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NADS is sent in January, May and September to all ADS members and subscribers. Send ADS dues ($20 per year), queries and news to the editor and executive secretary, Allan Metcalf, English Department, MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois 62650.
**NAMES FOR THE YEARS AHEAD**

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Virginia McDavid, Thomas Clark, and John Algeo, chair, reports the following slate:

For vice president 1983-84, succeeding to the presidency in 1985-86: Thomas L. Clark, Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas.

For Executive Council member 1983-86: Michael D. Linn, Univ. of Minnesota, Duluth.

For Nominating Committee 1983-84: Mary Ritchie Key, Univ. of California, Irvine.

Additional nominations may be made by petition with the signatures of at least ten current members, to be received by the Executive Secretary no later than Dec. 15. Elections will take place at the Annual Business Meeting in Los Angeles Dec. 30.

**HAIL COLUMBIA! FREE GIFT FOR NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS**

A year ago Columbia University Press concluded its connection with the ADS by publishing Vol. 52 (for 1977) of *American Speech*. Now, rather than pulp it, Columbia has given ADS its remaining inventory of that volume, about 500 copies of each double issue. We are thus able to make copies available to members, whether or not they received Vol. 52 before.

All current members who renew by the end of the year, and all new members, may receive one or both of the double issues free simply by asking the Executive Secretary. (Check the appropriate box on the enclosed dues notice.) Additional copies are available at $1 each.

For our distinguished journal, these are especially distinguished issues. Nos. 1-2 is Papers in Honor of Thomas Pyles, with articles by Algeo, Bryant, Cassidy, Harder, Kolln, Kuhn, Markwardt, R. McDavld, V. McDavid, McMillan, Pederson, Read and Stern, plus reviews of everything from *Strictly Speaking* to *The Clitoris*. Nos. 3-4 consists of two extensive bibliographical reviews: "Regional Dialects, 1945-1974" by Harold B. Allen and "Studies of American Pronunciation since 1945" by Lee Pederson.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR 1983: CALLS FOR PAPERS**

*October 15* is the deadline to propose a paper related to the topic, "The English of Broadcasting," for an ADS-sponsored session at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Detroit March 17-19. Send abstracts to Richard Bailey, Dept. of English Language and Literature, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104.

An early 1983 deadline will be announced in the next *Newsletter* for papers to be presented at our Summer Meeting, June 9-11, 1983, at the University of Delaware, in association with the biennial meeting of the Dictionary Society of North America. The tentative schedule includes a banquet June 10 and escorted tours of the region June 11. If you can't wait, you may submit your abstract now to Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf (address on cover).

**NAMES IN DIALECT: AN INVITATION**

An issue of the American Name Society's journal *Names*, tentatively scheduled for late next year, will have as its theme "Names in Dialect." If you have an actual or potential contribution on that topic, long or short — especially one that illuminates theoretical issues as well as providing pertinent fact — you are cordially invited to write the issue's editor, ADS Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf (address on cover). For now you need only an idea or a draft, but please get in touch with him no later than the end of November. Your contribution would be due in final form by June.

On May 15, James McMillan received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from his University of Alabama.

And Raven I. McDavid, Jr. will be similarly honored by the Universite de la Sorbonne Nouvelle. More particularly, La cérémonie de la remise des diplômes aura lieu probablement lors d'une séance de rentrée solennelle au mois de novembre.
October 1982: ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL MEETING

In association with the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association
Salt Lake City, University of Utah, October 21-23

Presiding: Grant W. Smith, Eastern Washington Univ.
Regional Secretary: Thomas L. Clark, Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas


This study compares double modal constructions from Southern White English (North Carolina, Alabama, and East and West Texas) with double modals from non-SWE varieties such as Black English, Caribbean Creoles, and Scots English. SWE is shown to be distinct from the other varieties in double modal inventory and syntactic behavior. This distinction implies that double modals in SWE developed independently from those of other varieties of English.


The population of Billings exhibits a /rUr-ruf/ and /krlk-krlk/ dichotomy of pronunciation. This study presents preliminary observations on these and further characteristics of Billings dialects and their geographical boundaries, based on interviews and questionnaires involving informants in three age groups who have resided all their lives in Billings.

□ "Speech Sounds of Isolated Communities." Darwin L. Hayes, Brigham Young Univ.

This paper contrasts Bern, Idaho with two similar small communities. Dialectal sound patterns have prevailed in Bern for three generations and only recently have begun to shift to more standard American patterns. Dialect assimilation has been more rapid in other communities that are near the crossroads of travelers or that have cultural identities that are less closed.

□ "Stylistic Variation in Paul Laurence Dunbar's Dialect Poetry." Cordell A. Briggs, Loma Linda Univ.

Few critics have scientifically examined the linguistic features in the dialect poetry of Paul Laurence Dunbar, a 19th century black poet. Providing a sociolinguistic description of syntactic variation in Dunbar's poetry, I have determined that of the three stages of Dunbar's literary development — "early years," "middle years," and "late years" — the "middle years" is the most syntactically varied stage and have asserted that Dunbar used syntactic features passed down from one generation to the next.

October 1982: SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETING

At the Annual Meeting of the South Central Modern Language Association, October 28-30
San Antonio, Texas, Gunter Hotel; Thursday, October 28, 3:00 to 5:30 p.m.
Chair: Raouf J. Halaby, Ouachita Baptist Univ.
Regional secretary: Scott Baird, Trinity Univ.

□ "Age as a Factor in the Use of /hw/." Lea Anne Dickson and Fred Tarpley, East Texas State Univ.

In an analysis of recorded language samples of 50 informants now residing in Texas, the factor of age most strongly influences the presence or absence of /hw/ in words such as whether, white and which. Other factors analyzed for correlations were occupation, residence during the past ten years, and educational level. A survey of public school reading and language arts instructors was also conducted to determine attitudes toward requiring distinctions between which/watch, whale/wall and other pairs of words involving /hw/, and the positions taken by textbooks and dictionaries.

□ "Creole Patois in Dr. Alfred Mercier's Louisiana French Novels." Sam Dickinson, retired associate editor, Arkansas Gazette and Arkansas Democrat.

The Creole patois, which has almost disappeared from Louisiana, was the common language of blacks along the Lower Mississippi and its Louisiana tributaries from the 1700s until after the Civil War. It was the medium of communication for blacks and the French Creole population. White Creole children spoke it until the age of 10 or 12. Lafcadlo Hearn and George W. Cable were the first authors to bring to the general attention of American English readers this patois. Both writers recognized Dr. Alfred Mercier of New Orleans (1816-84) as an authority. The patois in his novels, L'Habitation Saint-Ybars (1881) and Johnelle (1891), which will be discussed in this paper, provide the best known recorded examples of the dialects.
□ "Language Variation in the English Speech Codes of Southern Louisiana." Margaret M. Marshall, Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge.

This study analyzes patterns of variation in a small rural community. Cases of integration, codeswitching and interference are demonstrated through the analysis of specific phonological, syntactic and semantic features of speech. Language usage norms are shown to be predictable and based on certain constraints inherent in the French and English speech codes of southern Louisiana.

November 1982: MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING

At the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Modern Language Association, November 4-6 Cincinnati, Stouffer's Cincinnati Towers, Cabana B, 4th floor; Thursday, November 4, 2 to 5 p.m.

Chair: Jim Vandergriff, Central Missouri State Univ.
Regional secretary: Donald M. Lance, Univ. of Missouri, Columbia

□ "Kentuck' Dialect Features in the Cutover Region of Northern Wisconsin." Donald Larmouth and Marjorie Remsing, Univ. of Wisconsin, Green Bay.

Settlement of the "cutover region" in northern Wisconsin by families from Kentucky has led to the establishment of a substantial number of "Kentuck" dialect features in the region. The combination of rural isolation, cohesive extended families, modest aspirations, hardwood lumbering, and a lively moonshine trade was enough to maintain a distinctive dialect in this area since settlement peaked early in the 20th century. "Kentucks" living in larger communities such as Antigo and Crandon retain many lexical items and several grammatical structures which are characteristic of their rural Kentucky origins, even while accommodating substantially to the dominant regional dialect at the phonological level. Residents of more isolated rural communities such as Argonne, Polar, Laona and Lily retain a larger number of phonological features, reinforced by continuing ties to "family" in Kentucky. This paper will review the settlement history of the region and detail the more interesting features of "Kentuck" speech today.

□ "Heckewelder and the Ohio Valley Indians: Language and Culture on the American Frontier." Beverly Olson Flanigan, Ohio Univ.

John Heckewelder's History, Manners, and Customs of the Indian Nations (1818) had a profound influence on the perceptions of the native American held by scholars and writers throughout the 19th century and in particular by James Fenimore Cooper. More interestingly for dialectologists, it betrays an extensive knowledge of the role of signs and gestures, dialectal speech, and rhetorical conventions in the Indian languages of the Ohio Valley. As the regional Indians gradually learned English, Heckewelder describes their attempts to understand the linguistic concepts of the white man and to convey their own cultural notions in the new language: his insights into the problems of such cross-cultural communication reflect a sophisticated understanding of language and speech typical of early missionay-scholars committed to interpreting the Indian to the European newcomers.

□ "Attitudes and Actions: The Language Content of College Composition and Language Arts Textbooks." Virginia McDavid and Thomas Creswell, Chicago State Univ.

English teachers occupy a peculiar position within their profession: their views about the English language, their professional field, are not the ones held by linguists or by many professional educators. Rather, they are popular ones shared with the general population. Among such popular assumptions is that there is an absolute standard of correctness, that change is corruption, and that we are on the brink of linguistic disaster. Opposed to such popular beliefs are those advanced for at least fifty years by linguists: that language changes and that questions of correctness, of style, and of regional and social variation are highly complex ones to which no simple answers can be given. As a consequence of teachers being largely unaffected by developments in their own field, the general public is similarly untouched. The purpose of this paper is to examine the implicit and explicit views about language in college composition textbooks and in language arts textbooks to determine the role of these in shaping the attitudes and beliefs of teachers.

□ "Stylistic Shifting in the Missouri Ozarks." Michael L. Pulley, Southwest Missouri State Univ.

The discussion will be based on an investigation of certain linguistic features of twelve Missouri Ozark natives. The investigation was patterned on William Labov's Sociolinguistic patterns with attention to "The Isolation of Contextual Styles." It deals with four phonological variables which Wolfram and Christian studied in Appalachian Speech: the coalescence with Wolfram and Christian is logical since
much of the Ozark settlement was from Appalachia. In one degree or another, some type of stylistic shifting occurred with the informants interviewed, and the research also revealed an extension of a phonological feature that Wolfram and Christian did not observe. Methodology and interview techniques will also be discussed.

□ “Faulkner’s Changing Dialect Styles.” Alvin L. Gregg, Wichita State Univ.

In his early dialect writing, William Faulkner meticulously represented the dialect traits of Southern white rural speech and black speech. At the high point of his literary career he became both more selective in his choice of features and more variable in his use of the features chosen. Later he remained selective but became inflexible in his use of features, so that his late dialect is a caricature of his earlier style. Reporting these developmental vagaries in detail and evaluating his changing methods, this paper generalizes his tendencies from *Flags in the Dust* through the various versions and revisions of the *Snopes Trilogy*.


This paper examines the most productive key words in the American Dialect Society collection of American proverbs and proverbial sayings — *cat*. The proverbs have been gathered by hundreds of ADS scholars who have heard the call from Margaret M. Bryant in *Proverbs and How to Collect Them* (PADS 4, 1945).

Over 170,000 citation slips of ADS proverbs have been computerized, giving some 500 citations using the key word *cat*. Bryant’s eight types of proverbs, clearly recognizable in this case study, tell much about the kind of folk wisdom expressed by the proverbs. The computer print-out allows analysis of the type of proverb most frequent, as well as the regional distribution of *cat* proverbs.

□ Dinner: at Lenhardt’s German Restaurant, near the University of Cincinnati. 6:30 p.m. Transportation will be arranged at the end of the afternoon session. Make your own selection from the menu of German, Austrian and Hungarian dishes, including several kinds of schnitzel; dinners range from $6.50 to $12.95. Locals say it’s the best German restaurant in town. Please make your reservation in advance by writing ADS Midwest Regional Secretary Donald M. Lance, Dept. of English, 231 Arts & Sciences Bldg., Univ. of Missouri, Columbia, Mo. 65211. (Dinner arrangements courtesy of local ADS member Joseph Foster.)

**November 1982: SOUTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL MEETING**

In association with the South Atlantic Modern Language Association

Atlanta, Peachtree Plaza Hotel; Saturday, November 13, 9 a.m.

Chair: Crawford Feagin, Univ. of Virginia, Falls Church Regional Center

Regional secretary: Jeutonne P. Brewer, Univ. of North Carolina, Greensboro

Nominating Committee: Carole P. Hines, Old Dominion Univ.; Michael Montgomery, Univ. of South Carolina; Ronald Butters (Chair), Duke Univ.

□ “Prime Disadvantages of Inadequate Phonetic Transcriptions in Dialectological Investigation, Phonological Explanation, Speech Synthesis, and Language Teaching.”


Because of inadequate phonetic transcription, various misunderstandings have come about in dialect studies concerning the pronunciation of words which contain sonorant gemination such as *Mary, forest/Warren, holly/wallet*. Other problems, to name a few, include *pull*; nuclear length with short and long diphthongs; over-rounding and tenseness. These problems are basically terminological and representational.

Related issues include problems of syllabization in speech synthesis. Yet others are the representation of syllabic sonorants as shwa-plus-consonant, the representation of nuclear sonorants as consonants in clusters, and speaking of velars when palatals are intended, all of which interfere with correct phonological explanation. The writing of “you better” in newspapers and the double pluperfect after counterfactual *if* in British and American English are briefly explained.

An improved system of transcription which addresses these problems will be presented, along with a discussion of its relevance to dialect studies, speech synthesis, phonological explanation (including the study of phonological change), and language teaching.

□ “Porcmouth for Portsmouth.” David L. Shores. Old Dominion Univ.

*Portsmouth* is often pronounced *Porcmouth* in Portsmouth, Virginia, and in the surrounding
Tidewater counties. The voiceless assimilated stop \( [\emptyset] \) in the history of English has been an interesting linguistic question with regard to the sound change of the sequence \( [\text{tal}] \) to \( [\emptyset] \). Its use in place names like Porchfield and Porchmouth reveals that it may have had also an interesting sociolinguistic history with regard to its use by the upper classes and a dialectical one with regard to the relationship of early British and American dialects. Henry Cecil Wyld in his *History of Modern Colloquial English* noted that the 18th century authoritarian James Elphinston referred to Porchmouth and its variant Poarchmouth as vulgarisms despite their widespread use among the wellborn and well-bred.

In Portsmouth, Va. and other Tidewater cities and counties, educated people when asked about the pronunciation (or variants Poarchmouth and Poarchmouth) generally dismiss it as uneducated and lower class speech. Observation reveals, however, that Porchmouth and its variants is deeply rooted in the speech of all classes.

□ “Can Y’All Function as a Singular Pronoun in Southern Dialect?” Gina Richardson, Georgetown Univ.

The pronoun you-all, and its common variant y’all, are well accepted by those familiar with Southern American dialect as plural forms of the pronoun you. Less accepted is the notion that y’all is also singular in certain contexts. Evidence is presented by Mencken (1948), who suggests that singular y’all is used to indicate respect, and by Spencer (1975), who states that singular y’all is used to establish intimacy where little exists. But neither Mencken nor Spencer offers substantial field data for these views.

My study examines these claims against empirical evidence, gathered through participant observation by formal elicitation techniques. Informants are natives of the Greenville-Spartanburg area of South Carolina, low-middle class to upper class white adults. The evidence clearly demonstrates that y’all is used only as a plural by these speakers. A preliminary survey of additional informants from other areas suggests that these findings may be valid for the South as a whole.

Anecdotes describing apparent instances of singular y’all may be explained as 1) examples of plural reference, though only one person is directly addressed; 2) slips of the tongue; or 3) deliberately used stereotypes of the Southern dialect when such stereotypes are called for by the social context.


The second mention of the same referent in a clause in English is typically expected to take the form of a reflexive pronoun. In some contexts, however, there are varieties of English that allow a non-reflexive pronoun as the second occurrence, as in *I bought me a new car, where I and me are clearly coreferential. It has been suggested that this construction, which will be referred to as the “personal dative,” corresponds to the for-dative construction of sentences like *I bought a new car for myself/*I bought myself a new car, differing only in the absence of the reflexive. This paper will examine this account of the personal dative in light of an extensive set of examples collected from speakers in West Virginia, where the structure is fairly common. A description of the use of personal datives by these speakers suggests that, while the structure may have corresponded to the for-dative originally, it has expanded its range of possible contexts and altered its meaning somewhat in its current usage.

A number of characteristics of the personal dative distinguish it from the for-dative construction of English. It occurs with all pronouns except *it, which limits its use, with a few exceptions, to human referents, but the for-dative does not experience this limitation. In other cases, there are contexts where the personal dative may occur while the for-dative would not (e.g. *She wanted her some liver pudding, I need to get me a few more toys for my kids*).

□ “Gullah and Caribbean Creole English.” Patricia C. Nichols, San Jose State Univ.

Recent work by Frederic Cassidy (1980) and Ian Hancock (1980) has reexamined the relationship between Gullah and English-derived creoles in the Caribbean. Cassidy claims that Sranan, Gullah, and Jamaican Creole have a common origin in an earlier Barbados creole, citing the early settlement of South Carolina by slaves and planters from Barbados. Hancock argues for an origin in a Guinea Coast Creole English which preceded the modern Krio. He maintains that Gullah has a different line of development from other English-derived creoles in the Caribbean. Both of these scholars rely heavily on lexical evidence.

This paper introduces morphosyntactic evidence from Gullah, Guyanese Creole, and Jamaican Creole to support Hancock’s claim. Bickerton (1971) and Rickford (1979) have done implicational and quantitative analyses of the personal pronoun system of Guyanese; Nichols (1976) and Jackson (1978) have done similar studies for Gullah. Bickerton (1971, 1973) and Nichols (1976) present data on the pre-infinitival complementizer in Guyanese and Gullah, respectively. Bailey (1966) gives non-quantitative data on the locative prepositions of Jamaican Creole; Cunningham (1970) does the same for Gullah. A
comparative analysis of these data on the personal pronouns, complementizer, and locative prepositions appears to support Hancock’s claim.

“Recent Work on Southern English.” Michael Montgomery, Univ. of South Carolina, and Guy Bailey, Texas A&M Univ.

The 1981 NEH research conference “Language Variety in the South: Perspectives in Black and White,” demonstrated that a new stage in the study of English in the Southern states had arrived. A significant number of recent studies, many of which are dissertation projects, and the recent or prospective availability of data from the major projects (LAGS, DARE, LAMSAS), have sparked a new interest in Southern English and a better appreciation of the great linguistic diversity, generational, social, ethnic and regional, in the South. This interest is marked by 1) new data sources, especially from isolated communities and minority communities; 2) new types of studies, particularly intensive community studies; 3) new interest in methodology and in diverse analytical approaches to linguistic data; 4) a new interest in assessing linguistic data, from a variety of sources, without preconceptions. This new stage is also beginning to show the complex differences between black speech and white speech in the South and to demonstrate how the differences between them are less polarized and less extreme than in the North.

November 1982: NCTE CONCURRENT SESSION

At the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English, November 19-24 Washington, D.C., Washington Hilton and Sheraton Washington; Concurrent Session E.14, Sunday, Nov. 21, 1:45-2:45 p.m.

Chair: Bethany K. Dumas, Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville
Recorder-Reactor: Andrew F. Downey, Jr., Washington, D.C.

Program:


According to both H.L. Mencken and C.C. Fries, uninflected measure nouns like four year ago, ten foot high, and two head of lettuce characterize “vulgar” American English. But in a well-known study of over 2000 field records from Maine to Florida and from New Brunswick to Nebraska, Raven and Virginia McDavld discovered that uninflected measure nouns do not occur with equal frequency everywhere. And in some places, uninflected measure nouns occur in cultivated speech. The McDavlds suggested six related explanations for the social and geographical variation they discovered: fieldworker boundaries, differences in farming practices, differences in regional usage in England, cultural and settlement patterns, racial caste, and analogical change in progress.

This study builds on the McDavlds’ approach by exploring nine items (bushel, cent, foot, head ‘lettuce’, head ‘cattle’, head ‘children’, mile, pound, and year) in the usage of a single Southern community. Linguistic Atlas data from the immediate geographical area (South Carolina, Georgia, Florida) reliably predicts local usage within tight confidence limits. But the concentrated local sample, lexical and semantic additions to the questionnaire, and comparison with the Survey of English Dialects permit additional insights.

As the McDavlds suggested, fieldworker boundaries and English regional usage account for little. Within limits, caste and class help preserve uninflected forms despite linguistic and extralinguistic pressures to change. But more importantly, the unique history and use of each word, increased literacy, and urbanization itself determine the analogical spread of inflected forms.

“How to Get (Always) the Results You Want from Sociolinguistic Research.” Lawrence Davis, Univ. of Haifa, Israel.

Much sociolinguistic research today involves assigning informants to social classes by means of quantitative scales. However, many sociolinguists have not given sufficient attention to the problem of how different groupings of informants can affect results. In fact, the decision to group informants in classes is often the major factor in determining the results one obtains.

“Making the Study of Linguistics More Meaningful: On Involving Students in Dialect Studies.” Raouf J. Halaby, Ouachita Baptist Univ.

Distinct dialect differences can be found in the four “corners” of Arkansas. This paper will discuss the methods used to discern these dialect differences and the involvement of students in the historical research and linguistic surveys which were carried out in 1976. It will also present a model for teachers to help students assess the relationship between geography and linguistic variation. The focus will be on the striking correlation between migratory, mostly east-west, movements during the early years of Arkansas development and present-day dialect variation. By meshing history, geography, literature and
linguistic fieldwork, the students will have developed an appreciation for and an understanding of the significance of regional and social dialects in general, and the correlation between generational differences and dialect variation.

**December 1982: ANNUAL MEETING**

At the Annual Convention of the Modern Language Association, December 27-30
Los Angeles, Bonaventure Hotel

- Don’t miss the special ADS luncheon. See the last entry for Thursday, Dec. 30.

**Tuesday, Dec. 28**

(Noon-1:15 p.m.: Special MLA Session on “Archives of Regional Speech: Conservation, Continuation and Completion.” Bonaventure Hotel, Santa Barbara B. Chair: Raven I. McDavid, Jr., Univ. of Chicago.

This program will bring together the directors (or their delegates) of surveys of regional speech, especially but not exclusively English, to present descriptions of their archives, steps being taken to preserve those archives for future scholars, and plans for editing and publishing the material. It is hoped that out of this session will develop plans for a continuing exchange of information among directors and their staffs, and perhaps for making archives generally available by microphotography. Directors who will present brief statements of present conditions and future plans include: Raven I. McDavid, Jr., editor in chief, Linguistic Atlases of the Middle and South Atlantic States, North-Central States, and Oklahoma; Harold B. Allen (Univ. of Minnesota), editor, Linguistic Atlas of the Upper Midwest; Frederic G. Cassidy (Univ. of Wisconsin), editor, DARE; William A. Kretzschmar, Jr. (Univ. of Wisconsin, Whitewater), assistant editor, Linguistic Atlases of the Middle and South Atlantic States and North-Central States; Allan Metcalf (MacMurray College), Linguistic Atlas of the Pacific Coast; Carroll E. Reed (Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst), director, Linguistic Atlas of the Pacific Northwest; O. Bruce Southard (Oklahoma State Univ.), associate editor, Linguistic Atlas of Oklahoma. The session will be open and audience participation will be invited.)

(3:30-4:45 p.m.: American Name Society session)

(7-8:15 p.m.: Present-Day English session)

**Wednesday, Dec. 29**

- 8:30-9:45 a.m.: ADS Executive Council. Bonaventure Hotel, La Cienega Room.
  
  (10:15-11:30 a.m.: American Name Society session)
  
  (1:45-3 p.m.: Place Name Survey)

- 3:30-4:45 p.m.: ADS Annual Meeting I (MLA Session 552); Bonaventure Hotel, Los Cerritos Room

  Presiding: John Algeo, Univ. of Georgia

  Program:

  - “Grammar and Good Taste: American Usage Controversies — A Historical Overview.”

Dennis E. Baron, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana.

American language reformers in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries were concerned with questions of pronunciation, spelling and syntax, but the one area of their work which aroused the most public interest was the regulation of usage. Their arbitration was eagerly sought by a public whose sense of linguistic insecurity led them to consult the newspaper columns and the numerous usage handbooks that were available. Americans regarded good usage as a sign of good citizenship and good taste, and many, if we can believe the advertising claims of some of the handbooks and the warnings of the writers on usage, feared that their own language use would reveal them as uneducated, unsophisticated, and worst of all un-American.

The usage arbiters, most of them not professional linguists but self-appointed guardians of the tongue, resolved questions of idiom (different to, different than, or different from?), attacked new words (telegraph, telegram), ridiculed dialectal and non-standard variation (/dɛf/ vs. /dəf/, avoid his’n, her’n and we’un’s, don’t say cannot help but be), and advised on the appropriateness of diction (marking as colloquial such forms as the nick of time, a mighty attractive girl, and a pretty fine fellow). Curiously, many of the forms attacked by the usage reformers did not die out, but lived to become quite standard and respectable. This paper will examine some of the major usage controversies of the past 200 years to see how they were adjudicated and to note trends in usage reform in America.
□ "A Lexicographer's Correspondence in the Mid-Nineteenth Century." Allen Walker Read. Columbia Univ.

Letters to Joseph Emerson Worcester in the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston, ranging from 1831 to 1861, offer insights into what people were thinking about in language matters in the mid-19th century.

Many lists of words not found in dictionaries of the time were sent to him. His rival Chauncy Goodrich, in a letter of May 4, 1847, commiserated that so many of them were useless and misleading, but a typical letter of July 5, 1852, by Oliver Wendell Holmes, gave many from his reading, such as "Branular. A very odd word, meaning relating to the brain. I heard it used by an intelligent physician once and thought it a hideous native barbarism, but it is used in the North British Review." Fitz Edward Hall sent long lists from Calcutta, and the President of Amherst College sent many jawbreaking terms, mostly from geology.

Many words of American flavor were commented on, as by Charles Sumner in a letter of Nov. 26, 1840: "Is not 'wake up', 'waked up', American? Is not 'some', as used to express quantity or degree, American also? Thus, 'do you know Mr. A?' Answer — 'Some'; instead of 'slightly' or 'a little.'" James Lakey, a physician of Cincinnati, in a letter of Dec. 8, 1855, remembered from his youth: "Beau meant fop & was generally used in a bad sense; but the War of 1812 changed it to its absurd modern meaning." The commissioner of public schools in Rhode Island reported in 1857: "We retain the old English use of the word meadow here — quite different from the meaning you give it in Massachusetts and which perplexes Rhode Islanders very much in reading your agricultural papers."

Others asked to have their own coinages put into his dictionary, as a citizen of Mercersburg, Pa., said, "In the hope that you will do me the favour to immortalize my name. This I am exceedingly anxious for, and believe your Dictionary will secure the end." He insisted that his full name be placed after the words in the dictionary. Many other people had suggestions for etymologies, some wished to alter spellings, and a number of pronunciations came under censure.


This paper begins by tracing briefly the biography of L.M. Montgomery, authoress of Anne of Green Gables, and estimating her worth as a dialect informant. Her literary legacy and her books are concisely reviewed, although her voluminous correspondence says almost nothing of a special interest in Prince Edward Island dialect. AGG has been chosen as her first and probably best known work.

The first problem is that of proving that the novel is a serious attempt to give a literary representation of the dialect of Montgomery's part of PEI. The problem is solved by examining the morphology used in AGG, along the lines suggested by Ives' "Theory of Literary Dialect" (Tulane Studies in English II, 1950). Ives' methods, only implied in his original work, must be stated and carefully used. An attempt is then made to further develop the conclusions from the study of the morphology by a contrastive study of the novel's lexicon. Although LAUSC field records from PEI are almost nonexistent, those that do exist have been used in an attempt to verify the conclusions drawn from the morphological and lexical studies.

The last part of the paper seeks to place the lexicon of PEI as reflected in AGG in its proper relationship to the dialects of the east coast. It finally glances at some elements in the lexicon of AGG that seem to represent local expressions and local names for things.

Thursday, December 30
□ 8:30-9:45 a.m.: ADS Annual Meeting II (MLA Session 662); Bonaventure Hotel, Santa Barbara

Presiding: Virginia G. McDavid, Chicago State Univ.

Program:
□ "Complementation in West Texas." Marianne Cooley, Texas Tech Univ.

In all varieties of English, an embedded sentence can be used grammatically wherever a noun phrase can be used. Standard English uses the overt complementizer that to mark an embedded sentence which has a finite verb. In SE, that is variously obligatory, optional or prohibited by grammatical rule. Historically, that occurred in constructions where it is now prohibited. Chaucer wrote, "When that Aprille with his showers soote . . ." and Shakespeare could write, "When that the poor have cried, Caesar hath wept." West Texas appears to preserve some of the archaic features of complementation. For example, indirect questions often are introduced by the overt marker that:

1. He asked how that I could afford to come.
2. She asked when that dinner would be served.

Virtually any preposition can be converted into a conjunction simply by appending that:

3. She acted like that she was crazy.
4. He shouted for that he was angry.
However, West Texas dialect, like SE, has modified earlier usage by introducing grammatical rules which stipulate when that can be used and when it cannot be. Unlike Chaucer's usage, I have found no examples of that in modern West Texas used to introduce temporal clauses; sentence (2) is an indirect question. In a post-subject position, that appears to be freely used, but the usage is rejected in a pre-subject position by West Texans, so that "For that he was angry, he shouted" appears to be ungrammatical. The only real distinction between SE and West Texas dialect is that the rules differ for complementation.

▪ “The Stressed Vowels of the Speech of Tangier Island, Virginia.” David L. Shores, Old Dominion Univ.

This paper describes the vowel phonemes, their phonetic characteristics and their incidence, in the pronunciation of the residents of Tangier Island, Va., who speak a variety of English important for the history of English and its development in the United States. Only 3½ miles long and 1½ wide, its highest elevation 5 feet, Tangier Island lies mid-bay in the Chesapeake Bay southeast of the Potomac River, 12 miles southwest of Chrisfield, Md., a town that provides the usual contact of the Islanders with the mainland and the regular market for the catches of crabs, oysters and fish of the bay-faring watermen. The 850 residents are the most isolated in the Bay region, and perhaps along the coastal South. They are fond of saying that Capt. John Smith sighted the Island in 1608, that John Crockett, a Cornishman, moved there in 1686 with his sons and families, and that their ancestors bought the Island from the Pocomoke Indians for two overcoats.

The speech of Tangier differs from that of its most contiguous neighbors in grammar, morphology, and vocabulary, and especially in pronunciation. There is a total lack of several commonly listed features of Eastern Virginia (Piedmont and Tidewater) speech, such as the "broad" a as in path, pasture and vase: the old-fashioned palatalization of /k/ and /g/ in words like car and garden, or the loss of postvocalic /r/ in words like car and corn. Tangier speakers do not distinguish four and forty, mounting and morning, and poor, pour and pore — all of which have [ɔ r]. Mary and merry are the same and pronounced with the fully constricted [œ]. They say [far] for fire, [tʃə] for chair. Wine and whine are pronounced the same way, with [w]. Since and sense have [ʃ], and pin and pen have [t]. Steal and still have the same vowel, that of the latter. Year, hear, here and ear are pronounced as [j ɔ]. They say [kɔrl] for creek, [bəm] for bomb, [tʃəsdl] instead of [tʃəsdl] for Tuesday. Depending on its use, calm is either [kɔlm] or [kəm]. Tangier speech, then, seems a mixture, sharing some special features of the speech of the Middle Atlantic States, the southern mountain area, the outermost communities of the Atlantic seaboard, and the major and minor dialect areas of Virginia. This mixture and the vowel phonology set Tangier off as having a marked and distinctive dialect, one that off-islanders frequently describe as “quaint, old-fashioned,” and, of course, “Elizabethan.”

The most recognizable features of Tangier speech are the unusual tenseness and the raising, fronting, and centralization of the vowels, the marked lengthening of the diphthongs, and the overall articulation of complex vowel clusters. (Monophthongs are just about nonexistent.) They usually consist of a two- or three-vowel cluster with the nucleus consisting of one or two prominent vowels and the peripheral vowels acting as onglides and offglides. There is such a continuum of quality in the articulation of a syllable that one seems to be hearing several vowels or to get the impression of Cockney-like drawling and whining.


Jack Kerouac was a bilingual American of French-Canadian ancestry. French-Canadian was Kerouac’s first language, and learning English in the first grade from the nuns at St. Joseph’s Brothers School was a struggle. In Kerouac’s novel The Subterraneans, the protagonist Leo Percepied describes himself: “I am a Canuck, I could not speak English till I was 5 or 6, at 16 I spoke with a halting accent.”

The names of Kerouac’s characters are the easiest to trace in the search for the Canadian French influence. Ann Charter’s Appendix 4: Identity Key offers the following: Jack Duluoz, Sal Paradise, Leo Percepied, Adam Moorad, Cody Pomeray, Varnum Random. The first three are clearly rooted in French; the last three require more explanation.

The most famous Kerouac neologism was the word beat. His use and understanding of this term are derived from the French adjective bête and its related nominals.

Kerouac’s syntax will be examined specifically in terms of Canadian French as a source for his particular prose narrative style. The corpus is The Subterraneans, chosen for at least three reasons. First, the protagonist Percepied is a self-declared Canuck; second, there are many apparent gallicisms in the novel, and third, there is a remarkable contrast in how Kerouac has captured American Negro/Black speech in the female character, Mardou, and the syntax of Leo Percepied. Kerouac has used his understanding of regional, ethnic and social dialect to create a work of art.
10:15-11:30 a.m.: ADS Annual Business Meeting (MLA Session 689); Bonaventure Hotel, Santa Barbara B

Presiding: ADS President Marvin Carmony, Indiana State Univ.

1:00-3:00 p.m.: ADS Luncheon

Cap 'N Quill Restaurant, 815 West 7th St., between Figueroa and Flower Streets.

Cap 'N Quill is in the shadow of the Hilton, only two blocks from the Bonaventure, and has a nice bar, a dark atmosphere, and good food. It is convenient not only to the hotels but to a bus service for the airport. From less than a block away, buses leave every hour on the quarter hour (2:45, 3:15, 3:45) and take about 45 minutes to the airport; at this writing, the fare is $4. (A cab might be a little quicker, but the fare is high, though sharing a cab would of course reduce the amount any one person would have to pay.)

1:00 p.m. Cash bar
1:30 p.m. Lunch — choice of:

- Petite filet mignon, soup or salad, wine and coffee
- Shrimp louie, wine and coffee

Cost in either case: $12.25 including tip and taxes. Space is limited, so you are encouraged to make your reservation now by sending a check for $12.25 per person payable to Edward Finegan, Dept. of Linguistics, Univ. of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif. 90089. Please state your choice of entree.

Postprandial remarks, edifying yet brief and suited to the informality of the occasion, by retiring ADS President Marvin Carmony.

(Luncheon arrangements courtesy of Edward Finegan.)

**NEW BOOKS BY ADS MEMBERS**

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


JOHN A. HOLM with ALISON WATT SHILLING. *The Dictionary of Bahamian English*. Lexik House (P.O. Box 247, Cold Spring, N.Y. 10516), spring 1982. 256 pages. Cloth $42. Traces some 5,000 terms to the regional and archaic English of Britain and the United States, and to the languages of Africa and other creoles. Terms and their grammatical peculiarities are copiously illustrated from both oral and written sources. The dictionary casts light on the origins of vernacular Black English in the United States, providing access to knowledge gained from comparative studies in creole lexicon and syntax over the past 15 years.

*Readings in Spanish-English Contrastive Linguistics*, Vol. 3, ed. ROSE NASH and Domitilla Belaval. Inter American Univ. Press (G.P.O. Box 3255, San Juan, P.R. 00936), 1982. Paper $9.95 (minus 10 percent professional discount, plus $1.50 postage and handling, when ordered from the press.) Nine articles dealing with lexical semantics, testing, and culture contact and language change in the Caribbean. With an updated selective bibliography on Spanish-English bilingualism.
AMERICAN SPEECH: PLAN FOR A GUIDE TO HALF A CENTURY

By John Algeo

One of the needs to increase the usefulness of American Speech is for a cumulative index to the subjects treated in the journal since the beginning of its publication in 1925. The annual volume indexes are uneven in the thoroughness of their coverage, some are lacking, and they are not consistent with one another in their approach to analyzing the subjects of their articles. Moreover, the need to consult 57 separate annual indexes is, at best, inefficient.

I have now under way a project that will help meet this need: a cumulative subject index for American Speech from 1925 to the present. Here is a brief description of this project and a report on its current status:

Scope. The index will cover all volumes of American Speech from 1925 (Vol. 1) to 1982 (Vol. 57) or until the project is ready for publication. In each volume, the index will cover all articles, Miscellany notes, departments, reviews, page fillers, contributors’ notes, and announcements. I estimate that the index will include more than 6500 main entries and about 10,000 cross-references.

Plan. The index will be organized in eight major sections: General, Phonology, Graphonomy, Lexis, Grammar, Semantics, Pragmatics, and Specific Varieties. Each section will be subdivided in as much detail and to as great depth as necessary to accommodate the subject matter that has appeared in American Speech. An outline of the preliminary organization of the index is appended.

Each item (article, note, review, etc.) will be listed in chronological order under its primary subject. Each item will also be cross-referenced under its most important subsidiary subjects. Most items will have one or two subsidiary subject entries; some will have even more.

The entry for each item will include the item’s volume number, inclusive pages, title, and author. If the title is insufficiently indicative of the contents of the item, a brief comment will be added in brackets.

The classification scheme adopted for the index does not try to include all subjects that fall under the scope of the English language. Rather it is a pragmatic and an a posteriori classification for dealing with those subjects that have been treated in American Speech.

Procedures. The items in all back issues of the Journal are put on 4 by 6 cards, which are then assigned subject descriptors and sorted according to those descriptors. The bibliographical information and subject descriptors on each card are then checked against back files of the Journal for accuracy and adequacy.

Next the card file is transferred to diskettes by an IBM Displaywriter System (a word processor), which has been made available by the Department of English at the University of Georgia. The advantages of the word processor are several: (1) During the initial preparation of the index, new items can be added to the body of the index, and the contents and even format of the index can be revised in various ways with a minimum of effort. (2) When the initial preparation of the index is completed, the diskette file can be maintained and augmented or revised whenever necessary. (3) During the initial preparation, it will be possible to get hard-copy print-outs of whatever portions of the index have been done, to assist scholars who need information before the index has been completed and published.

When the index has been completed and is stored on diskettes, a hard-copy version will be made available through an appropriate publisher.

Present status. All items in Vols. 1-50 (1925-75) are on file cards, have had subject descriptors assigned, and have been sorted under their primary subjects. Most of the items
in Vols. 51-56 (1976-81) are on file cards, awaiting the assignment of subject descriptors and sorting.

The procedure for transferring the information from cards to diskettes has just been started.

A large amount of the labor has been completed on the index, but a good deal still remains to be done: verifying the correctness of bibliographical data and refining the subject descriptors already assigned, transferring the data from cards to diskettes, and making sure that the form in which the information is being prepared is the most useful one. It is with the last that readers of NADS especially can help. Below is a sample of the kind of entry now contemplated. (And following it, the list of all subject descriptors used so far.) I will be very grateful if readers will send comments or suggestions, especially about the form of the entries and the kind and ordering of subject descriptors, to John Algeo, Department of English, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga. 30602.

SAMPLE ENTRIES

5.2.3. Pronouns
5.2.3.1. First-Person Plural

See § 5.2.3.3 (2:133, 3:343-45).

5.2.3.2. Second-Person Familiar

4:359-61, Quaker Thou and Thee, E.K. Maxfield.

5.2.3.3. Second-Person Plural

2:133, You All and We All, E.R. Morrison.
2:476, You All, G.B.
2:496, You All, W. Fischer.
3:343-45, You All and We All Again, L. Axley.
4:54-55, You All Again, E.R. Morrison.
4:103, Y'all, L. Axley.

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ADDITIONS TO THE DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS 1982

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COMPUTERS ENTER THE ADS WORLD — OR VICE VERSA

The AM Varityper Comp/Set 504 on which this article is being written is a simple example of the usefulness of computers to those concerned with American dialects. The Comp/Set enables text to be entered, edited, printed in a great variety of type sizes and faces and column widths, and stored on a floppy disk for future use.

Scholars who have access to any sort of word processor know that the typewriter is as obsolete as the fountain pen. More particularly significant for those studying American English, however, are 1) the development of inexpensive hardware that will handle huge amounts of data, even on home computers, and 2) the development and increasing availability of data bases containing huge quantities of contemporary American English. Tom Palkeday spoke at last year’s Annual Meeting (see NADS 14.1, p. 11) concerning both. He has kindly provided further detail (with prices as of March 1982):

Nexis, a service of Mead Data Central, 200 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017, costs about $3,000 for installation and training, plus a monthly minimum of $600, plus a connect-hour rate varying from $30 to $90 an hour (depending on time of day) and database search surcharges.

The New York Times Information Service has its head office at Mt. Pleasant Office Park, 1719A Route 10, Parsippany, N.J. 07054, and charges $150 per connect hour. NYTIS is accessible by subscribers’ own microcomputers and terminals.

The least expensive are the so-called information utilities charging as low as $8.25 per hour during off-peak hours. The two leaders in this category are The Source, 1616 Anderson Road, McLean, Va. 22102, and CompuServe Inc., 5000Arlington Center Blvd., Columbus, Ohio 43220. I have calculated that, for a few hundred dollars in connect-hour charges, you can build up your own data file of a million words drawn from newspapers such as The Columbus Dispatch, The New York Times, Virginian-Pilot & Ledger-Star, The Washington Post, The San Francisco Chronicle, The San Francisco Examiner, The Los Angeles Times, Minneapolis Star and Tribune, Atlanta Journal Constitution, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and Middlesex Daily News.

He adds a commercial: Palkeday Publishing is developing software for Radio Shack's Models I and III which will enable users not only to connect with databases, but to store information tapped from them, retrieve it as words and phrases surrounded by text with bibliography in the last line, count the number of words in a file and the number of occurrences of specific words and phrases — and much more; you may write him for particulars at 1776 Chalkdene Grove, Mississauga, Ont. L4W 2C3, Canada.

ACLS GETS A HEAD, NEH GETS NEW DIRECTION

Space permits only inklings of the invigoration taking place at the American Council of Learned Societies. In June the new ACLS president, Bill Ward (celebrated in the Chronicle of Higher Education July 7) came to the Midwest to see DARE and the Linguistic Atlas archives, and to meet for a day with ADS officers, as he did with officers of each of the other ACLS constituent societies. Ward wants to make the April Annual Meeting more of an occasion for significant discussion of the humanities, and he is taking steps to link the societies more closely with the somewhat autonomous central body in New York. We all stand to benefit.

At the 1982 annual meeting in New York, attended by Delegate Fred Cassidy and Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf, spokesmen for the National Endowment for the Humanities said that while funds were not increasing, the agency was interested in considering new directions. An NEH even half its current size, they noted, would still be of enormous importance to the humanities in the United States. Geoffrey Marshall, deputy director, said NEH would welcome advice on what to do regarding access to archives, conservation and preservation, technology, research libraries, quality in graduate education, project vs. sustaining support, the schools, and involvement in politics. Write to anybody at the Endowment, he said; it's a small enough agency that ideas do get passed along.

Moira Egan, executive director of the National Humanities Alliance (to which ADS contributes), reported impressively on the harmonious and effective lobbying to obtain Congressional support for NEH. Humanists’ letters are important in this continuing effort.
TO BE TIPPED AND SHIVERED, DARE ASKS YOUR HELP

THANKS, as we said last time, to readers who responded to our last set of queries. Some queries again drew blanks, but others were very useful in getting us good evidence, or putting us off false trails. Address Prof. F.G. Cassidy, Dictionary of American Regional English, 6125 Helen White Hall, 600 North Park St., Madison, Wis. 53706.

bullhead — Not the fish this time, but some kind of prickly plant seed. Possible identifications are the cocklebur, beggar’s lice, sand bur, devil’s claws. If you know the name bullhead, please identify the seed.

byo — A cradle: “Put the baby in the byo.” From Dialect Notes 4.337 (1916), Pennsylvania. This is our sole quot. Is it known elsewhere? Details, please.

choaty — Chubby, as of a child. We have one quot, from Virginia, 1899. This is the kind of word which normally continues down the generations. Can anyone with ancient relatives furnish confirmation? It may even be current still.

chocolate mouse — A former (?) type of “penny candy” for children. Does anyone remember them — if so, from when and where? Our examples are from Connecticut, Ohio, Wisconsin; were chocolate mice especially Northern?

cow sucker — is usually a racer or king snake, but we have one instance (from Pennsylvania) of its use for a clumsy boat. Any further evidence would be welcome.

cork tree — Reported from California without identification. California and Georgia informants also reported cork oak. This can hardly be the European Quercus saber. What could it be? Perhaps some California botanist could help.

kankee (or cankee) — A children’s tree house or club house, 1940s in the area of Syracuse, N.Y. Our informant guesses “it may be an Indian name.” This is all we have. Confirmation and further details would be gratefully received.

batter — A narrow hillside slope. We have had it reported, so far, only from central Pennsylvania. Is it in use elsewhere in this sense? Does it appear in place-names?

dooggod — The usual meaning (Merriam-Webster’s Third) seems to be ‘a fried biscuit’. From cookbooks we have it for the piece of dough cut out of the hole of a doughnut and fried. We need evidence of any sort as to dates, places, and applications of the term.

dandoo or dandool — We have one oral report from a 68-year-old male Black informant from Virginia (near Newport News): It’s like head cheese, consisting of “lights, red pepper and salt, smoked.” Can anyone identify or confirm the word?

tipped and shivered — dressed up in one’s best. We have two reports from the mid-Atlantic coast. The question is, what does this metaphor come from? What was literally “tipped and shivered”?

up the pucker tree — angry, therefore pouting. We have one report of this from Jackson Co., West Virginia, as of about 1926. It is not an individualism. Is anyone else familiar with it?

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH: REQUEST AND GIFT

James McMillan and Michael Montgomery are collecting material for a second edition of McMillan’s Annotated Bibliography of Southern American English. They are interested in receiving information about and a copy of any publications, especially those appearing in out of the way places, on any aspect of the English language in the South, including historical studies and studies of phonology and phonetics, lexicon, morphology, syntax, place names and other names, figurative language and word play, and literary dialect. Please send information to Michael Montgomery, Dept. of English, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. 29208.

When you write him, you might ask for a free copy of his new Southern English Newsletter, No. 1 for July 1982. It aims “to document and promote the study, in all its aspects, of the English language in the Southern United States.”