NEWSLETTER OF THE
AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY

Vol. 20, No. 3  September 1988

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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 Dept., MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois 62650-2590.
HONOR YOUR STUDENT NOW

You still have an opportunity to nominate an outstanding student, graduate or undergraduate, for one of the three four-year complimentary Presidential Honorary Memberships in ADS being awarded this year.

The memberships are intended to encourage students to continue work in our field, as well as to recognize them for work already accomplished.

Nomination is easy. Simply send a letter of nomination, together with supporting materials if you wish, to ADS President Richard W. Bailey, Dept. of English Language and Literature, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI 48104.

Honorary Members are invited to be guests of the Society at the Annual Luncheon.

COMPUTER METHODS IN DIALECTOLOGY: A CONFERENCE

November 1 is the deadline to propose a presentation for a workshop on computer methods in dialectology to be held March 2, 3 and 4 in Athens, Georgia.

The workshop will be hosted by William A. Kretzschmar, Jr. of the University of Georgia and Edgar W. Schneider of the University of Bamberg. The workshop is under the aegis of ADS and the University of Georgia.

The tentative program includes:

Thursday evening, March 2: opening reception.

Friday morning, March 3: introductory seminar for researchers who are not currently using computer assistance, followed by a session on databases with ten-minute presentations.

Friday afternoon: similar sessions on analytical methods and on display and output.

Saturday: individual discussion of methods, where participants may share methods and learn from colleagues; microcomputers will be available for software demonstrations.

Participants will be welcome to visit the new editorial offices of the Linguistic Atlas project.

Send requests for information, and proposals for ten-minute Friday presentations, to Kretzschmar at Department of English, Park Hall, Univ. of Georgia, Athens GA 30602; phone (404) 542-2246. All respondents will receive pre-registration materials by January 1.

NOMINATIONS FOR 1989-1993

This year the Nominating Committee (A.M. Kinloch, chair; Thomas L. Clark, Mary R. Miller) has three names to present:

For Vice President 1989-1990, succeeding to the presidency 1991-1992: Michael D. Linn, Univ. of Minnesota, Duluth.


For elected member of the Nominating Committee 1989-1990: Lawrence M. Davis, Ball State Univ.

Additional nominations may be made by a petition with the signatures of at least ten members. The petition must reach the Executive Secretary by Dec. 15. A vote on the nominations will be held at the Annual Business Meeting Dec. 30.

METHODS VII IN GERMANY

The seventh International Conference on Methods in Dialectology will take place in the summer of 1990 at the University of Bamberg, co-sponsored as usual by ADS. The organizer is Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Vicereck, Universität Bamberg, Lehrstuhl für Englische Sprachwissenschaft und Mediävistik, An der Universität 9, D-8600 Bamberg, West Germany. A call for papers will appear in a future NADS.

On the Best Side: Memories of Life in Rhyd-y-car is a cassette with edited excerpts from fieldwork tapes recorded near Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales. Speakers describe their childhood in the period from the turn of the century to the 1930s. Price £2.49 plus 24p postage and packing. Order WFM 001 from G.M. Awbery, Dept. of Cultural Life, Welsh Folk Museum, St. Fagans, Cardiff. Highly rated by ADS member Mary Ritchie Key, who writes, "I have just received a copy of this cassette and it is excellent!"
ADS ANNUAL MEETING 1988
New Orleans

SPECIAL HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS
AT THE OMNI ROYAL ORLEANS HOTEL
IN THE FRENCH QUARTER
AAA FOUR DIAMONDS — $59 PER NIGHT
RESERVATION FORM ON BACK PAGE

With the Modern Language Association, New Orleans Hilton, Marlborough B, 10:15 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28 (See Page 4)

With the Linguistic Society of America, Fairmont, Wildcatter Room, 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29 (See Pages 5-6)

Independent session, Omni Royal, West Salon, 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 30 (See Pages 6-8)

Executive Council Meeting, Omni Royal, St. Louis Room, 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 29 (See Page 5)

Annual Business Meeting, Omni Royal, West Salon, 8:00 a.m. Friday, Dec. 30 (See Page 6)

REGISTRATION FEES
As usual, ADS independent sessions are open. No registration, no fee—and free coffee, indicated by the symbol ☕.

Attendance at Wednesday morning’s MLA session requires registration for the MLA meeting: members $75 (graduate students and emeriti $40), nonmembers $100 (students $55) before December 9; on-site $25-30 additional.

Attendance at Thursday afternoon’s LSA session requires registration for the LSA meeting: $35 (students $15) before December 1, $40 ($20) on-site.

Combination special: LSA registrants may register in New Orleans for the MLA meeting at a reduced rate of $70 (students $60). MLA registrants may register in New Orleans for the LSA meeting at a reduced rate of $30 (students $10).

AIRLINE DISCOUNT
Delta Airlines offers a 5% discount on promotional fares, 40% off round-trip coach (purchase 7 days in advance), 35% off Canadian fares (7 days in advance) for travel on Delta Dec. 24-Jan. 3. For details and to make reservations call 1-800-221-1212 between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. Central Time. Ask for the Special Meetings Network and refer to file number C19049.
10:15–11:30 a.m.
New Orleans Hilton, Marlborough B

Abbreviations, Oklahoma, and New Orleans Gastronomy: ADS-sponsored Session 161 at the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association. MLA registration required.

Presiding: ADS President Richard W. Bailey, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Papers:

Abbreviations and Acronyms in Recent American English. Garland Cannon, Texas A&M Univ. — Updating the 13,683-item corpus in Cannon’s Historical Change and English Word-Formation (1987), this paper analyzes the 657 abbreviations and acronyms in The Barnhart Dictionary of New English Since 1963 (1973), The Second Barnhart Dictionary of New English (1980), and Merriam’s 12,000 Words (1986). To gain an idea of which items may be a part of general international English, we will tabulate their occurrence in desk dictionaries of the 1980s.

Tentatively, certain conclusions are suggested. First, the history of our data does not seem to indicate a movement from an original abbreviation (abstracted from a full form) to a shifted pronunciation that becomes an acronym; if there is any movement, the obverse may be more likely.

Second, an acronym apparently often comes into being soon after the creation of the long form, so that it is in quick, direct competition for the same meaning. By contrast, up to at least a third of the abbreviations come into being years after the original long form is well established.

Third, for both, the influence of writing is paramount, in a deliberate creation contrasting with the slips etc. that account for many new speech forms like blends.

Finally, there seems to be powerful formal evidence to separate abbreviations from acronyms. There will be a refinement of the terms shortening, clipping, and orthography, and, if there is time, a taxonomy for the reductions in recent English.

Dialect Variation in Oklahoma: Preliminary Findings of the Linguistic Atlas of Oklahoma. Bruce Southard, Oklahoma State Univ. — Over 500 hours of taped interviews conducted by W.R. Van Riper for the Linguistic Atlas of Oklahoma were transcribed by Raven I. McDavid, Jr. I have now converted McDavid’s original transcriptions into protocols. Preliminary analysis suggests that, contrary to Atwood’s description of northern and southern dialect areas (in The Regional Vocabulary of Texas), Oklahoma variation reflects the pattern of settlement following the land runs which opened the territory to whites.

“Don’t Eat Them Deadmen’s Fingers, Dahlin’”: A Linguistic Guide to Eating in New Orleans. Connie Eble, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. — This paper will discuss food and eating terminology in New Orleans and environs, pointing out meaning and usage, variations in pronunciation, and, when appropriate, cultural context and etymology. The advice Don’t eat them deadmen’s fingers, dahlin’ may be given by a waiter or waitress instructing someone in a restaurant on Lake Pontchartrain how to eat boiled crabs.

Examples will include homey terms (red gravy, ‘tomato gravy’, alligator pears ‘avocado’); cooking processes (smothering vegetables); variants in pronunciation (praline and plarine) and meaning (cream cheese); and foods natives consider special to the area (king cake, mufalettas, Zatarain’s black mustard, Camellia red beans, French market coffee and donuts).
9:30-11:00 a.m.
Omni Royal, St. Louis Room
ADS Executive Council meeting
All members welcome

3:30-5:00 p.m.
Fairmont Hotel, Wildcatter Room
ADS-sponsored session at the annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. LSA registration required.

Presiding: ADS President Richard W. Bailey, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Papers:

Saussure's Forays Into Literary Dialect. Boyd H. Davis, Univ. of North Carolina, Charlotte. — Saussure's life-long interest in how literary texts can preserve or distort people's speech can be seen in two sources.

His dissertation was on the genitive absolute in Sanskrit, a choice which puzzled his peers and later students, though all admitted it was a tour-de-force which enabled him to display his dazzling command of language, literary texts, and scholarly commentary. The genitive absolute in Sanskrit is syntactically complex: it derives its meaning from nominalizations of certain verbs of perception. It is also used to show how some people talk in certain situations. Saussure's dissertation is an examination of syntax-driven literary dialect that purports to preserve a specific kind of speech act.

Saussure's sensitivity to the cultural dimensions that dictated genre and style of Sanskrit texts may be seen in several manuscripts in lot six of the recently-catalogued Harvard collection, which augments the Geneva archives. In these, he responds to a student letter which asks about the poems of Leconte de Lisle, poems which present "India" and Indian literature from the Parnassian poetic viewpoint. Names are wrong, genre is wrong, the ways one speaks are wrong, says Saussure of these poems; his notions about literary dialect lead him to present a corrective to the distortion he perceives.

The Literary Speech Event. Cynthia Bernstein, Texas A&M Univ. — One view of literature describes a literary work as a speech event with illocutionary force of its own. An apparently opposing view describes the text as an imitation of a speech event, its illocutionary force purely mimetic. It is possible to reconcile these two views of literature by

ANS IN NEW ORLEANS

THE AMERICAN NAME SOCIETY meeting Dec. 28-29 will include two sessions with MLA:

261. Names in Literature. Wednesday, Dec. 28, 1:45-3:00 p.m., Salon 14, New Orleans Hilton.

495. Place Names. Thursday, Dec. 29, 12:00 noon-1:15 p.m., Norwich, Hilton. (For copies of papers, send $3 to Roger Payne, P.O. Box 3356, Reston VA 22090, by Nov. 15.)
2. "Place Names in León, Spain." Steven Hess, Long Island Univ., C.W. Post Campus.

ANS Annual Banquet, Antoine's Restaurant, Wednesday, Dec. 28, 7-10 p.m.
imagining two types of illocutionary acts. First, there is the illocutionary act of the author vis-à-vis the reader; and second, there is the illocutionary act of the speaker vis-à-vis the audience represented within the text. A poem such as Dante Gabriel Rossetti’s “A Last Confession” gets its title not from the illocutionary act of the poet vis-à-vis the reader but from the act of the speaker vis-à-vis the priest whom he addresses within the poem. This paper explores the effects of the internal audience in defining the illocutionary acts represented by a literary work. Among them:

First, the story addressed to an internal audience is interactive; that is, the responses of the internal audience have a potential effect on the telling. Second, the speaking situation becomes a story in itself, with a chronology distinct from the embedded narrative. Third, the responses of the internal audience can be a guide to the responses of the reader. Fourth, the internal audience can make the telling of the story seem necessary or desirable.

At the same time, the creation of a character as the auditor of the story distances the reader from the situation of the telling. The reader becomes a witness to the speech event represented by the story.

Lexical Competition in the Short-Order Cuisine. William Labov, Univ. of Pennsylvania. — The most vigorous areas of new regional differentiation lie in the most active areas of popular culture, particularly in short order foods that are held in the hands. In this semantic field, the object with the greatest regional lexical differentiation is the submarine sandwich: a sandwich on a long roll prototypically filled with cold cuts, cheese, lettuce, onions and a variety of dressings. Submarine is the dominant term nationally, but a number of other terms dominate specific regions: hero, hoagie, grinder, wedge, torpedo, and poor boy.

This report presents a national overview of the present distribution of ‘submarine’ terms based on questionnaires and direct observations as well as telephone directories, and traces historical developments in specific areas of the Northeast. Terms have spread from urban centers in proportion to their size and distance, following the gravity model of Trudgill.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

8:00–9:00 a.m.
Omni Royal, West Salon
Annual Business Meeting.
Presiding: ADS President Richard W. Bailey, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Omni Royal, West Salon
Independent session.
Presiding: ADS Vice President Thomas J. Creswell. Papers:

9:00 The Uselessness of Dictionary Pronunciations. Thomas M. Paikeday, Chief Editor, The New York Times Everyday Dictionary. — Users of dictionary pronunciations (students, teachers, professors, the general public) as well as the harmless drudges who produce dictionaries don’t seem to realize that the emperor has no clothes. As Prof. Richard H.C. Monk of the University of Victoria said in 1967: “After 17 years of teaching in the schools of British Columbia and 11 at a university, I have yet to find a student who can make intelligent use of vowel systems or pronunciation keys as they appear in most dictionaries.”

His observation has been confirmed by almost every American and Canadian educator I checked it with while researching the dictionaries I have put out during the past 20 years. In these dictionaries, at first I tried to improve on the existing diacritical and IPA
systems. But my newfangled pronunciation keys did little to alleviate the problem. I then took a cue from the late Edward Artin of Merriam-Webster who in 1972 remarked that, but for a couple of not insurmountable difficulties with long and short “oo” and the voiced and unvoiced “th,” a pronunciation system based on the language itself (what is popularly known as “phonetic” pronunciation or the newspaper style) might be a better idea.

This paper presents the results of a test taken by 70 teachers and professors which seems to confirm these conclusions.

9:25 Blue Collar Jargon. RANDY ROBERTS, Univ. of Missouri, Columbia. — Many of the neologisms of the labor movement, originally slang and often pejorative, have since become respectable parts of the English language. At other times, labor has borrowed words in order to cope verbally with altered usages and circumstances. Many of the richly descriptive words in labor history (blackleg, scissorbill, yellowdog) must still be considered colloquial, as they are understood only in the specialized senses in which labor has used them. Words such as grievance, picket and strike, however, are recognized by nearly everyone as descriptive of some of the functions labor organizations engage in. Other words (fink, goon, moonlighting) have gradually been extended to non-labor situations.

Drawing upon the extensive citation files of the late Peter Tamony as well as the published works of labor historians, folklorists and language scholars, this paper will discuss some of the more interesting words to come from the labor movement, examine some possible reasons why labor jargon has been neglected and suggest that this area of language can be a fertile field for the etymologist and the neologist.

9:50 Good Grammar in Louisiana: The Word According to LAGS. WILLIAM W. EVANS, Louisiana State Univ. — Raven I. McDavid repeatedly stressed the fact that Linguistic Atlas findings were underutilized, both within and without the field of dialectology. This paper is an attempt to use some of the information on Louisiana language in the Linguistic Atlas of the Gulf States for the study of usage. Specifically, the responses of the more cultivated informants from Louisiana, chiefly upper middle and lower upper, are observed with respect to matters of grammar (primarily questions of pronoun case and verb principal parts) and matters of sound and stress in pronunciation (in words like address, February, library, white, and help). On the basis of these observations, we can draw some very tentative conclusions about the state of cultivated conversation in the state as a whole.

10:15 A Dictionary of Briticisms: Sample Entries. JOHN ALGEO, Univ. of Georgia. — I will present a handout showing sample entries for terms from a limited range of the alphabet, discuss problems encountered in writing these entries—especially problems related to the dialect distinction between British and American—and invite criticism of the entries.

10:40 Break.

10:50 More Indexes for the Investigation of Chicago Black Speech. MICHAEL I. MILLER, Chicago State Univ. — In a 1987 paper, I described how data collected by Lee Pederson in the 1960s could be used to construct a linguistic index for Chicago black speech, and how the index could be used for standard regression analysis. For dialectology, regression analysis produces better results than techniques that simply compute mean scores, t-tests and chi-square, because regression clearly delineates variation among individuals and groups and multiple regression permits analysis of the interaction of several independent variables, such as social status, age and education. However, the example used in the paper referred only to postvocalic /-r/.

This paper will show how the same technique can be applied to other types of data, including articulation of the onset of the /ai/ diphthong, phones of the mid-central vowel (in words like cut), consonant loss, incidence of consonant phonemes, systematic alternation of stressed vowels, non-systematic alternation of vowels, lexical features, and verb forms. Pederson’s data suggest the degree to which Chicago black speech had shifted from Southern to Inland Northern norms in the 1960s. This paper will investigate the usefulness and reliability of indexes derived from Pederson’s data and demonstrate some uses of linear correlation techniques in urban dialectology.
LATE MORNING FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30—ANNUAL MEETING

11:15 Modern Linguistic Atlases: Not an Oxymoron. LAWRENCE M. DAVIS and CHARLES L. HOUCK, Ball State Univ. — The major criticisms leveled at linguistic atlas goals and methods have been based on misconceptions. This paper aims to correct those misconceptions (fostered, on occasion, by some dialect geographers themselves), and suggest how modern computer technology can provide easy and rapid access to linguistic atlas records.

We believe that a combination of two recently-developed computer systems, both owned by Ball State University, should enable us to make the records of the Linguistic Atlas of the North-Central States available to scholars within two years. These systems, called Intergraph and RS/1, will allow us to input phonetic data directly from LANCS field records and later sort these data in various ways. For example, we can sort the data for four by subject type and then run a chi-square test to see if there exists a significant difference between Types I, II and III subjects. We can do similar operations for grammatical and lexical data as well. Intergraph can also draw maps based on these data. We can, for example, print phonetic data on maps in the format of the Linguistic Atlas of New England.

We plan to make the LANCS records available at a very moderate cost in a data base, on both magnetic tape and/or floppy disks. Alva L. Davis and Virginia Glenn McDavid will join us in this project.

11:40 The Acquisition of American English as a Second Dialect. MICHAEL MONTGOMERY and SHANTA DAVID, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia. — As yet little comparable work has been done on the acquisition of a second dialect of a language to investigate whether older children, younger children, adolescents, or adults acquire the dialect more quickly and more completely.

The present study develops a methodology for and investigates the acquisition of American English phonology by native speakers of Indian English, now recognized as a nativized variety of the language. Specifically, it compares the order of acquisition of six phonological features, including the aspiration of initial voiceless consonants and the offgliding of long mid vowels /e/ and /o/, in the speech of two sisters ages 7 and 11 in their first four months of residence and attending school in New Jersey. The data for the study, collected at six intervals over an approximately four-month period, consist of six stories read by the two subjects and six immediate retellings of the stories.

12:05 Americanization of British English. LEONARD R.N. ASHLEY, Brooklyn Coll., City Univ. of New York. — Gavin Ewart in TLS, reviewing a book published in England by New Zealander Elizabeth Smither, complains of "straightforward Americanisms—'goofed,' 'got his number,' 'drapes.'" It is now getting to the point where some Englishmen and Englishwomen, let alone New Zealanders, Australians and others, cannot notice the difference between their own slang and American slang (such as goofed) or even their own standard words and American ones (such as drapes, carpet or suitcase).

Some British speakers are offended, or pretend to be, by Americanisms. Christopher Hitchens notices hopefully in Mary Henderson's Xenia—A Memoir, Greece 1919-1949 as "un-English" and then, in The Spectator for 12 March 1988 (p. 29) adds: "I must say that when I came across the word 'toilet' on page 128 I almost fell off my chair." Ms. Henderson's writing ("my brother bagged the top room") like Mr. Hitchens' ("brill in a crisis" and "I dare say this is true") is generally Brit. But American English is being ever more widely adopted, in both vocabulary and syntax. The British are now beginning to react like the French: quelle horreur that American should "contaminate" the native tongue! This paper deals with the historical background and the prospects at this point in time (as the British have taught pompous Americans to say) and down the road (an Americanism that the UK is beginning to cotton on to).

12:45–2:30 p.m.
Omni Royal, Josephine Bonaparte Annual Luncheon. (See Page 3.)

Presiding: RICHARD W. BAILEY, Univ. of Michigan.

Speaker: STUART B. FLEXNER, Editor in Chief, Reference Department, Random House. Topic: — compilation and reception of our new Unabridged Dictionary, with additional words about the past and future of dictionaries and dictionary making.
DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS, SEPTEMBER 1988

In addition to about 550 individuals listed here, nearly 300 institutions belong to the ADS. Updated mailing labels and lists are available from the Executive Secretary, free for ADS mailings and at a reasonable fee for other purposes of benefit to members. Listings by locality are available to members who would like to get to know their neighbors.

Special categories include §Life Membership, available for $400 (minus the current year’s dues, if paid); •Emeritus Membership, free to retired members, but including only the Newsletter; •Presidential Honorary Membership, awarded to three students annually by the ADS President, and *Student Membership, including all publications, at $10 per year for as many as three years. A student’s application should be accompanied by a confirming note from an ADS member.

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CALENDAR OF 1988 REGIONAL MEETINGS

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL MEETING in association with RMMLA, Oct. 20-22; Las Cruces, N.M., Las Cruces Hilton.
9 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, Soledad Room.
Papers:
“Absolutism and Relativism in American Usage Criticism: Redefining the Spectrum.” THOMAS DUBOSE, Univ. of Texas, Austin.
“A Problem in English Morphosyntactic Variation.” AVIS K. PAYNE, New Mexico State Univ.
“Social Correlates of Language Attitudes in a Bilingual City (Corpus Christi, Texas).” JAMES A. PIERCE, Del Mar Coll.
Meeting chair: Gary N. Underwood, English Dept., Univ. of Texas, Austin TX 78712. ADS Regional Secretary 1987-88: Grant W. Smith, English Dept., Eastern Washington Univ., Cheney WA 99004.

PREREGISTRATION is $10, on-site registration $15. Membership in RMMLA is $15 regular, $10 student.
Write RMMLA Executive Director Charles G. Davis, Dept. of English, Boise State Univ., Boise ID 83725; phone (208) 385-3426.
The RMMLA meeting with include local wine tasting and a banquet with Southwestern food.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETING in association with SCMLA, 2:15 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22; Arlington, Texas, Sheraton CentrePark Hotel, Triple Crown Room.
Program:
Bilingualism, Black English, Creole Languages and Other Contact-Induced Phenomena. FRANCIS BYRNE, Shawnee State Univ. — A Spanish-English bilingual situation and a Black English Vernacular are just two of many possible results when languages are in contact. Results differ according to degree of contact, demography, perceptions of the “worth” of a language and the number of languages in contact. The most common outcome is word borrowing; the most dramatic, the formation of pidgins and creoles. The range of these outcomes of language contact, including Spanish-English “mixes,” will be discussed. The most radical changes, pidginization and creolization, form a continuum with other results.
Theories Regarding the Linguistic Typology of Angloromani and Shelta. IAN HANCOCK, Univ. of Texas. — Both Angloromani and a Shelta-derived cryptolec known as The Cant are widely spoken throughout the English-speaking world. In the United States, their combined speaking population probably numbers 100,000. Neither fits the “usual” pattern associated with natural language or creolized language growth, nor can these languages be explained simply in terms of lexical substitution. This paper presents an overview of the different hypotheses which have been advanced to account for their origin and classification.
Business session.
The Absence of the Copula in Black English: An Alternative Plausible Account. SALIKOKO

ADS AT NCTE
November 19, 1988
St. Louis, Cervantes Convention Center
12:30–1:45 p.m. Saturday: ADS-sponsored session C.4 at the 1988 Annual Convention of the National Council of Teachers of English.
Chair: DONALD M. LANCE, Univ. of Missouri, Columbia.
Associate Chair: HAROLD L. LUTENBACHER, Univ. of Missouri, Columbia.
Recorder: Jo ANN Vogt, Univ. of Missouri, Columbia.

Program:
“Floating with Huck and Jim: Taking Note of the Dialects in Huckleberry Finn” LINDA MORROW, Univ. of Missouri, Columbia.
“An Inquiry into the Validity of Linguistic and Nonlinguistic Criteria for Distinguishing American Dialects (Using Appalachian Informants).” JAY ROBERT REESE, East Tennessee State Univ.
MUFWENE, Univ. of Georgia. — Mufwene 1983 criticizes Labovian studies for adopting by fiat the deletion account of the absence of the copula in Black English and not weighing the advantages of the alternative insertion account of its presence. But Mufwene’s and Labov’s studies assume gratuitously that grammars are monolithic. This paper rejects the latter assumption and argues that the distribution of the copula can be explained more straightforwardly if its speakers are assumed to alternate (subject to some constraints) the following rules: 1) S→NP VP (of white English), which requires a copula before non-verbal predicates in order to form a VP; 2) S→PredP (creole-like), which requires no copula before some non-verbal predicates.


Meeting preregistration is $30, registration at the convention $35. Membership in SCMLA is $15, regular, $5 student. Write SCMLA Executive Director Richard D. Critchfield, Dept. of English, Texas A&M Univ., College Station TX 77843-4238; phone (409) 845-7041.


MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING in association with MMLA, Nov. 3-5; St. Louis, Marriott’s Pavilion Hotel.

1:00-4:15 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 3, Hawthorne 4.

Program:
“Swearing as a Function of Gender in the Language of Midwestern American College Students: Who Does It More, What Do They Say, When and Where Do They Do It, and Why Do They Do It?” THOMAS E. MURRAY, Kansas State Univ. — I will discuss data gathered over the past five years through both ethnographic means as well as mail and personal surveys. Some of the questions addressed include the following: do males or females tend to favor one particular kind of swearing over the others—as, for example, obscenity (the body parts and their various functions), profanity (the desecration of something sacred), or gaucherie (indelicacy in a particular context)? Does medium (e.g. writing or speaking) affect how much males and females swear? What kinds of contexts are most likely to elicit swearing from males and females? And finally, do male and female swearing fulfill different purposes? Some attention will also necessarily be given to other independent variables such as socioeconomic class and race.

“Verb Forms in the Middle West: Evidence from LANCS and LAUM.” VIRGINIA G. McDAVID, Chicago State Univ. and MICHAEL D. LINN, Univ. of Minnesota, Duluth.

“‘Kentuck’ English in the Cutover Region of Northern Wisconsin.” DONALD LARMOUTH and MARJORIE REMSING, Univ. of Wisconsin, Green Bay. — Migrants from eastern Kentucky settled the “cutover region” in northern Wisconsin around the turn of the century. A number of eastern Kentucky features persist there in casual speech even to the present day. Comparison of present phonological and lexical features in the casual speech of the region with features recorded in the Linguistic Atlas of the North Central States in eastern Kentucky demonstrates that there is a significant level of similarity, not only in particular details, but also in the clusters of features that appear in the two areas. At the same time, comparison with LANCS records elsewhere in Wisconsin shows that there are also significant similarities to features recorded in southwestern Wisconsin, a region also settled by South Midland speakers working their way up the Mississippi. This comparison also shows that some putatively South Midland features were actually more widely distributed in Wisconsin in 1940, which has helped to identify those features which actually reflect the settlement history of the Kentucks in the cutover region.

“An Electronic Linguistic Atlas of Wisconsin.” CRAIG CARVER, DARE.

“Arthur the Rat in Ohio: Phonological Boundaries from DARE.” BETH SIMON, DARE.


Meeting co-chairs: Timothy C. Frazer and Eugene Snouffer, Dept. of English, Western Illinois Univ., Macomb IL 61455. ADS Regional Secretary: Donald W. Larmouth, Communication Processes,
Univ. of Wisconsin-Green Bay, 2420 Nicolet Drive, Green Bay WI 54301-7001.

Preregistration is $20 ($7 students and unemployed); on-site registration is $25 ($10 student). Membership in MMLA is $15 full and associate professors, $12 other faculty, $8 students. Write MMLA, 423 English/Philosophy Bldg., Univ. of Iowa, Iowa City IA 52242-1408; phone (319) 335-0331.


South Atlantic Regional Meeting in association with SAMLA, Nov. 11-13; Washington Hilton Hotel.

Topic: “Perceptions of Dialect.” Papers:
“Regional Speech and Occupational Classification: Linguistic Attitudes in ‘Middletown.’” Lawrence M. Davis and Charles L. Houck, Ball State Univ.

“Perceptions of the Louisiana Acadian Dialect.” Catherine Bodin, Mt. St. Mary’s Coll.

“Dialect, Dialect Area, and Social Dialect.” Michael I. Miller, Chicago State Univ.


Meeting chair, William A. Kretzschmar, Jr., English Dept., Univ. of Georgia, Athens GA 30602. Secretary: Kathryn Riley, Univ. of Tennessee.

Membership in SAMLA is $12 regular, $5 student. Write SAMLA, 120 Dey Hall, CB# 3530, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill NC 27599-3530; phone (919) 962-7165.

COMING IN FUTURE ISSUES OF AMERICAN SPEECH

Fall 1988

(To be mailed in December 1988)

“The Habitual Category in Guyanese and Jamaican Creoles,” Kean Gibson; “Postvocalic /r/ as an Index of Integration into the BEV Speech Community,” John Myhill; “Case Assignment and the Ordering of Constituents in Coordinate Constructions,” Frank Parker, Kathryn Riley and Charles Meyer; “Like Is, Like, Focus,” Robert Underhill; “Reconsidering the Semantics of a- Prefixing,” Walt Wolfram; “Among the New Words,” John and Adele Algeo.

Reviews of Michael B. Montgomery and Guy Bailey, eds., Language Variety in the South; Thomas M. Paikeday, The Native Speaker; Sol Steinmetz, Yiddish and English: A Century of Yiddish in America; Walter Redfern, Puns.

Miscellany.

Winter 1988

(To be mailed in January 1989)


Reviews of Timothy Frazer, Midland Illinois Dialect Patterns; Wolfgang Viereck and Wolf-Dietrich Bald, English in Contact with Other Languages: Essays in Honor of Broder Carstensen; William and
ADS LEADS ACLS . . .

Well, the headline is misleading, but it does convey a sense of the news—the American Dialect Society has assumed some leadership in the 45-member American Council of Learned Societies to which we belong.

And what, you ask, is the ACLS? One of the better-kept secrets in academia, because no individual belongs to it. The ACLS is a consortium of learned societies in the humanities (and social sciences, but with a humanities emphasis). In it the ADS consorts with societies like MLA, LSA, the American Folklore Society, the American Studies Association, the Organization of American Historians, and the American Psychological Association. ACLS has an office of its own in New York City, where it bags big bucks for good humanists.

Just how do we of the ADS consort? Well, for example, by participating in the travel-grant program for meetings abroad. You’ll recall that ACLS funds were available (on a competitive basis) for travel to the Methods VI conference in Wales, and the same program will be available for Methods VII in Bamberg in 1990. (Watch these pages for announcements.)

We also consort by moving in the higher spheres of the ACLS itself, cheek by jowl with movers and shakers in the humanities, foundations, and government. Every April the panjandrums of humanistic scholarship and largesse gather (generally in New York or Washington, depending on which way the political and financial winds blow) for the ACLS Annual Meeting. Our Delegate is one of the 45 who cast votes there (one society, one vote) at the annual business session. But the Delegate and our Executive Secretary also participate during this occasion in setting the national agenda for the humanities.

Which gets us to the ADS’ new leadership role. Our Delegate, Past ADS President Tom Clark, was elected this spring to the six-member Executive Committee of the Delegates. And this committee, he reports,

“had its fall meeting on September 23 at the New York headquarters of ACLS. The topics for discussion included the theme of the spring meeting of the delegates (in conjunction with the meeting of executive secretaries). The overall theme for that meeting will be The Humanities and Education. Four invited speakers will address:

“1. The history of the relationship between humanities and education.

“2. The relationship of member societies to teacher organizations (such as NCTE).

“3. The relationship of the humanities to pre-college education.

“4. The relationship of the humanities to higher education pedagogy as opposed to research . . .

“Members of the executive committee sit around and make suggestions for speakers for the various topics. We need to identify speakers and area skills from the membership of our society so that I can get more of our members invited to be speakers at these things.”

So if you have a suggestion for speakers for ACLS functions—usually on an aspect of the relationship among the humanities and between the humanities and “out there”—get in touch with Clark at the English Department, University of Nevada, 4505 Mary­land Parkway, Las Vegas NV 89154.

The next ACLS Annual Meeting will be April 6 and 7 in Arlington, Virginia. Although sessions are not open to the general public, any ADS member who would like to hear the discussion on the topics Clark mentioned can write the Executive Secretary, who will see about arranging admission.

There’s even more. While the Delegates meet once a year in solemn assembly, joined by the hardworking secretaries, the latter also meet less solemnly on their own, in their role as Meeting Planners enjoying the hospitality of a different city every November. This year the Delegates are sending a delegate of their own as liaison to the secretaries’ meeting in Atlanta, and guess who it is—none other than the honorable Thomas L. Clark of the American Dialect Society.

If you’d like to keep up with ACLS doings, just ask Clark or Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf. More conveniently, you can get on the mailing list for the free ACLS newsletter. Just write ACLS, 228 East 45th St., New York, NY 10017-3398, and say the American Dialect Society sent you. Mention our name in Sheboygan . . .
Yes, the ADS will be a hundred years old in a few months. (You can read about it in the first volume of our first journal Dialect Notes, which survived for exactly the first half of our century.)

And yes, while we’ve had an extremely energetic Centennial Chair, Mary Ritchie Key, and a proliferation of centennial committees, we don’t have a whole lot to show for it—yet. Well, that’s all right. Most of us are keeping busy with our work, which is what matters professionally in the long run anyhow. But any time an ADS member or ménage wants to make merry for a moment in 1989, it will be a patriotic act. Whenever you’re gathered with another ADS member or two, please force yourself to celebrate. (And for the Newsletter record, send a postcard about the celebration to the Executive Secretary.)

Now then. Where do we stand since our last report (in the January NADS, pages 8-9)?

The biggest news is the new initiative of the English in the Americas committee chaired by Garland Cannon of Texas A&M. He proposes:

“. . . possible regional commemorations, additional to programs at regional/national meetings of LSA, MLA, CCC, NCTE, etc. The papers might be statements of advanced research worthy of publication, and the host might be more than one institution in the area.

“The organization might be kept simple, with no registration fee, elaborate parties or correspondence, and little or no departmental expense. One person at the given institution could arrange matters with his/her university and neighboring institutions. If one paper seems particularly good and appealing, it might be repeated as a single lecture at nearby schools . . . ”

“. . . modest travel expenses might be given to a senior scholar who might participate, with perhaps the selfless organizer providing a bedroom so as to make the trip costfree to the visitor.

“I would suggest extensive preparations with the local media, which are always very interested in language. Thus my Historical Change and English Word-Formation (1987) has stimulated stories in about 50 newspapers, with a general story issued by AP that supposedly went abroad as well. Radio talk shows and TV interviews are other means of advancing interest in linguistics and bringing attention to the host institutions. University public information offices are often eager to assist.

“This putative simple program could do much to raise popular interest in our discipline, society, and institution, while advancing knowledge that might culminate in a centennial collection.”

A modest amount of ADS money could indeed be made available from our general fund or from special centennial gifts. Inquiries and requests for such funds should go to the Executive Secretary before the Annual Meeting this December, so the Executive Council can give its consideration and approval.

In response to Cannon’s proposal, suggestions have been made for sessions in the San Francisco Bay Area, Houston, and Chicago. The Bay Area meeting would be at the University of California, Davis, in connection with a preliminary meeting to prepare for the August 1989 convention in Kiel, Germany that will revise the International Phonetic Alphabet. Planners for that meeting include Arthur Bronstein, 975 Underhills Road, Oakland CA 94610 and Caroline G. Henton, Linguistics, Univ. of California, Davis CA 95616.

In Chicago, Michael Miller and Richard Spears are thinking of a meeting at the Northwestern University Library for October 1989. Write Michael I. Miller, English Dept., Chicago State Univ., 95th St. at King Drive, Chicago, IL 60628-1598.

The January Newsletter will tell more. Jump in with a proposal so there will be more to tell! Get in touch with Garland Cannon, English Department, Texas A&M Univ., College Station TX 77843-4227; or with Centennial Committee Chair Mary Ritchie Key, Program in Linguistics, Univ. of California, Irvine CA 92717.

RAISING CASH TO RAISE CAIN

No, we’ve got to avoid these National Enquirer headlines! But now that we have your attention—Centennial Finance Committee Chair Tom Creswell asks that you please consider an extra donation to ADS for our centennial celebrations and (if some is left over) to enhance the endowment for our second century. A space on the 1989 dues notice is provided to indicate your contribution, or just send it directly to the Executive Secretary, who will gratefully acknowledge all gifts on these pages.
The American Dialect Society lost a distinguished member and staunch supporter when Harold B. Allen died at the age of 85 on July 27. Harold had been a member of ADS since 1938 and had attended 28 annual meetings in addition to serving four terms on the executive committee and four terms on the advisory committee of *American Speech*. In addition he was twice president of the society and had received the Distinguished Scholar Award. While president he was able to achieve one of his long-held ambitions when, along with Hood Roberts, he was able to persuade the Columbia University Press to transfer its sponsorship of *American Speech* to the American Dialect Society.

In addition to his work in ADS, Harold was an active leader in other organizations. Most notably, he was vice president and president of the National Council of Teachers of English and chair of the Conference on College Composition and Communication. He was also a co-founder and president of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages.

Although Harold retired from the University of Minnesota in 1972, he was an active scholar until the end. His first article was published in *American Speech* in 1928, and he has two coming out in the same journal next spring. In between he edited or authored more than 19 books and more than 200 articles. The best known of his works was the three-volume *Linguistic Atlas of the Upper Midwest*, for which he received the David Russell Award for distinguished research.

In his long and distinguished career, Harold has influenced us by his research, his sage advice, and especially by his friendship. He will be sorely missed.

—Michael D. Linn

**NEW BOOKS BY ADS MEMBERS**

Edward Finegan and Niko Besnier. *Language: Its Structure and Use*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1989 (available now). An introductory linguistics text with a thorough treatment not only of structure but of use. The chapter on dialects has DARE maps as well as maps from American atlas projects. There are also chapters on registers, the historical development of English, and language standards and language attitudes.


For a free copy of the NEH Overview of Endowment Programs, write: NEH Overview, Rm. 406, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington DC 20506.
USE OR COPY THIS FORM to reserve a room in the headquarters hotel for the ADS Annual Meeting, or telephone the number given below. To the special ADS room rate of $59 will be added 11% tax and $1 per night occupancy tax. Reserve now—space is limited. (And please note the December 6 cutoff date; after that, reservations will be made on a space available basis only.) Any major credit card is accepted, not just American Express.

Please also make Annual Luncheon reservations in advance. See pages 3-8 for the complete Annual Meeting program.

AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY
December 27 - 30, 1988

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