result, select them to be hired in more prestigious positions. Although the respondent pool was too small to carry out a formal analysis, the data provide preliminary support for her hypothesis.

The present study investigates the linguistic security hypothesis using additional data from hiring managers collected during the past six months. Results from the expanded study (1) confirm the original findings that regional accent affects employment decisions, (2) confirm the correlation between recognition and judgment, and (3) provide statistical evidence for the relationship between linguistic security and employment decisions.

### *Session 3: Literary Dialect, 5:30–7:00 p.m.*

Seacliff A/B, Bay Level, Hyatt Regency

9 • 5:30 “It Isn't Easy to Figure out but It's not so Hard Either.” **Malcah Yaeger-Dror**, **Lauren Hall-Lew**, and **Sharon Deckert**, Univ. of Arizona.

Over the years various hypotheses for variation in contraction patterns have been proposed; both ethnic and regional dialect have been shown to influence contraction strategies significantly. Independently, Canadian researchers have compared characters in specific Canadian plays by Tremblay with demographically matched speakers from the Sankoff-Cedergren corpus. Their work has shown that characters' phonology and syntax varies in ways that are consistent with their purported demographic background.

In the present paper we will analyze contraction as depicted by specific American and British authors, to determine

## Thursday, January 3 (Cont.): Literary Dialect

whether the authors are as accurate with their rendition of this dialect characteristic as Tremblay is with Quebecois phonology and syntax. Written dialogue for speakers from specific areas is compared with what we know of the use of contraction in that area, and what we know of the authors' backgrounds.

The evidence will demonstrate that while some authors (like Trollope or Twain) have a fairly good ear for contraction strategies of those from other dialect areas, other authors (like Wharton or Stowe) appear to have a very stereotypical perception of others' contraction strategies, so while individual characters may conform to the evidence of specific dialect patterns known from earlier studies, many authors do not capture an accurate dialect "snapshot" of this variable, and their characters' contraction strategies are influenced by the authors' own class background and native dialect.

On the one hand it is disappointing to find that authors whose dialogue is highly regarded by all actually have (at least for this variable) a fairly tin ear. On the other hand it is encouraging for the researcher who hopes to discover dialect variables which will, perhaps, remain stable even for those who are demographically mobile.

10 • 6:00 "Irish in America: *Mr. Dooley* and Hiberno-American Dialect Writing." **Jeffrey L. Kallen**, Trinity College, Dublin.

The depiction of Hiberno-English dialect in American literature goes back at least to the 18th century and flourished in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Few linguists have analysed this literary material, yet the study of "Hiberno-American" can be valuable in (a) providing information on the relative dating and development of dialectal forms where the record in Ireland is lacking or ambiguous, (b) shedding light on dialect contact in American English, given the selectivity of authors in denoting features as characteristically Irish rather than generally American or otherwise ethnically-marked, and (c) helping to understand the development of American English as the outcome of interplay among various Old and New World sources.

To illustrate the value of Hiberno-American dialect literature, this paper focuses on the work of Finley Peter Dunne, whose newspaper columns featuring the fictional Irish-American 'Mr. Dooley' were based in Chicago (1893-1898) before national syndication from New York in 1899. Variables which are examined include uses of perfect and habitual verb forms, plural subject marking with verbal -s, dentalisation of /t/, incomplete FLEECE merger (e.g. *dacent* 'decent'), and raising to KIT (e.g. *whin* 'when'). I conclude that while Dunne's use of Irish English is probably not as faithful to spoken norms as some critics have suggested, it nevertheless provides valuable insight into the perception of Hiberno-English in the New World, and the role of the English of Irish immigrants and their descendants in the development of American English.

11 • 6:30 "Literary Dialect as Linguistic Evidence: A Computational Approach with Data from Faulkner, Hurston, and Twain." **Lisa Cohen Minnick**, Univ. of Georgia.

This paper explores potential linguistic applications for literary speech data, focusing specifically on literary depictions of African American speech by Faulkner, Hurston and Twain and what they reveal about the relationship between artistic goals of dialect representation and the realities such representations may reflect. These realities include the significance of and attitudes about social and ethnic variation in speech and in speakers, both within and outside of literary texts. The computational methods used in the paper include analysis of literary speech corpora with the goal of addressing questions about how and why authors represent dialect in the ways that they do, with the assumption that the representations have much to do with the social determinants and consequences of as well as perceptions and attitudes about variation. Despite resistance on the parts of some linguists to using literary dialect as linguistic evidence, the data can also offer interesting information about language behavior as a component of identity, including how spoken language and variation function as tools for solidarity or distance between characters within the text, as well as between author/narrator and character. Using literary texts as tools for helping to understand attitudes towards varieties of American English, the paper intends to show, can challenge the widely held belief that literary representations of dialect have little or nothing to offer to a study of language variation.

Coming in January . . .  
 Calls for papers 2002  
 Words of the year 2001  
 Acts of the Executive Council  
 . . . and perhaps, even, an issue on time!

## Friday, January 4: Council, Words of the Year, Methodology

### *Executive Council*

Golden Gate Room, Bay Level, Hyatt Regency

8:00–10:30 a.m.: Open meeting; all members welcome. Coffee will be served. Presiding: ADS President **Dennis Preston**.

The Executive Council discusses and sets policy for the Society and hears reports from officers, editors, committee chairs, and regional secretaries. To get an advance copy of the agenda in early December, write or e-mail the Executive Secretary.

### *Words of the Year*

Golden Gate Room, Bay Level, Hyatt Regency

10:30 a.m.–12:00 noon: New Words Committee. Chair: Wayne Glowka, Georgia Coll. and State Univ. Review of new words of 2001, and of nominations for Words of the Year (see Page 3). Final candidates will be identified in preparation for the afternoon vote (see Page 10).

### *Session 4: Issues in Methodology, 1:30–3:30 p.m.*

Seacliff A/B, Bay Level, Hyatt Regency

12 • 1:30 “Scientific Language Analysis: Studying Dialects in the New Old-fashioned Way.” **Kirk Hazen**, West Virginia Univ.

The argument of what constitutes language is ancient (e.g., Plato’s *Cratylus*). In the twentieth century, the division between the generative grammar approach, Chomsky (1957, 1964), and the variationists approach, Weinreich, Labov, and Herzog (1968), drew the most formidable lines in the sand. Although the variationists for the most part accepted the general conclusions of the generative grammarians, fundamental differences consisted of the locus of language and the extent of abstraction for the linguistic model.

From both generative grammarians and sociolinguists, recent work points towards coalescence of the language-definition divide. Although sociolinguists today have generally been brought up in a Labovian tradition, the emphasis on identity has taken the study of language variation from the speech community to the individual. Even the generative grammarians who have led the field for decades recognize that the formalist method is one perspective among many, including those of neuroscience and diachronic linguistics (e.g., Chomsky 2000, Jackendoff 1997). Within this intellectual context, an opportunity exists for the study of language varieties: an opportunity for a more theoretically rigorous approach where the integration of psychological properties can be incorporated into an explanation of the human language faculty conceived of as the mental grammar plus the other mental components that guide its data flow.

This paper outlines what qualities can be drawn together from the 20th century divisions to provide for a new foundation for the study of language varieties.

13 • 2:00 “Multiple Methods for Dialect Research on Michigan’s Keweenaw Peninsula.” **Beth Lee Simon**, Indiana Univ.-Purdue Univ, Fort Wayne.

This paper explores use of multiple methodologies to address the relations between linguistic markedness, social contexts of language use, the linguistic construction of identity, and the milieu in which such constructions occur. Multiple methodologies allow for deepening our understanding of language variation in terms of how speakers embody language and are emblematic of language as a cultural mechanism.

This exploration is based on my research in the Keweenaw Copper Country of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. Working with second- and third-generation participants of primarily Finnish, Italian and Cornish backgrounds, I used questionnaires and structured interviews to produce a contextualized inventory of linguistic and prosodic features. I also taped hours of uninterrupted narrative during which participants discussed strategies for compartmentalizing cultural assimilation in tandem with group-specific strategies for disassimilation.

The Keweenaw narratives offer unique material, including dialect-dependent definitions of ethnicity, politicized definitions of English, and psychic and social parameters of English use. I propose drawing on ethnographic methods and discourse theory to expand the possibilities of dialect study and to provide for representation of conflicting and hybrid identities and contested space.



14 • 2:30 “A Comparison of Methods for Study in Perceptual Dialectology.” **Susan Tamasi**, Univ. of Georgia.

This paper presents a comparison of methods currently being used in the field of perceptual dialectology. The standard for research in this area was developed by Preston in the 1980s and included the principal techniques of “draw-a-map,” “degree of difference,” and “ ‘correct’ and ‘pleasant’ rating” (Preston 1989). Within the last few years, however, other experimental means for eliciting folk attitudes toward regional variation have been developed.

The main focus of this paper will be a comparison of three perceptual studies, each using different methodologies. The first was conducted in Alabama by Preston and implemented his traditional methods (1989). The second study was conducted by Tamasi using Georgia informants and shows a variation of the “draw-a-map” and “ ‘correct’ and ‘pleasant’ ratings” techniques (2000). The third study was also conducted in Georgia (Tamasi 2001), but the methodology varies greatly in that data collection methods from perceptual dialectology have been fused with those of cognitive anthropology. This paper will review each of the methods, highlight their pros and cons, and discuss what each can bring to the field of perceptual dialectology and to the study of linguistics as a whole.

15 • 3:00 “Skydivers, Firefighters, and the Danger of Death Question.” **Stephen Brown**, Johns Hopkins Univ., and **Ceil Lucas**, Gallaudet Univ.

The Danger of Death question has been used in the classic sociolinguistic interview to elicit spontaneous, natural, and unselfconscious vernacular speech, the hypothesis being that when speaking about highly emotional experiences, interviewees will forget that they are in real conversations, speak relatively unconsciously, and produce speech that is close to the vernacular (Labov 1964, 1966, 1972). Some have re-examined this hypothesis (Butters 2000, Milroy 1987). We investigate the Danger of Death question with respondents such as skydivers and firefighters who have a lot of and/or consistent experience with danger of death, i.e. respondents whose profession or avocation by definition includes a danger of death. Using a modified form of the classic sociolinguistic interview, we interviewed 10 experienced skydivers and firefighters to investigate 1) what, if any, are the shared characteristics of the elicited narratives, 2) if we have evidence that the Danger of Death question is not problematic for these interviewees, and 3) if we have evidence of spontaneous vernacular speech in the narratives, based on a Varbrul analysis of two phonological variables. We hypothesize that the Danger of Death question is not per se inappropriate for a sociolinguistic interview but that its appropriateness is directly linked to the discourse context and to the background of the interviewees.

### *Session 5: General Dialectology, 3:45–5:15 p.m.*

Seacliff A/B, Bay Level, Hyatt Regency

16 • 3:45 “American English in the Centennial State: A Report on the Colorado Atlas Interviews.” **Lamont Antieau** and **Meredith Barna**, Univ. of Georgia.

With the objective of collecting folk speech in a region of the United States that has been relatively neglected by dialect geographers, work began toward the compilation of the Linguistic Atlas of the Western States (LAWS) in the late 1980s under the direction of Lee Pederson. Following a worksheet that Pederson modified to reflect the culture of the West, fieldwork was completed in the Wyoming grid and 18 of the 28 interviews needed to complete the Colorado grid were conducted in the early 1990s. Due to its status as the cultural center of the Rocky Mountain region, Colorado is presumed to be of great importance to understanding the speech of the greater region and fieldwork is now under way to complete the Colorado portion of the LAWS grid. This paper will present preliminary results from the interviews conducted in Colorado, primarily focusing on those interviews conducted during 2001.

17 • 4:15 “Northerners at Home in the Deep South: A Comparison of Vowels and Attitudes.” **Allison Burkette**, Univ. of Mississippi.

What factors influence the speech of northern transplants into the Deep South? Length of time spent in the South? Attitude towards the South and southerners? This paper applies information from sociolinguistic studies on Southern English (Wolfram and Christian 1989, Feagin 1070, Labov and Ash 1992), specifically the information available about trends in southern vowel use, to the language of twenty northerners who now live in a small Mississippi town. This study will offer a comparison of key vowels - such as /i/ and /E/ (as seen in the pin/pen merger) and /ai/ - elicited via a reading passage from each informant. Accompanying the reading passage is a short survey designed to gauge each informant’s attitude toward the town, the South in general, and the dialect used by “locals,” in addition to general biographical information. Whether or not informants use “southern” or “non-southern” vowels will be examined for statistical correlations with the following variables: sex, age, number of years lived in the South, and attitude towards the South. Results of this analysis reveal that both attitude and duration have an effect on the language use of northerners now calling the South their home.

## Friday, January 4 (Cont.): Multimedia, Words of the Year

18 • 4:45 “Teaching Dialectology through Multimedia: The Language Samples Project at the University of Arizona.” **Norma Mendoza-Denton**, Univ. of Arizona, **Sean Hendricks**, Univ. of Georgia, and **Nicole Taylor**, Univ. of Arizona.

The Language Samples Project (LSP) <http://www.ic.arizona.edu/~lsp/main.html> is an interactive website with teaching and research tools for dialectology, sociolinguistics, and linguistic anthropology. Teaching language sound structures can be a difficult enterprise without access to audio samples, and the study of variation is more concrete (and engaging) for students when they can hear the intonation of British English or the substratal influence in U.S. Chicano English. One of the aims of the LSP is to provide access to audiovisual samples and rich sociolinguistic content for instructors in interactive classrooms and for distance education. Another aim of the LSP is to provide students with the opportunity to participate in faculty-guided research on sound-related concepts in linguistics and dialectology, using the LSP website both as clearinghouse for speech corpora available for research, and as a way to incorporate student research into our ongoing survey of English dialects around the world. The content of the site aims to be representative not only of the diversity of English around the world, but also of the diversity of student speech varieties and linguistic experiences. Undergraduate classes involved in the use of the website design their own data collection projects to contribute to the ongoing research and fieldwork connected with the study of dialects.

*Words of the Year: Seacliff A/B, Bay Level, Hyatt Regency*

5:30–6:30 p.m. Discussion and voting on nominations determined in the morning (see Page 8). All present are invited to vote.

*Bring-Your-Own-Book Exhibit and Reception: Golden Gate Room, Bay Level, Hyatt Regency*

6:30–7:30 p.m. Tables will be available to display your books and order forms.

## Saturday, January 5: Business Meeting, Feature Studies

*Annual Business Meeting*

Seacliff A/B, Bay Level, Hyatt Regency

8:00–9:00 a.m.: Election of Executive Council member; report of yesterday’s Executive Council meeting; as time permits, reports of officers, editors, committee chairs, regional secretaries. Most of the business of the Society is conducted at the Executive Council meeting (8 a.m. Friday, open to all members; see Page XX).

*Nominating Committee Report:* The Nominating Committee, consisting of elected member Joan Hall and Past Presidents Ron Butters and Walt Wolfram (chair), proposes for Executive Council member 2002 through 2005: **Ceil Lucas** of Gallaudet University. Additional nominations may be made by a petition with the signature of at least ten members; it must reach the Executive Secretary by December 20.

*Session 6: Feature Studies, 9:15–11:15 a.m.*

Seacliff A/B, Bay Level, Hyatt Regency. Chair: **Michael Adams**, Albright Coll.

19 • 9:15 “*Well* weird, *right* dodgy, *really* strange: Layering and Recycling in English Intensifiers.” **Rika Ito**, St. Olaf College, and **Sali Tagliamonte**, Univ. of Toronto.

Rapid semantic developments in linguistic change occur with intensifiers, which maximise or boost meaning. This area of grammar is always undergoing semantic shift, as new expressions are frequently created to replace older ones (Stoffel 1901; Peters 1994). Historical records confirm frequent turnovers of popular intensifiers. *Full* in Middle English was taken over by *right*, which was in turn taken over by *very* in the 16th century (Mustanoja 1960).

This paper examines variable usage of intensifiers in a socially and generationally stratified community corpus. Using multivariate analyses, we assess the direction of effect, significance and relative importance of conditioning factors in apparent time.

Of 4019 adjectival heads, 24% were intensified, and there is an increase of intensification across generations. Earlier forms (e.g. *right* and *well*) do not fade away but co-exist with newer items. However, the most frequent intensifiers are shifting rapidly. *Very* is most common but only of the older speakers. In contrast, *really* dramatically increases among the youngest generation.

This confirms that variation in intensification is a strong indicator of shifting norms and practises in a speech community. Such actively changing features can make an important contribution to understanding linguistic change and the burgeoning new mega trends among younger speakers.

20 • 9:45 “From Berkeley to Hoboken: The Small but Salient *So*.” **Al Romano**, Ramapo College of New Jersey.

R. Lakoff (1973) was the first to identify 9 features of what she termed “Woman’s Language.” One of these was the use of *so* as a sign of uncertainty, or hedging. My dissertation research (1998) included an examination of 165 female and male speakers, aged 17 to 70, from 5 continents. It found that *so* was an almost exclusive feature of women’s speech, but not men’s. Furthermore, it was discovered that *so* functioned more as a sign of emphasis rather than uncertainty. Subsequent research has supported these findings. This session will discuss these findings, as well as the rise of the phatic *so much*, as in “Thank you so much.” Although this appears not to be an example of a “cross-gender” expression, it appears to parallel the use of *so* among females, especially in its use as an expression of emotional emphasis.

21 • 10:15 “The Functions and Statistical Distribution of Periphrastic *duh* in Pennsylvania German.” **Steve Hartman Keiser**, Ohio State Univ.

Researchers have debated the origins and the functions of the periphrastic construction *duh* + infinitive (henceforth, “periphrastic *duh*” (PD)) in Pennsylvania German. For example:

Un sie dutt so funny schwetze alsemol  
and they do so funny talk sometimes  
'And they talk so funny sometimes'

The earliest references note in passing a general “present tense” function for PD, but highlight an “iterative” function as well as an “emphatic” function used also in question formation and negation (Frey 1942, Reed 1947, Buffington and Barba 1965). Later accounts dispute these restrictive claims and offer substantial evidence to support an analysis of PD as having nearly all of the functions of the general present tense (Burridge 1992, Huffines 1992, Costello 1992).

This study contributes to the investigation of PD in Pennsylvania German by offering the first statistical analysis of PD in an extended corpus of conversational data. The data were recorded in three Amish communities in the Midwest. The preliminary results support Costello’s formulation of PD being “in apparent free variation with the synthetic form of the present tense” (1992:242), although distributional frequency also supports the early researchers since the most common functions are to express habitual aspect and to form questions. In addition, negative native speaker judgments of sentences with PD expressing previously unattested functions, e.g., past with present relevance, *Zidder letschte yaahre dutt er in Walnut Creek wuhne* (‘Since last year he’s been living in Walnut Creek’), suggest that no further expansion of PD functions is imminent.

22 • 10:45 “Variation in the Interpretation of ‘Have you V-ed before?’ as a Sign of Pragmatic Change.” **Mai Kuha**, Ball State Univ.

A considerable amount of research has been done on linguistic change and variation, but it is not clear whether pragmatic change and variation exist, and, if so, how they could be studied. Prince (1988) presents evidence of pragmatic borrowing from one language to another; we should not exclude the possibility that pragmatic norms might change. While pragmatic change is in progress, we should see regional variation in norms, resulting in miscommunication that would be particularly difficult to detect.

The possibility of pragmatic change and variation was investigated by focusing on one specific structure: sentences of the form “have you V-ed before?” (where V is a verb), which trigger the implicature “you are expected to V” for some speakers of American English, but not others. In an earlier phase of this study, responses to a metapragmatic assessment questionnaire were collected from a small sample of speakers from the major dialect areas of American English. Results pointed to the possibility of loss of the implicature spreading from the Lower North dialect area. To further investigate this potential case of pragmatic change, a more in-depth investigation of particular speech communities is needed. The present study takes the next step: the same metapragmatic assessment task is administered to a larger sample of speakers from Indiana in order to determine whether the implicature is indeed lost. Possible emerging interactional functions of “before” for speakers who have lost the implicature are proposed.

## Saturday, January 5 (Cont.): Performance, Luncheon

*Session 7: Performance and Discourse, 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.*

Seacliff A/B, Bay Level, Hyatt Regency.

23 • 11:30 “With a Rank Southern Drawl: Globalization, Linguistic Variation, and Language Ideologies in the Australian Country Music Scene.” **Nastia Snider**, Univ. of Pennsylvania.

The Australian country music scene is filled with conflicting ideologies about globalization. These conflicts are highly evident in the language choices made by Australian country music singers, as well as in statements made about those choices. While some prominent singers like Slim Dusty and John Williamson sing about Australian themes and are known for singing with noticeable Australian accents, others accommodate to the international market which is dominated by Americans. Adam Harvey, an up-and-coming Australian country musician, falls at this end of the language choice spectrum. Although he displays typical Australian dialect features when he talks, Harvey style-shifts away from Australian pronunciation in his singing. In this paper, I examine linguistic variation in the Australian country music scene. I focus primarily on Adam Harvey, investigating the differences between his singing and speaking styles. In particular, I concentrate on variability in Harvey’s pronunciation of /ay/, examining the different frequencies with which he produces Australian and American variants, including monophthongized tokens. One of the larger theoretical issues I address is the salience of different linguistic features: which features of Southern speech styles do Australians imitate? The other issue I address is accuracy: how successful are Australians in producing American dialect features? In addition to looking at variation in language use, I also discuss variation in the linguistic ideologies expressed in the Australian country music scene, exploring the ways that attitudes about language impact language choice.

24 • 12:00 “Rhoticity in the Stage Pronunciation of Bette Davis: A Longitudinal Study.” **Nancy C. Elliott**, Southern Oregon Univ.

This study expands on research presented at ADS-LSA 2001 on changes in rhoticity of American film actors and actresses from the 1930s to the 1970s. Results of that study showed a steady decrease in r-lessness as a practice of Hollywood pronunciation, particularly by female subjects under the age of 45, during the 5-decade period. A few of the subjects were studied at older ages as well: they were followed across several decades to see if individual rhoticity habits followed the trend of the group over time or remained stable. It was found that, indeed, all three actresses (and four of the five actors) studied across more than two decades modified their rhoticity in the direction of more r-ful speech across time, following the pattern of younger subjects. The present study examines just one subject in many films over a very long period of time, actress Bette Davis, who appeared in 88 films from 1931 until her death in 1989. With her long career and copious output of films, it is possible to observe a single subject in a large number of films per decade and to investigate her speech output in every decade from the 1930s to the 1980s.

25 • 12:30 “Disaster Discourse.” **Gina Collins**, Texas Woman’s Univ.

This research project involved qualitative analysis of tape-recorded narratives of 24 residents of a northern Midwestern town who experienced dislocation and loss as a result of a flood. Analysis involved identifying common themes in expression as well as linguistic characteristics of northern plains speech. The major finding concerned discourse patterns of durability/emotional stoicism, connectedness, use of humor as a coping mechanism, and minimizing the negative. The discourse pattern ‘minimizing the negative’ took several forms: statements of how, compared to others, the narrators were actually fortunate; statements to the effect that the town was actually going to be better off in the future; the avoidance of statements regarding blame-placing, reactions to loss, or anything of a religious nature; and summarizing statements which took the form “it was not fun” or “it was not a good time”. Linguistic elements of this research include the addition of new words to the community lexicon post-disaster, and use of the discourse marker ‘so’ as an end marker.

From a sociology of disaster point of view, this research supports work of symbolic interaction theorists as well as emergent norm theorists. The narratives of these 24 subjects were remarkably similar suggesting that as the disaster story gets told and retold in public speech, the community builds its image and reinforces its prevailing values. The disaster story becomes part of the personal identity of those who lived through it and part of the identity of the community.

### *Annual Luncheon*

Golden Gate Room, Bay Level, Hyatt Regency

Please make reservations in advance; see Page 3.

1:15–2:45 p.m. Speaker: **Ronald Macaulay**, Pitzer College. “I’m Off to Philadelphia in the Morning: A Scotsman’s View of Dialect in America.”

*Session 8: Transplanted/Island Varieties, 3:00–4:30 p.m.*

Seacliff A/B, Bay Level, Hyatt Regency.

26 • 3:00 “Sociohistorical and Contemporary Aspects of Present *be* Regularization in Tristan da Cunha English.” **Daniel Schreier**, North Carolina State Univ.

With the three distinct morphemes *am*, *is*, and *are*, present tense *be* is the only verb in contemporary English that has preserved person–number concord. The intrinsic irregularity makes *be* particularly prone to regularisation, and analogical language change is commonly reported (predominantly with *is* as a pivot form). This paper looks into levelling of present *be* toward *is* in Tristan da Cunha English (TdCE), as in:

- (1) I’s a lot happier than other people is (72-year old male)
- (2) we know we’s gonna have a good party (23-year old female)

TdCE is a hybridised dialect that evolved out of British, American and St Helenian varieties of English that were transplanted to the island from the 1820s on. I argue that a combination of language contact dynamics, extreme geographic isolation, reduced in-migration after an initial formation period and input from a simplified (and quite plausibly creolised) form of English resulted in unprecedented levelling of present *be* with the pivot form *is* (the overall rate of *is* levelling in my 1999 corpus is 83.3%, n=1068). I also offer structural and perceptual criteria to explain why, in contrast with levelling of past *be*, levelling to *is* is less common, including competition of three morphemes, extension of *is* to at least five different contexts, greater perceptual saliency and phonetic distance of the present tense allomorphs.

27 • 3:30 “Ethnolinguistic Alignment in Transplant Dialect Communities: The Role of Consonant Reconstruction.” **Becky Childs**, North Carolina State Univ.

Although grammatical evidence has usually been considered primary in the determination of long-term ethnolinguistic relations, the examination of consonant variables may also provide essential data on these relations. The examination of a diagnostic set of consonant variables for transplant dialect communities shows how data from consonant variables may be just as diagnostic as grammatical variables in maintaining ethnolinguistic distinctiveness. Cherokee Sound is a small white community in the Abaco region of the Bahamas formed largely by white loyalists from the Carolinas who settled an outlying peninsula, whereas Sandy Point is a black community in the same region formed largely by ex-slaves from the U.S. The quantitative analysis of a diagnostic set of consonant variables from these distinct communities reveals patterns of formation and development that demonstrate how founder dialect input has been maintained and accommodated in the perpetuation of ethnolinguistic division.

The analysis of syllable-coda cluster reduction shows that the Afro-Bahamian community has maintained extensive cluster reduction as found in Caribbean Creoles and African American Vernacular English while the white community has minimally accommodated this trait. A similar pattern is found for the stopping of interdental fricatives. On the other hand, the pattern of syllable-onset *w/v* merger shows the putative influence of early British varieties and early North Carolina coastal varieties in which *w/v* merger was a distinct dialect feature. As similar pattern of ethnolinguistic and generational distribution is found for /h/ loss and insertion. The analysis demonstrates the critical role consonant variables in the formation and maintenance of ethnolinguistic distinctiveness in transplant enclave communities.

28 • 4:00 “A Cross-Dialectal Comparison of Irregular Verbs in Isolated Varieties.” **Benjamin Torbert**, Duke Univ. and North Carolina State Univ.

Despite social saliency of variation in irregular verb forms, there has been relatively little detailed cross-dialectal comparison of irregular verbs among representative vernacular varieties, partly because systematic constraints on past tense irregularity are difficult to summarize. Christian, Wolfram, and Dube (1988) have posited an implicational array to capture patterning for Appalachian English, whereby ambiguous forms occur most, followed by preterit for participle, participle for preterit, bare root, regularization, and different strong form. However, Christian et al.’s analysis raises questions about the appropriateness of implicational analysis and its scalability in capturing patterns of irregular verb formation in vernaculars.

Cherokee Sound is an exclusively white enclave community on Abaco, Bahamas, culturally and physically separated from the Afro-Caribbean majority. Sandy Point is an isolated Afro-Bahamian community located about 30 miles from Cherokee Sound with a presumed creole-like language heritage. For Sandy Point, we find that the bare root is the most common form of past tense irregularity, as a manifestation of creole-influenced tense unmarking. For Cherokee Sound, we find an implicational hierarchy more in line with vernacular varieties in the U.S. and British Isles. More importantly, this presentation underscores the importance of comparing irregular verb formation across different vernacular varieties of English in an effort to establish parameters of variability and to set forth the conditions under which internal constraints may (and may not) govern irregular past tense variation.

## DIRECTORY

### Directory of Members, November 2001

That's right, this is the November directory rather than a September one because the newsletter is so late. This is the latest information from our own ADS database and Duke University Press records. If it's wrong, or if you have been omitted, please let the executive secretary know (AAllan@aol.com), and he'll set matters straight with Duke too.

Special categories include ∞Life Membership, available for \$700 (minus the current year's dues, if paid; \$800 after Dec. 31); §Emeritus Membership, free to retired members, but including only the Newsletter; \*\*Presidential Honorary Membership, awarded to three students annually by the ADS President, and \*Student Membership, including all publications, at \$25 per year for as many as three years.

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## ADS at MLA: Continued from Page 2

to *Canal Street*.) A part of life's mystery in New Orleans is not knowing how to spell names for favorite foods like *andouille* (sausage), *doberge* (pastry), and *mirliton* (vegetable pear). New Orleanians are attuned to racial, social, and neighborhood stratification as it is reflected in pronunciation, and they love the variations.

Many websites are dedicated to the cultivation of a New Orleans identity. This paper analyzes how language is presented as a component of local New Orleans identity on websites and in other non-scholarly sources.

2. "Louisiana as a Site of Regional Variation in African American English." **Sonja A. Lanehart**, Univ. of Georgia.

Despite all we know about language and variation, some scholars have surprisingly purported that AAE is homogeneous. Although scholars earlier compared data collected in Northeastern and Midwestern U.S. urban areas, the truth of the matter is that African Americans live across the U.S., and the cradle of AAE is in the Southeast.

I will report early findings from my research in regional variation in AAE from a small town in Louisiana undergoing change from a rural agricultural community to one dominated by commuter workers for larger nearby cities.

3. "Talk like a Turkey, Look like a Bush: The Lexicon of Postmodern Hunting." **Wayne Glowka**, Georgia College and State Univ.

If you come down South for the MLA and get out to places where the real folks hang out, like the Wal-Mart, you will see armies of men and women dressed in camouflage with large knives hanging on their belts alongside their cell phones and pagers. Manufacturers of hunting gear know that these REALTREE and Mossy Oak covered people expend a lot of effort and will spend a lot of money trying to hide from, attract, and kill game. These manufacturers use a variety of naming ploys to attract hunters to their products, ploys that exploit the hunter's unconscious participation in the myths of hunting, his or her need to feel powerful in the dangerous world of nature, and his or her interest in animal sexuality and death.

## Abstracts of Papers at Regional Meetings, Fall 2001

We apologize for publishing this newsletter too late for advance announcement of these meetings. We publish the abstracts here in the belief that they are of continuing interest.

### Rocky Mountain Region

In association with RMMLA, Oct. 11–13; Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

1. "Perceptions of National and Local Dialects by Residents of Southeastern Idaho." **Janna Graham, Patti Kurtz, Sean McCoy, and Emily Mulick**, Idaho State Univ.

This paper presents the results of a perceptual dialectology survey conducted among long-term residents of southeastern Idaho. Drawing on the work of Hartley (1999) and Lance (1999), we asked respondents to mark perceived dialect areas on maps of the United States and Idaho. Analysis of the data revealed clear patterns. Perceived dialect areas were more numerous and specific in the eastern United States, less clearly defined in the West; certain states (such as Texas and Minnesota) were identified with distinct dialects. Idaho was divided into five dialect areas. The dialect boundaries identified within Idaho may reflect measurable speech variations and offer a useful starting point for further research.

2. "The Snake River Region Revisited: A Comparison of Lexical Survey Responses from 1985 and 1999/2000." **Sonja Launspach**, Idaho State Univ.

This paper discusses lexical data gathered in the Snake River region of southeastern Idaho by students at Idaho State University, using the vocabulary portion of the dialect questionnaire from Hall (1985). Using both sets of survey results, a comparison of the totals for frequency of responses for items reveals three basic trends: 1) No real change in the highest frequency term for the question, 2) a rearrangement in the order of frequency of terms. This has two main variations: a) terms 1 & 2 switch places or b) there is a rearrangement of all the terms; and 3) a rise in 'don't know' responses, where 'don't know' is the highest or a high frequency "term" for a question. Examples of each of these will be discussed.

3. "Language Diversity in Colonial America." **Marianne Cooley**, Univ. of Houston.

Study of literary dialect and language commentary in approximately fifty American texts before 1815 reveals thirteen dialects appearing regularly and continuing through the first part of the nineteenth century. These include Yankee, Quaker, African American, fops, and various foreign-accented English, thus documenting the presence and recognition in early American English of ethnic, affective, religious, occupational, and regional varieties. These texts illustrate literary dialect conventions at that time as well as providing some evidence toward the description of diversity in early American English.

Authors also illustrate social and affective values and attitudes attached to language varieties and their speakers. Furthermore, variable representation of some characters' speech at times suggests realistic inherent variation rather than lack of authorial skill. Such literary dialect use can provide a contextual social dimension and corroborating support for historical linguistic explanations established on other grounds. On the other hand, some representations suggest stereotyping or literary convention rather than realistic representation.

4. "*On* and *On*: The Malefactive Particle in 21st-Century Southern English." **Tom DuBose**, Louisiana State Univ.-Shreveport.

This paper examines the use of *on* as a malefactive particle to mark noun phrases that designate entities, usually animates, for whom the action indicated by the verbs holds adverse consequences. In some of the constructions that feature malefactive *on*, the particle is there as part of a well-established phrasal verb, as in "The tigers turned on their trainers." Sometimes, though, *on* is present for the sole purpose of establishing that the noun it marks is somehow affected negatively by the action of the verb. For example, in "The car stalled on us again this morning," the phrase "on us" is optional. Its inclusion stems from the speaker's desire to convey that the people referred to by "us" were inconvenienced or annoyed by the car's having stalled again. Similar sentences include the following: "My computer crashed on me last night"; "Their gardener all of a sudden quit on them"; and "She just went ballistic on me." A number of uses of malefactive *on* in the American South pertain to love and relationships, as in the following examples: "She walked out on him"; "He cheated on her"; and "He's played around on her for years."

After establishing the existence and frequency of malefactive *on* in current Southern speech, the paper will explore possible interpretations of the construction. One is that we are observing a pairing of related phrasal and nonphrasal verbs in a pattern similar to that which exists between such verb couples as "to beat" and "to beat up," "to speak" and "to speak up," and "to eat" and "to eat up." In this pattern, the phrasal variants feature up as a completive/intensive marker. Another interpretation, and perhaps the more interesting of the two, is that *on* has developed into a malefactive personal marker, much as *a* is used in Spanish and *pe* is used in Romanian as accusative personal markers.



## 5. "Dialect Change in St. John's, Newfoundland: The Case of Two General Canadian Innovations."

**Alexandra Faith D'Arcy**, West Vancouver, -British Columbia.

Newfoundland English is typically viewed as an autonomous variety within Canada (Bailey 1982; Chambers 1991). However, many of its traditional features are levelling toward General Canadian English (CE) (Clarke 1991; D'Arcy 2000). This tendency is most clear in St. John's, whose Irish roots are responsible for the distinctiveness of the local dialect. An examination of the dissemination of two current CE innovations in St. John's, (ae) Retraction and Lowering and (aw)-Fronting, has shed light on the actuation of linguistic change in the city. Both innovations appear in the speech of younger females in St. John's, but when divided into groups based on parentage, it is speakers with non-local parents who make significantly greater use of the CE innovations. This result suggests that those in the vanguard of linguistic change in St. John's are precisely those predicted by Milroy and Milroy (1985); it appears to be those whose social networks are less embedded in the local community who are responsible for diffusing features originating outside it.

6. "Going Global—British or American English?" **Mary Morzinski**, Univ. of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

For Europeans learning English, the issue of whether to learn a British or American dialect was first introduced to me when I was given a Fulbright award to teach English in Norway in 1997. One of the classes I taught was Phonetics, and the English department at the University of Trondheim was openly divided on whether I should teach American or English pronunciation. The goal of my research is to discover why Europeans who learn English as a second or tertiary language choose to speak one or the other of these two dialects.

Dialects are based upon social prestige. Those dialects considered to most desirable are spoken by groups of people who are considered to be most prestigious. My study attempts to discover which groups of people consider the American dialect to be prestigious and which groups of people consider the British dialect to be prestigious, and for what reasons. I am gathering information by means of taped conversations and written questionnaires in Poland, Germany, France, Spain, Greece, Norway, and Sweden. Age, education, gender, vocation (or aspirations for such), and social class will be determining factors in drawing conclusions from this study.

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*Future meeting:* 2002 Oct. 10-12 Scottsdale, AZ, Holiday Inn Old Towne Scottsdale.

## Midwest Region

In association with MMLA, Nov. 1–3; Cleveland, Sheraton City Centre Hotel.

1. "Looking for Roots in the Substrate: The Cases of Ebonics and Anglo-Irish." **Terence Odlin**, The Ohio State Univ.

Despite many differences in the sociolinguistic setting of Hiberno-English in Ireland and African-American Vernacular English in the USA, arguments about substrate influence have been invoked in both cases to promote the notion of separate linguistic identities. In the case of Ireland, Henry (1958, 1977) has insisted that the proper term to describe the vernacular now used by many in rural Ireland is "Anglo-Irish," as opposed to "Hiberno-English" or "Irish English." He emphasizes the distinctiveness of speech in Ireland, going so far as argue that "a new language" was created as a result of the substrate influence that became especially prominent in the nineteenth century as more and more Irish speakers adopted English. It is in the native Celtic language of such speakers that Henry finds the creative and distinctive element of Anglo-Irish. There have likewise been strong claims about the significance of substrate influence with regard to African-American Vernacular English, or to use the term advocated by the Oakland School Board, "Ebonics." In 1996 the Board declared this variety to be "not a dialect of English" but instead an instance of "African Language Systems." Although the Board eventually rewrote its original declaration, it continued to foreground an African element and thereby emphasize the distinctive nature of Ebonics. The arguments of Henry and of the Oakland School Board may not convince linguists that Anglo-Irish and Ebonics are indeed distinct languages, but these claims do warrant reconsidering the question of where English begins and ends. Structural facts clearly play a key role, but so do beliefs about language among linguists as well as among everyday speakers, and determining how much weight to give to linguistic structure and to linguistic ideology remains problematic.

2. "A New Look at Address in American English: The Rules Have Changed." **Thomas E. Murray**, Kansas State Univ.

This paper replicates the landmark research done by Roger Brown and Marguerite Ford (1961) on forms of address in dyadic encounters in American English—more specifically, on the choice speakers make between the use of an addressee's first name and his or her title plus last name. The results show that many of the rules governing address have changed greatly over the past two generations: the use of first names is more common now in encounters involving two

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newly-introduced adults, in other adult encounters in which there is a difference between the speaker's and addressee's occupational status and/or a 15-year-or-greater difference between their ages, and in encounters in which the speaker is a child and the addressee is an adult. These changes are linked to Americans' evolving perceptions of what criteria are important in determining a social pecking order, and to semantic shifts in Americans' concepts of *distance*, *formality*, *intimacy*, and *status*.

3. "Mapping the North Central States: Changing Views." **Beverly Olson Flanigan**, Ohio Univ.

The question of dialect boundaries in the North Central States has been debated since Carver (1987) proposed that the traditional regions called North Midland and South Midland be redefined as Lower North and Upper South. The border between the newly aggregated North and South regions is the Ohio River, according to Carver, with virtually all of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois falling into the (Upper and Lower) North. More recently, Davis and Houck (1992) have proposed that even these boundaries should be erased in favor of a continuum of dialect features, with transition zones demarcating areas of overlap and change.

However, this minimalist approach to dialect mapping has been disputed by a number of scholars, including Frazer (1994) and Johnson (1994), and it runs counter to earlier studies of lexicon and phonology that support the traditional Linguistic Atlas boundaries (Dakin 1971; Hankey 1972; Hartman 1972). Recent research in the Ohio Valley using acoustic analyses and grammatical data has gone further yet, pushing Carver's Ohio River boundary northward to reassert the existence of a distinctive Midland region which is neither North nor South, though it shares some features with both (Flanigan 2000; Flanigan & Norris 2000).

A series of PowerPoint slides will trace the development of this boundary debate and propose a new regional division. Graphics from recent dialect research will be displayed, and maps illustrating changing interpretations of the region will be presented singly and in overlays.

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*Future meeting:* 2002 Nov. 8-10 Minneapolis, MN, Marriott City Center.

### South Atlantic Region

In association with SAMLA, Nov. 8-10; Atlanta, Peachtree Plaza.

1. "The Importance of Research in Dialectology." **Jan Tillery** and **Guy Bailey**, Univ. of Texas-San Antonio.

Dialectology is crucial to understanding contemporary American English. Dialectology is also well suited for analyzing the effects of a major 20th century demographic trend—interregional migration (especially from the Rustbelt to the Sunbelt). Although 20th century dialectology focused on natives of an area, such people are now the exception rather than the rule. How (or if) internal migration reshapes speech is an unanswered question. Dialectology is also well suited to assess the effects that migration from other countries is having on American English. Immigration into the U.S. is greater now than at any other time since the first decade of the 20th century, and its linguistic consequences need to be assessed. Finally, dialectology is well suited to address questions about general directions of change in American English—i.e., whether American English is becoming more homogeneous or more diverse.

2. "The Future of Dialectology: Efficient Field Work with a One-Hour Interview." **William A. Kretzschmar, Jr.**, Univ. of Georgia.

One of the biggest problems in linguistic survey research is to find the right balance between the nature and extent of the interview, and the costs of carrying out the linguistic survey. The methods originally used for the American Linguistic Atlas surveys were very costly: questionnaires of nearly 1000 target items which required six to eight hours for the field worker and informant to complete. The editorial labor of processing field records into lists for analysis was also costly and difficult. The alternative at the other end of the spectrum, the telephone interview, is much more rapid and cost effective, but it has its own problems. I would like to suggest a new, cost-effective interview format for linguistic survey research, the one-hour interview. The interview is designed to yield five different kinds of linguistic information: 1) acoustical phonetic measurements in the manner preferred by speech scientists, fixed-format elicitation; 2) acoustical phonetic measurements from free conversation, such as those typically collected by sociolinguists; 3) grammatical information from free conversation, such as that typically collected by sociolinguists; 4) lexical tokens, a subset of those collected in Western States Linguistic Atlas interviews; and 5) perceptual linguistic information, such as that collected by Preston and others. We at the Linguistic Atlas have already applied for funding to test this format, and to compare the information gathered with it to the information gathered with older protocols. This format should meet the needs of both

language variationists and speech scientists, and it should allow for the collection and analysis of data within the time and means available to a great many language variationists.

3. “Quantification of Prosodic Features: A Frontier for Dialectology in the 21st Century.” **Anne Marie Hamilton**, Univ. of Georgia.

Research of prosodic features has traditionally been qualitative and not supported by quantitative evidence, since accurate and rapid quantification of prosodic features has not been supported by speech analysis hardware or software to date. But prosodic features are nonetheless an important component of language variation: for example, Cooper and Sorenson (1981) observe that typically the final stressed syllable preceding a major phrase boundary or clause is marked by a fall in the fundamental frequency, while the first stressed syllable after the boundary is marked by a rise in the fundamental frequency for Standard American English; more recently, my preliminary qualitative observations of forty El Paso, Texas English speakers (El Paso English Sample) suggest that an utterance rhythm conditions a switch from English phonology to Spanish-influenced phonology for a number of El Pasoans. A series of words of a length and stress similar to the syllable-timed rhythm of Spanish may lead the speaker to switch from the stress-timed rhythm of English and Standard English phonology to the syllable-timed rhythm of Spanish and Spanish-influenced phonology (Hamilton, 2000). Speech analysis software, such as CSpeechSP (Milenkovic and Read, 1997), enables quantitative comparison of informants’ prosodic features, though that is not its designed function. This paper demonstrates current possibilities for research and predicts future potential for prosodic analysis based on the El Paso English Sample. While scientifically rewarding, quantification of prosodic features is currently time-consuming and limited by human measurement error. Improvements in speech analysis hardware and software from the seventies onward have enabled analog visualization of prosodic features, such as pitch and rhythm, but not the accurate quantitative assessment of multiple individuals required for regional dialect description. Software automated quantification of rhythm and pitch features would enable accurate large-scale comparison of speakers, eliminating the need to generalize prosodic phenomena from the speech of only a few informants. The conclusion reviews the software currently available for speech analysis, such as CSpeechSP (Milenkovic and Read, 1997) and Speech Analyzer 1.5 (Summer Institute of Linguistics), and suggests improvements that would enable rapid and accurate analysis of prosodic features for spoken corpus research.

4. “The Linguistic Atlas Spoken Corpus: The Next Generation of Dialectology Research.” **Betsy Barry** and **Lamont Antieu**, Univ. of Georgia.

This paper outlines the prototype for the Western Atlas spoken corpus developed in connection with the American Linguistic Atlas Project. The Western corpus consists of complete transcriptions and sound files of atlas-style interviews conducted in Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah during the 1990s under the direction of Lee Pederson and ongoing research in the Western states under the direction of Pederson and William Kretzschmar. There are two main foci of the research presented here: First we attempt to create a standard method for preparing spoken linguistic data in such a way that it can be easily modified, e.g. augmented, and displayed on the web, to make it available not only to scholars but to the public. The web-based corpus will be an extension of the interactive website of the Linguistic Atlas Projects. Secondly, as the corpus is part of the Linguistic Atlas Project, we mark up the data using XML and XSL in a manner that facilitates both qualitative and quantitative linguistic analyses with respect to all levels of the grammar, including phonetic/phonological analyses.

5. “Vector Analysis of Phonetic Data: The Next Step in Dialectology.” **Susan Tamasi**, Univ. of Georgia.

While phonetic data from the Linguistic Atlas projects have previously undergone traditional phonemic analysis, a new type of methodology is currently being implemented. This new method, which is being used to analyze data from the Linguistic Atlas of the Middle and South Atlantic States (LAMSAS), uses the underlying principles of vector analysis to determine phonetic variation. In this methodology, phones are first charted on an x/y axis according to their placement in the vocal tract. Phones are then analyzed based on their spatial relationship to each other instead of being analyzed based on their relationship to pre-determined phonemes. This paper discusses this new methodology and shows preliminary findings in comparison to traditional analysis. This paper also discusses the effects that this method may have on how future research is conducted. For example, the study gives insight into the question of whether to use narrow or broad transcription for interviews when the ultimate goal is to determine patterns of phonetic variation. Additionally, while vector analysis is currently being used to analyze impressionistic data, this paper discusses the application of this method to acoustical data.

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*Future meetings:* 2002 Nov. 15-17 Baltimore, Omni Inner Harbor; 2003 Nov. 6-8 Atlanta, Marriott Marquis; 2004 Nov. 12-14 Roanoke, VA, Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center.

## Dictionaries, AAE, Mama's Plate, Japan, Words, Names

*If you have recently published a book, send pertinent information to Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf (address on cover), and we'll mention it here.*

**David Barnhart.** *The Barnhart Dictionary Companion*, a quarterly of new words. Lexik House (P.O. Box 2018; Hyde Park, N.Y.). Annual subscription list price \$98; academic libraries \$80; teaching and retired faculty \$50. ISSN 0736-1122. This journal has been covering new words, new meanings, and other changes in English usage since its founding in 1982. Lexik House is resuming the role of publisher with Volume 14.

**Gerald Cohen.** *Dictionary of 1913 Baseball And Other Lingo*, Vol. 1 (A-F). Privately printed. 208 pages. Soft cover \$20 + \$5 for shipping and handling. (Checks should be payable to the University of Missouri-Rolla and mailed to: Gerald Cohen, G-4 Humanities Social Sciences Building, University of Missouri-Rolla, Rolla MO 65401. The project is non-profit; all funds remaining after publication costs are met will be donated to a scholarship fund at the university.) "The book lists the terms I find of interest in the (Feb.– May) 1913 *San Francisco Bulletin* baseball articles and then presents the examples in context. This work started as a careful search for the earliest attestations of *jazz* (used in a baseball context before a music one) and then broadened out as a whole variety of interesting baseball terms and expressions came to my attention."

**Sonja L. Lanehart**, editor. *Sociocultural and Historical Contexts of African American English*. John Benjamins, 2001. xviii + 373 pages. Hardcover \$95, ISBN 1 58811 045 1; paperback \$39.95, ISBN 1 58811 046 X. Varieties of English Around the World, G27. Based on presentations at a 1998 state of the art conference at the University of Georgia, this volume explores the relationship between AAE and other varieties of English (Southern White Vernaculars, Gullah, and Caribbean English creoles), language use in the African American community (e.g., Hip Hop, women's language, and directness), and application of our knowledge about AAE to issues in education. Contributors include ADS members Lanehart, Salikoko S. Mufwene, Guy Bailey,

Patricia Cukor-Avila, David Sutcliffe, Mary B. Zeigler, William Labov, John Baugh, and Walt Wolfram.

**Miriam Meyers.** *A Bite Off Mama's Plate: Mothers' and Daughters' Connections through Food*. Bergin & Garvey, Greenwood Publishing Group, September 2001. 208 pages. \$24.95. ISBN 0-89789-788-9. Explores the connections mothers and daughters enjoy in the kitchen and beyond. Combines original research including focus groups, interviews, and a national survey, with a personal memoir and a wide range of other sources. Chapter topics include food and the family, communication about and through food, food-related learning, food for the circumstances of life, and food as a way of ensuring continuity across generations of women.

**Itsuo Oishi.** *Katakana Eigo to Hensoku Eigo*. (Awkward Japanized English.) In Japanese. Tokyo: Takashobo-Yumi Press. Paperback 1200 yen (\$9). English words and phrases have constantly been Japanized and used in Japanese. Coining English-based words and phrases is also very common. This book criticizes such trends and practices, showing correct English for dubious Japanized English.

**Robert Stockwell and Donka Minkova.** *English Words: History and Structure*. Cambridge U. Press, July 2001. xi + 208 pages. Hardcover \$54.95, ISBN 0-521-79012-3; paperback \$19.95, ISBN 0-521-79362-9. A textbook covering principles of word formation in English, including morphology, as well as the historical development of the English vocabulary. It is concerned especially with the learned vocabulary of English, words borrowed from the classical languages and French. Includes a chapter on the pronunciation of classical words in English and, in an appendix, an introduction to dictionaries.

**Allen Walker Read.** *America: Naming the Country and Its People*. Edited by Leonard R.N. Ashley. 284 pages. Edwin Mellen Press, 2001. \$89.95 (20% discount with a credit card order by phone: 716/754-2788). ISBN 0-7734-7391-2. A member of ADS since the late 1920s, Allen Walker Read needs no introduction. This volume collects two dozen of his studies of American names, including *America*, *Yankee*, and names for residents of the various states.