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Amanda Cole

Class-based, linguistic distinctions in Southeast England: the role of technology in aggregating perceptual dialectology data

The difficulty in aggregating perceptual dialectology results has long been noted, particularly, in the draw-a-map task (Preston & Howe, 1987; Montgomery & Stoeckle, 2013). This study bridges this gap by using a graphic user interface (GUI) to carry out a perceptual dialectology paradigm for Southeast English speakers and listeners. The southeast of England has previously been considered to have both dialect levelling processes (Kerswill & Williams, 2005; Kerswill, Torgersen, et al. 2008) and a class-based linguistic spectrum between RP and Cockney (e.g. Estuary English; Rosenwarne 1994). More recently, a new dialect, Multicultural London English has been reported in central areas of London but diffusing to the London peripheries as a result of high cultural and linguistic heterogeneity (Cheshire et al., 2008, 2011; Kerswill, et al., 2008). This study examines to what extent individuals find it possible to geographically locate speakers from the Southeast and how these areas and subsequently, the speakers, are socially perceived.

In this experiment, a total of 215 individuals (106 male, 106 female and 3 who listed their gender as non-binary; 121 White British) listened to recordings lasting 10 seconds of 102 speakers (each listener

judged 27 speakers who were rotated across the experiment). All listeners and speakers were from the southeast of England and between the ages of 18 and 33. Both the speakers and listeners provided detailed demographic information as well as attitudinal and identity data for instance, their class-identity. The experiment was carried out on a GUI where the listeners made assertions on sliders about the speakers' intelligence, class, friendliness, trustworthiness and how similar they sounded to them. The listeners were also presented with an interactive map where they were asked to draw around the area(s) they thought each speaker may be from. As they drew on the map, the coordinates were extracted and saved which allowed for easy aggregation. This allowed for a comparison between the areas where speakers were perceived to be from and their perceived intelligence/trustworthiness/friendliness etc.

Those perceived to be from London and the county of Essex were consistently interpreted as less intelligent, friendly, trustworthy, correct and to be of a lower class, whilst those perceived to be from the Western counties of the Southeast were perceived conversely. However, many speakers were perceived as coming from several disparate areas of the Southeast. For instance, several speakers were identified as working class and subsequently were believed to potentially come from several geographically disperse (ex-)council estates or perceptually working-class towns. This suggests that linguistic features in the Southeast may be distributed by class. Furthermore, both the listeners' perception of the speakers' class as

well as the speakers' own class-identity had strong positive correlations with how favourably the speakers were interpreted. This finding was not affected by the listeners' own class-identity, such that working-class participants were not more likely to positively perceive other working-class speakers. This demonstrates firstly, the role of technology in aggregating large amounts of perceptual dialectology data, and secondly, that the way young people speak in Southeast England is less geographically marked than it is class-marked.

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Carmen Ciancia

New perspectives on a stable variable understudied in British English

(t,d) deletion is an old linguistic variable which has been investigated in many US English dialects, where phonetic and morphological constraints were found to be largely uniform (Patrick, 1999). In England, however, this variable has received little attention and was only researched in York (Tagliamonte & Temple, 2015) and Manchester (Baranowski & Turton, 2016) showing conflicting results. Manchester exhibits the usual "robust morphological effect" (Turton & Baranowski, 2016), with more deletion in monomorphemes (i.e. *mist*) than inflected forms (i.e. *missed*). Conversely, in York, morphological class failed to reach statistical significance and monomorphemes disfavoured deletion.

The lack of morphological effect, found in York, is one of the unsolved problems concerning word final (t,d) deletion. Guy (1991) argues that the probability of application of a variable deletion rule is conditioned by the morphological structure of a word, where deletion is most likely in monomorphemes (i.e. *mind*), less likely in semi weak verbs (i.e. *left*) and least likely in regular past tense verbs (i.e. *called*). This variable was also found to be governed by a sonority hierarchy whereby less sonorous segments trigger the cluster reduction more than sonorous segments (Santa Ana, 1996).

This paper presents results of 36 East Anglian speakers (from Colchester, Ipswich and Norwich) stratified by class, age and sex. Data were gathered by means of sociolinguistic interviews, supplemented with reading passages and word lists. ELAN was used to transcribe the interviews, whilst Praat was employed to code the dependent variable in critical cases. 4879 tokens (excluding following /t,d/ stops) were coded and a mixed-effects Rbrul regression analysis was carried out. The linguistic factors examined include preceding and following phonetic segment, morphological class, voicing agreement, style, frequency and stress.

Results match previous studies: morphological class has a significant effect, even when preceding phonetic segment was included in the mixed-effects model, and monomorphemes favour deletion. A higher deletion rate was found in negative contractions (e.g. *can't*), and morphological class remains a strong influential factor even when *n't* tokens are excluded from the analysis. Findings from the preceding environment do not support the hypothesis that the sonority hierarchy which governs (t,d) is universal, since nasals trigger the most deletion, followed by sibilants, then /l/ and finally obstruents and fricatives. Style influences (t,d) deletion as well as voicing agreement with heterovoiced tokens (e.g. *bolt*) favouring the /t,d/ reduction the most. Social factors, stress and frequency are not significant factors. This paper suggests a new morphological pattern with Manchester.

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Siham Rouabah

My field trip to Algeria: Methodological issues

This paper is a reflexive account of my fieldwork experience in Algeria, informed by the different perceptions that the researcher and informants had of themselves and each other. The main settings of the research were three regions in Batna and focused on issues of language use/choice and social changes. The focus of the discussion will be the qualitative data that were collected in 2017 (interviews and participants' observations). Three main methodological issues will be highlighted and discussed:

1. Access to the field and negotiating identity at different levels along the continuum between insider and outsider. This includes gender, ethnolinguistic, social and political affiliations
2. Language choice for interviews
3. Ethics of the field in theory and practice

In so doing, I argue that the researcher's multiple identities and the participants' cultural and economic capital are not only central in shaping the multi-layered fieldwork relations, but also in analysing the linguistic behaviour in its social context.

Julie Lowry

Chronotopes of zəma:n "the past" and alħein "now" in Harub, Saudi Arabia

This paper employs discourse analysis of the narratives women tell about zəma:n "the past" and alħein "now" in Harub, Saudi Arabia. Drawing on the concept of the archive as described by Foucault (1972), this analysis demonstrates how the change in power structure in the community changed discourse about the past, ultimately altering transmitted memory from one generation to the next.

The role of women in Harub was drastically changed when new power structures were instituted. Before this change in power, women were equally a part of the public sphere of society with men. They were the main keepers of the sheep and goats, leaving their houses early in the morning to roam the hills and valleys finding places for their animals to eat. They regularly went to the weekly market and participated in public poetry. However, 20 years later, there is an absence of women in public. They have been restricted to their homes and are only tolerated outside when necessary. How do the women in Harub make sense of the drastic change of their role in society? How do the older women feel about being restricted to the private sphere? How do the younger women rationalize the difference between their life and the life of their mothers?

After collecting data through casual conversations, informal interviews, and participant observation, and analyzing it for themes, I found not only a difference in the lifestyle of these two generations of women, but also a difference in how they talk about the past and life today.

This paper shows how the construction of chronotope (Bakhtin 1981) can be an act of agency. For the older women this happens as they tell of a life in the past that was free, good and better than now. Through stancetaking the older women distance themselves from and contest the chronotope told by the younger generation of women. On the other hand, the younger women exercise their agency by recirculating the chronotope that the past was a time of ignorance. Through retelling this chronotope, they show a rejection of the life of their mothers.

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Prof. Devyani Sharma

The exception proves the rule?: Building sociolinguistic theory through the study of atypical communities

This talk will review the relationship between sociolinguistic theory and communities that were not originally the focus of traditional variationist studies. I focus in particular on English varieties that have developed in diaspora communities and postcolonial communities. Do the classic claims of sociolinguistic theory fall apart when we turn to situations of migration and bilingualism? Or can these situations help to refine theoretical generalisations? In the talk, I look at some of the best-known tenets of sociolinguistic theory — pertaining to class, gender, style, age, identity, peer effects, apparent time, and identity — all of which were initially developed through the study of monolingual urban Western contexts for both practical and theoretical reasons. I present brief summaries of some of my own recent studies as well as those of other researchers, all of which have engaged directly with these theoretical principles. The discussion aims to showcase how the study of mobile, multilingual, and culturally diverse populations need not undermine the original project of building an account of orderly heterogeneity in communities, indeed it can help to test, fine-tune and re-calibrate many of the assumptions made in the field.

Sara Al-Sheyadi

Assimilation of /h/ in pronominal suffixes in northern Oman: a sociolinguistic investigation

This paper explores a morpho-phonological variable in the dialect of the Bedouin *Yāl Saʿad* tribe in northern Oman, specifically in the neighbouring coastal towns of *Al-Maṣanʿa* and *Al-Suwēq*. The /h/ of the pronominal suffixes [-*ha*], [-*hin*], and [-*hum*], namely the 3rd feminine singular and the 3rd feminine and masculine plurals, totally assimilates with preceding voiceless consonants creating a geminate; e.g. *boːʃ-ʃum* 'camels-3MPL.GEN', *ʃif-it-tin* 'see.PFV-1SG-3FPL.ACC', *n-ʕarif-fi* '1PL-know.IPFV-3FSG.ACC', and *taːriːx-xi* 'history-3FSG.GEN'. The /h/ assimilates across morpheme boundary to *all* voiceless sounds, namely /t/, /f/, /k/, /tˤ/, /θ/, /ħ/, /ʃ/, /sˤ/, /s/, /x/, with a wide range of forms.

A similar feature is *mutatis mutandis* reported by Holes (2016), Alaodini (forthcoming) for East Arabian dialects, Al-Hawamdeh (2016), Herin (2010), and Bani-Yasin & Owens (1987) for the Ḥōrāni Jordanian Arabic, and de Jong (2000, 2011) for the Sinai Desert.

In this dialect, assimilated forms vary with unassimilated (h-ful) forms; so, one can hear both *beːt-tum* and *beːt-hum* 'house-3MPL.GEN'. The assimilated form is the local variant, and the h-ful form is the

incoming variant. Tokens of suffix-initial /h/ with preceding voiceless consonants are extracted and a logistic regression analysis using Rbrul is carried out. The linguistic predictors include the preceding segment's place, manner and natural class; the social predictors are age, gender, and locality.

Preliminary analysis based on 317 tokens extracted from sociolinguistic interviews with ten speakers in two localities shows that locality and preceding segment's manner are the most significant predictors of variation (p>0.0001). With regards to the preceding segment's manner, h-ful forms are more likely to occur with plosives than with fricatives. The locality with the more heterogeneous demographical make-up favours the incoming variant, whereas the other locality, which is mainly inhabited by *Saʿdi* informants and few other Bedouin tribes, favours the local variant. In addition, women as well as younger and middle-aged speakers seem to have a higher tendency to use the h-ful forms, compared to men and the older age group.

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Souhila Belabbas

Kabyles in Britain: Negotiating Identity in an Emergent Transnational Setting

This research project focuses on Kabyle families and individuals in the UK, who maintain ties, express and share their everyday practices in relation to their ethnic identity within their cultural organisation in London and through online forums. The Kabyle people, a North African Algerian sub-Berber ethnic group, have a long history of migration to other parts of Algeria as well as abroad, especially to Francophone cities such as Paris and Montreal as a result of economic, cultural and political pressures. Despite their dispersal to different parts of the world, they have often maintained a sense of historical and cultural distinctiveness and thus share many of the traits that are associated with diasporas. Their arrival in the UK is relatively recent and they have begun to build communal resources and invest in a shared sense of identity. The study will focus in particular on the process of creating a cultural organisation and on participants' self-perception and understanding of both this process and their nascent 'ethnic community'. Furthermore, this study will investigate how people of Kabyle origin come together under the roof of the cultural organisation to negotiate, construct and perform a diasporic cultural identity whilst building a transnational social space, which includes both the UK and other national sites. It will be shown that the

viability of a British-based 'community' is also dependent on becoming part of a network of transnational connections in which human, cultural and social capital is generated.

This study draws on an inductive approach. It relies on data obtained from observation and fieldnotes in multiple sites, as my participants are located in different cities of the UK and in the participants' homes, as well as interviews with participants and visual ethnography through which online activities are captured.

Arooj Rana, Muhammad Zafar & Dr.Wasima Shehzad

Power of words: a critical discourse analysis of India-Pakistan Kashmir stance in united nations general assembly sessions 1998-2018

This research aims to examine the role of words when there is a conflict of interests, a struggle for power superiority, a desire to dominate others and a tendency for the inculcation of specific beliefs and ideologies with a focus on Kashmir conflict exists between the States of India and Pakistan. For the study, we have selected the speeches of India and Pakistan at the United Nations General Assembly Sessions from the era of 1998 to 2018. The enactment of different discursive strategies and techniques, by India and Pakistan, in the annual speeches of UNGA are irrefutably of profound significance to burnish their image or to tarnish other's image in front of the whole world. By availing this golden opportunity, the leaders from both sides chiefly opt for persuasive discourse in their talks and, thus, this strategy opens door for their success in power struggle, since, "the winner is a party whose language, words, terms, and symbolic expressions are dominant once reality and the context have been defined"(Teittenen, 2000). In order to seek for the power of words and manipulative function of language, we have used Critical Discourse Analysis approach as it strives to explore the ways in which the dominant powers try to construct the social realities, which in turn

favor their interests and values (VanDijk, 2005). Through the lens of CDA, this research explores the way in which Indian and Pakistani States exert their power through words and in the way they employ certain discursive strategies and linguistic tools to achieve their motives and to affirm their ideology-laden beliefs for the favorable outcome in reference with the Kashmir issue. There is a mixed-method approach in the research as it analyzes the data quantitatively as well as qualitatively. In the quantitative analysis of data, a specialized corpus is developed for analyzing the linguistic tool and discursive devices utilized in speeches of both the States in relevance to their Kashmir Stance. Moreover, for the further in-depth study of data, we have qualitatively analyze the data. The conclusion and recommendations for future research are drawn after analyzing the data.

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