

American Dialect Society Annual Meeting 2014
Minneapolis, January 2–4

At the annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America

POSTER ABSTRACTS

Jennifer Cramer (University of Kentucky)

Nathan Hardymon (University of Kentucky)

Southern Twangs and Urban Brogues: Understanding dialect perceptions across Kentucky

Using perceptual dialectology methods, this poster examines the perceptions held by Kentuckians about varieties of English spoken in their state. We explore nonlinguists' perceptions in Kentucky because of its position at a major linguistic and perceptual border. Results show Kentuckians use directional labels to delimit Kentucky varieties of English. Attitudes expressed about these varieties are less neutral. Appalachian Kentucky is ranked lowest in the social categorizations under examination, while the more urban areas are rated highest. These results suggest a rural/urban divide within the state, one that coincides well with broader cultural impressions and stereotypes in the American linguistic landscape.

Marino Fernandes (University of New Hampshire)

Maya Ravindranath (University of New Hampshire)

Hicks, lobster, and Mass-holes: Ideological dialect boundaries in Eastern New England

Northeastern New England is in the midst of large scale dialect shift away from traditional Eastern New England dialect features. The question remains as to whether speakers are converging on a supra-local norm or diverging from Boston, despite its historical influence. To examine this question we use 111 perceptual dialect maps, collected in southern NH and analyzed using ArcGIS. Our analysis confirms expected negative attitudes toward Boston and reveals evidence of unexpected solidarity with traditionally Western New England dialect regions. We present results suggesting the ongoing change is motivated by both a divergence from Boston and a convergence with a supra-local norm.

Sarah Swofford

Southern Students in Transition: Language Ideologies and Linguistic Capital in the Transition to College Writing

While approximately 30% of the U.S. population lives in “The South,” and the ideologies surrounding Southern American English (SE) are intertwined with notions of both intelligence and perceived education levels, speakers of SE have not garnered as much attention from scholars in educational linguistics as speakers of other non-standard dialects. This poster introduces preliminary findings from a longitudinal study exploring

the effect of language ideologies on rural Southern students' experiences as they navigate the transition from high school to college writing, and argues that language ideologies should be a consideration in our pedagogy and practice.

Dan Villarreal (University of California, Davis)

Do I sound like a Valley Girl to you? Perceptual dialectology and language attitudes in California

A dialect recognition task (e.g., Williams, Garrett, & Coupland 1999) was conducted in which Californians listened to speakers from different regions of the state (Northern California, Bay Area, Central Valley, Southern California), guessed speakers' regional origin, and rated speakers on language attitudes scales. The data revealed that the most populous regions of the state enjoy prestige, with the Bay Area perceived as having higher status and Southern California greater solidarity. Listeners from both regions believed their own region to be central to a notion of California speech, while placing rurality at the periphery of what it means to sound Californian.