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NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN DIALECT
SOCIETY

Volume 2 Number 2

June 1970

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Volume 2 Number 2

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CALL FOR PAPERS - ANNUAL MEETING

The 1970 annual meeting of the American Dialect Society will be held on December 27 and 28 in New York City in the Petit Trianon Room of the New York Hilton from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. each day.

Those who wish to present a paper are invited to send 5 copies of an abstract of not more than 250 words to:

Dr. Roger W. Shuy
Chairman, ADS Program Committee
Center for Applied Linguistics
1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036.

The deadline for receiving abstracts is August 11. Those who submit papers will hear of the Committee's decision by August 24.

Other Meetings and Conferences

July 24-26. Linguistic Society of America meeting - Columbus, Ohio.

October 16-17. Fourth meeting of the Southeastern Conference on Linguistics, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia.
For information about preregistration and submission of papers, contact Dr. James Gough, Jr. in the School of Information and Computer Science at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

Publications

William Labov. The Study of Nonstandard English.

Available from: National Council of Teachers of
English
508 South Sixth Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820

This book is a revised and enlarged version of a work first distributed by the Center for Applied Linguistics.

It is Labov's conclusion that the principal cause of mass reading failure among pupils who speak nonstandard English is not dialect or grammatical differences but rather "a cultural conflict between the vernacular and the schoolroom." A major cause of this destructive "cultural conflict" in the classroom, Labov believes, is not the dialect differences themselves but "pluralistic ignorance." "The teacher does not know that the students' rules are different from his own, and the students do not know just how the teacher's system differs from theirs." Labov discusses a number of basic sociolinguistic principles and their implications in the school. Explaining some constructions and pronunciations in ghetto speech, he shows how understanding them can help teachers tell the difference between reading mistakes and pronunciation differences, and can prevent them from belaboring points that are meaningless to students. On a more complex level, Labov explains how an understanding of differences in speech styles can save a teacher from misinterpreting a student's statement as an insult. Other questions the author takes up are "How different is 'black English'?" "Is nonstandard English illogical?" and "Should the vernacular be used in primers?". He describes the kind of research individual teachers can do on nonstandard dialect among their own pupils and the most dependable methods of gathering information about dialects.

-- from the National Council of
Teachers of English

Melvin J. Hoffman. "The Harmful Effects of Traditional Language Arts Teaching Methods When Used with Disadvantaged Afro-American Children," Elementary English, Vol. XLVII, No. 5, May 1970.

Walter A. Wolfram. "The Nature of Nonstandard Dialect Divergence,"
Elementary English, Vol. SLVII, No. 5, May 1970.

Stanley J. Cook. "A Graduate Dissertation in Dialectology, Being
an Account of Strenuous Labor Endured," The Anatomy of
Melancholy, or Virtue Rewarded: The Making of the
Dissertation. No. 1, University of Utah Papers in Language
and Literature.

Available from: University of Utah Printing Service

A. Superanskaya and N. Podol'skaja. "Onomastic Terminology,"
Voprosy Jazykoznanija, No. 4, 1969.

Queries

The Secretary received the following letter concerning dialect study recently. It is printed in the hope that some of our members may wish to respond to it.

Dear Colleague:

To prevent excessive duplication of materials and effort, we are contacting as many researchers as possible for information on current dialectological investigations and bibliographies.

Our primary data gathering efforts are currently focussed in Missouri where we are attempting to ascertain the major dialect divisions (black as well as white) and their relationship to so-called standard English. It is our hope to codify the standard as well as the non-standard dialects in order to make contrastive studies of them meaningful. Any materials which you have pertinent to this area we would be greatly appreciative of receiving.

Although our immediate concern is with the Missouri region, we are attempting to compile materials relating to theoretical and empirical aspects of dialectology which will be pertinent to future studies involving regional contrastive investigations, standard/non-standard codifications, black/white distinctions, historical development of dialectology theories, etc. In the current linguistic renaissance, empirical problems tend to be ignored as

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The Editor, A. Hood Roberts, 1) would be happy to receive news of the activities of ADS members and comments and suggestions from them; 2) hopes to be able to provide information concerning recently completed research; and 3) invites the readers to use the queries section for certain of their specialized inquiries to the membership as a whole.

either trivial or too complicated to tackle. It is our opinion that there is substance of interest in most dialectological investigations. The underlying theories of data gathering, classification, analysis and explanation as well as their invaluable empirical contributions are stimulating of discussion and further theorizing.

We are anxious to include as many varieties of approach and results as exist today. Would you be so kind as to send us any of your suggestions, opinions or findings which might contribute to these efforts?

We are interested in all phases of dialectology, and, to clarify its underlying theories, have set no limits on target languages or affiliations of investigators. Perhaps you know of work being done which might not be uncovered through normal searching channels and should be included in our survey.

We hope to make the results of our compilation available for your use in the very near future, and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Harriett N. Hays
Ethel R. Vesper

Mrs. Hays may be contacted at the Center for Research in Social Behavior at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri.

MASTER'S THESES OF INTEREST TO ADS MEMBERS

- Clover, Margaret. The Place-Names of Atacosa County, Texas. University of Texas, Austin, 1952.
- Coleman, Wilma. Mountain Dialects in North Georgia. University of Georgia, 1936.
- Daddow, J. The Speech of Chepachet, R.I. Brown University, 1935.
- Dodd, Celeste Varnell. The Speech of a San Antonio American Family: A Study of Texas Pronunciation. University of Texas, 1938.
- Dodge, Robert K. Noah Webster, the Liberal-Conservative Shift, and The American Dictionary of the English Language. University of Texas, Austin, 1964.
- Eanes, Evelyn L. The Orthography and Phonology in the Narrative of Robert Hancock Hunter: A Study in the Origins of Texas Speech. University of Texas, Austin, 1939.
- Gillespie, Elizabeth. The Dialect of the Mississippi Negro in Literature. University of Mississippi, 1939.
- Gredd, Dorothy. A Linguistic Study of G. W. Cable's Novel The Grandissimes. University of Kentucky, 1930.
- Green, Elizabeth. A Dialect Survey of Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama, Made as a Preliminary Investigation for the Work Sheets for the Linguistic Atlas. Alabama Polytechnical Institute, 1932.
- Guest, Charles B. A Survey of the Dialect of the Lee County, Alabama, Negro. Alabama Polytechnical Institute, 1941.
- Hale, Lulu. A Study of English Pronunciation in Kentucky. University of Kentucky, 1930.
- Hall, Joe T. A Dialect Study of Langdale, Chambers County, Alabama, Made as a Preliminary Investigation for the Work Sheets for the Linguistic Atlas. Alabama Polytechnical Institute, 1932.

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- Hardy, Zelma Boyd. A Vocabulary Study of Kerr County, Texas. University of Texas, Austin, 1950.
- Harrington, Ann K. Recent Borrowings from English Found in Mexican Spanish. University of Texas, Austin, 1956.
- Haynes, Randolph A. A Vocabulary Study of Travis County, Texas. University of Texas, Austin, 1954.
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- Kerr, Anna Sue Carothers. The Vocabulary of West Texas: A Preliminary Study. Texas Technological College, 1956.
- Klippel, Florence Carmelita. A Study of the Speech of Spicewood, Texas. University of Texas, Austin, 1944.
- Ladd, Mary P. A Vocabulary Study of Early Texas English. University of Texas, Austin, 1943.
- LeCompte, Nolan. A Word Atlas of Terrebonne Parish. Louisiana State University, 1961.
- Lewis, Jessie Belle. North Carolina English as Reflected in Old Documents. University of North Carolina, 1939.
- McBride, John S. Hill Speech in Southwestern Tennessee. Columbia University, 1936.
- McGuire, William J., Jr. A Study of Florida Cracker Dialect Based Chiefly on the Prose Works of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. University of Florida, 1939.
- McIver, Zadie. Linguistic Borrowings from the Spanish as Reflected in the Writings of the Southwest. University of Texas, Austin, 1939.

- Miles, Marie A. The Language of Lubbock County: A Contribution Toward a Texas Speech Survey. University of Texas, Austin, 1939.
- Nail, William A. The Phonology of the Speech of Crawford, Texas. University of Texas, Austin, 1948.
- Nies, Frederick, J. The Phonology of the Globe Primitive Baptist Church Minutes, 1797-1911. University of North Carolina, 1939. *1006 Henderson St. Columbia SC 29201*
- Prince, Evelyn V. Anomalous Speech in Louisiana. Louisiana State University, 1934.
- Rash, Coralee. A Dialect Study of Kinston, Chambers County, Alabama, Made as a Preliminary Investigation for Work Sheets for the Linguistic Atlas. Alabama Polytechnical Institute, 1941.
- ~~Reynolds, Jack A.~~ The Pronunciation of English in Southern Louisiana. Louisiana State University, 1934.
- Rogers, Catherine. A Dialect Study of Camp Hill, Talapoosa County, Alabama, Made as a Preliminary Investigation for the Work Sheets for the Linguistic Atlas. Alabama Polytechnical Institute, 1940.
- Satterfield, Cecile. Dialect Studies of Marburg School District, Autauga County, Alabama, Made as a Preliminary Investigation for the Work Sheets for the Linguistic Atlas. Alabama Polytechnical Institute, 1939.
- ~~Sawyer, Janet B.~~ International Words. University of Texas, Austin, 1954.
- ~~Smith, Jack A.~~ A Survey of Localisms Used by the Native English-Speaking Key Wester. Auburn University, 1963.
- Stephens, James. Le Cheval Vole: A Linguistic Study of Acadian French. University of Texas, Austin, 1948.
- Wacker, Marilyn. A Study in the Speech of a Group of Freshmen in the University of San Antonio. University of Texas, Austin, 1942.

Ward, Madie Bell. The Treatment of /r/ in Southeast Alabama Speech. University of North Carolina, 1946.

Williams, Elizabeth J. The Grammar of Plantation Overseers' Letters, Rockingham County. University of North Carolina, 1953.

Wu, Yi. A Study of the Cultivated Pronunciations of New England. University of Texas, Austin, 1947.

-- from Professor Donald Boyd

DISSERTATION OF INTEREST TO ADS MEMBERS

Kelz, Heinrich. Phonologische Analyse des Pennsylvaniadeutschen. Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität, Bonn, 1969.

The editor of this newsletter does not pretend to claim that this list of theses and dissertations approaches completeness, and he would welcome information on other dissertations and Master's theses which would be in the area of interest of the ADS. The titles of those that are brought to the attention of the editor are published in each issue of the newsletter.

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DOCUMENTS ON DIALECT STUDIES ENTERED IN THE ERIC SYSTEM

ED 025 741 AL 001 405
Wolfram, Walter A.; Fasold, Ralph W.
A Black English Translation of John 3:1-21; with Grammatical
Annotations.
Pub date September 1968
MF-\$0.25; HC-\$0.90 16 p.

Descriptors: Sociolinguistics; Negro Youth; *Social Dialects;
Linguistic Patterns; *Negro Dialects; Cultural Factors; Cultural
Background; *Cultural Differences; Negro Culture; Socioeconomic
Influences; Black Community; *Biblical Literature; Nonstandard
Dialects; Spelling; Phonemics; Phonemic Alphabets; Pronunciation;
American English; *Translation; TENL

Some differences between Standard English (SE) and "Black English" (BE) have important consequences in communication of messages. The authors cite as an example the "habitual" function of the finite verb "be" which has no equivalent in SE. They point out that "simplification" of the English of the Bible may result in a "translation" which is inappropriate for the users for which it is intended. Although unhappy with the conventional spelling, both as representing SE pronunciation rather than BE pronunciation and as incapable of dealing with changes of pronunciation that occur in different style levels, the authors justify standard orthography both linguistically and sociologically. Identification of Afro-Americans with distinctive speech styles and the general adolescent rejection of speech norms, may lead to acceptance of this type of translation and its desirability of those of those involved in ghetto ministry. The actual translation

is accompanied by notes giving the linguistic explanation for each variation from SE. (MK)

ED 025 761

AL 001 689

Baratz, Joan C.; Shuy, Roger W., eds.

Teaching Black Children to Read. Urban Language Series, No. 4

Pub date 1969

220 p.

MF-\$1.00; HC available from: Publications Section

Center for Applied Linguistics

1717 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20036 - \$5.00

Descriptors: Sociolinguistics; *Literacy; *Negro Dialects; Cultural Differences; *Social Dialects; Negro Culture; Negro Attitudes; Reading Research; Remedial Reading Programs; Reading Material Selection; *Reading Difficulty; Ghettos; Psycholinguistics; English (Second Language); *TENL; Language Styles; Speech Skills; Nonstandard Dialects; Language Patterns; Language Role; Negro Youth

This fourth book in the Urban Language Series is concerned with the relationship of language to reading. Literacy must be based on the language the child actually uses. In the case of ghetto children, materials in their dialect must be prepared so that their task of associating sounds and words with written symbols is not complicated by lack of correspondence between these sounds and words and the students' normal speech. These materials must include forms the child uses and hears, and exclude forms he does not hear and use. They must avoid complex constructions and ambiguity and make use of natural redundancy. Further, they must use language appropriate to the context in the experience of the child. Examples of the kinds of materials that can be developed are included in two of the articles. Authors of the various papers (written between 1964 and 1968) are Joan Baratz, Ralph Fasold, Kenneth Goodman, William Labov, Raven McDavid, Roger Shuy, William Stewart, and Walter Wolfram. (MK)

ED 026 627

AL 001 638

Houston, Susan H.

A Sociolinguistic Consideration of the Black English of Children
in Northern Florida

Pub date December 29, 1968

MF-\$0.25; HC-\$0.90

16 p.

Descriptors: *Sociolinguistics; Linguistic Competence; Social
Dialects; Nonstandard Dialects; *Negro Dialects; *Dialect Studies;
Rural Urban Differences; Phonology; Syntax; Deep Structure; Eng-
lish; *TENL; Linguistic Performance; Economically Disadvantaged;
Standard Spoken Usage

On the basis of a study of the language of 22 black children in a rural county of northern Florida, the author states that apart from geographical dialects, there are two "genera" of English: Black (BE) and White (WE). Within each of these genera there are two varieties: Educated and Uneducated. These are further defined by distinguishing features into "registers" which the author characterizes as "School" and "Nonschool", each of which may include more than one style. Most studies which have characterized Child BE as deficient have dealt only with the school registers. The nonschool register is characterized by longer utterances, more rapid speech, lower pitch, less stress, inventive and playful use of words, and greater variety of content. Lack of suitable instructional material adapted to the phonology of Child BE speakers has hampered teaching of reading. The author finds "that Black and White English differ principally in phonology. The base component of Child BE should not differ appreciably from that of Child WE." A probable phoneme inventory and a set of ordered rules are given with examples showing some possible relationships between Child BE and standard urban WE. (MK)

ED 027 514

AL 001 508

Labov, William

Contraction, Deletion, and Inherent Variability of the English
Copula

Pub date October 22, 1968

MF-\$0.50; HC-\$3.55

69 p.

Descriptors: *English; *Verbs; *Language Research; *Negro Dia-
lects; *Sociolinguistics; Generative Grammar; Phonology; Struc-
tural Analysis; Linguistic Patterns; Nonstandard Dialects;
Cultural Context; Cultural Differences; TENL; Linguistic Compe-
tence; Linguistic Performance; Linguistic Theory

This report presents some of the findings of several years research on the relations between the nonstandard English used by Negro speakers in various urban ghetto areas (NNE) and standard English (SE). The immediate subject is the status of the copula and auxiliary "be" in NNE. The approach to the problem combines the methods of generative grammar and phonology with techniques for the quantitative analysis of systematic variation. The principal data upon which the discussion is based are drawn from long-term studies of six male adolescent and pre-adolescent peer groups in South Central Harlem and 20 working-class adults out of a stratified random sample of 100 adults from the same area. Two white peer groups from the Inwood section of Manhattan provide controls for comparison with white nonstandard English. The author investigates the form and order of the grammatical and phonological rules controlling the appearance of copula and auxiliary "be" and on the basis of his data concludes that contraction and subsequent deletion of a single consonant is the correct explanation. This model for linguistic research demonstrates that data from the speech community can provide a much-needed, sound, empirical base for decisive solutions to linguistic problems. See also related documents AL 001 821 and AL 001 822. (MK)

ED 027 522

AL 001 720

Shuy, Roger W.

Sex as a Factor in Sociolinguistic Research

Pub date February 18, 1969

MF-\$0.25; HC-\$0.85

15 p.

Descriptors: *Social Dialects; Social Structure; Language Styles; *Dialect Studies; *Negro Dialects; *Sociolinguistics; *Sex Differences; Cultural Differences; English; Nonstandard Dialects; Negative Forms (Language)

This paper focusses on sex contrasts in language as revealed in recent sociolinguistic research. While there are relatively few differences in subjective language identifications and judgments, there are several clear differences in objective language data. In the Detroit Language Study, women show a greater "sensitivity" to multiple negation as an index of social stratification than men. Women use less pronominal apposition than do men, but there is a significant difference between men and women only in the lower middle class group. Within the Negro population, women reduce word final consonant clusters, delete "r", and alter

median "th" significantly less than men. Some possible explanations are suggested, but no conclusions are established. This report is based on the corpus which provided the data for related documents AL 001 721 and ED 022 155. (MK)

ED 027 523

AL 001 721

Shuy, Roger W.

Subjective Judgments in Sociolinguistic Analysis

Pub date March 1969

MF-\$0.25; HC-\$0.95

17 p.

Descriptors: *Dialect Studies; Social Dialects; Social Structure; Language Styles; Standard Spoken Usage; Inner City; Field Interviews; Cultural Differences; English; *Negro Dialects; Sociolinguistics; Nonstandard Dialects; Negative Forms (Language); Racial Differences; Social Class

Subjective judgments are useful in linguistic studies to supplement information from objective language data, enlarge our knowledge of public conceptions of social speech communities (such as Negro speech), provide techniques for discussion of social markedness of standard and nonstandard varieties of English, and provide techniques for observations of laymen's evaluations and attitudes toward speech samples. In the Detroit Language Study, analysis of subjective judgments of taped speech supported the objective data that multiple negation, cluster reduction, and pronominal apposition correlate closely with socioeconomic status of the speaker. The characterization of Negro speech as a distinct variety of speech is confirmed by correct identification, from taped samples, of the race of the speaker over 80% of the time. The fact that the lower the socioeconomic status of the speaker, the more accurately it was identified, indicates that the speech of the working class is socially marked and the speech of the middle class socially unmarked. (See also related documents AL 001 720 and ED 022 155.) (MK)

ED 028 416

AL 001 767

Long, Richard A.

The Uncle Remus Dialect: A Preliminary Linguistic View

Pub date March 1969

MF-\$0.25; HC-\$0.45

7 p.

Descriptors: *Negro Dialects; *Dialect Studies; *African Languages; *Nonstandard Dialects; Phonology; Morphology (Languages); Syntax; Grammar; Verbs; Regional Dialects; Pidgins; Creoles; Southern States; American English

Anthropologist Melville Herskovits, in the section on language of his book The Myth of the Negro Past (1941), gives one of the first scientific orientations to the study of black speech in the United States. His basic contribution was to establish the following main points: (1) that the black people in the New World came from regions of Africa where languages of the Niger-Congo family (Greenberg classification) were spoken; (2) that inevitably upon initial contact with New World dialects of European languages, speakers of these African languages created pidgins overwhelmingly Niger-Congo in structure and varyingly European in lexicon; and (3) that the pidgins were succeeded by creoles. Looking at Joel Chandler Harris' Uncle Remus cycle from this point of view, the author believes that Harris emerges as a skilled recorder of such a creolized variety of Southern speech -- the black Middle Georgia dialect. The most conspicuous features of this dialect are: the absence of the interdental consonant in any position, palatalization of the voiced and voiceless velar consonants, suppression of all varieties of "r", deletion of prefixing elements, contraction, and the uninflected verb and genitive. Reasons for all of these phenomena can be found in the Niger-Congo languages. Also compared are the tense systems of Niger-Congo and black dialect speakers. (DO)

ED 028 423

AL 001 821

Labov, William; and others

A Study of the Non-Standard English of Negro and Puerto Rican Speakers in New York City. Volume I: Phonological and Grammatical Analysis

Pub date 1968

MF-\$1.50; HC-\$19.95

397 p.

Descriptors: Negative Forms (Language); Language Styles; American English; Speech; *Negro Dialects; *Language Research; *Grammar; *Phonology; *Sociolinguistics; Social Dialects; Puerto Ricans; Reading Failure; Contrastive Linguistics; Culture Conflict; Social Differences; Negro Culture; Middle Class Culture; Age Groups; Adolescents; Adult Characteristics; Generative Grammar; Urban Youth; Rural Urban Differences; Plurals; Syntax; Peer Groups; Social Values; Verbal Ability; TENL

This study investigates the structural and functional differences between the non-standard Negro English of northern ghetto areas (NNE) and standard English (SE). The major field work was done in Central Harlem with (1) a geographically random sample of 50 pre-adolescent speakers in Vacation Day Camps; (2) six pre-adolescent and adolescent peer groups in Harlem, studied in individual interviews and group sessions; and (3) a random sample of 100 adults, in a middle-class area and two working-class areas. The linguistic analysis in this volume shows NNE related to SE by differences in low-level rules which have marked effects on surface structure. The -ed suffix, for example, is affected by rules of consonant cluster simplification; systematic variation of such clusters regularly differentiates past tense clusters from stem clusters, and also registers the strong effect of a following vowel in preserving the cluster. NNE is found to have no third singular -s or possessive suffix, but to have an intact plural -s. The absence of the copula is considered the result of regular phonological rules which remove single consonants remaining after contraction. A NNE negative concord rule distributes the underlying negative particle more consistently and to a wider range of environments than in white non-standard English. Repetition tests showed that many NNE speakers understand both NNE and SE forms but produce NNE forms. See AL 001 822 for Volume II. (Author/JD)

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Secretariat: Room 800
1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036