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NADS is sent in January, May and September to all ADS members. Send ADS dues ($35 per year), queries and news to editor and executive secretary Allan Metcalf, English Department, MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois 62650, phone (217) 479-7117 or (217) 243-3403, e-mail AAllan@aol.com.

ADS Web site: http://www.dfjp.com/ads/index.htm (Grant Barrett, webmaster)

ADS-L discussion list: To join, send to Listserv@uga.cc.uga.edu the message:
Sub ADS-L Your Name
CALL FOR PAPERS

Methods X in Newfoundland, August 1999

Nov. 20 is the deadline for proposals for the Tenth International Conference on Methods in Dialectology (Methods X) to be held August 1-6, 1999 at Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John’s, Newfoundland, Canada.

This conference, which has met previously in Canada, Wales, and Germany, originally dealt with issues of methodology and analysis, but its scope has broadened to include all topics relating to socially-, regionally-, and areally-based variation, in any language or language family.

A special focus of the 1999 conference will be “Historical connections: Transported varieties and their origins.” This involves the investigation of relationships between extraterritorial varieties (and putative varieties) of English (e.g. Southern American English, AAVE, Caribbean English, Newfoundland English) and regional sources in Britain and Ireland. Sessions and workshops on individual overseas varieties are particularly encouraged, for English as well as other languages.

Memorial University is located in an area of the English-speaking world that has preserved strong cultural and linguistic ties with southwest England and southern Ireland, and the setting offers a unique opportunity to observe some of the more conservative of the 20th century transplanted varieties of English. In addition, the university’s Folklore and Language Archive (MUNFLA) contains an extensive taped collection of local languages and dialects, with particular emphasis on regional English.

Abstracts are invited in all aspects of language variation and regional dialectology, both synchronic and diachronic, for presentations that are 20 minutes long, followed by 10 minutes of discussion. The abstract deadline is Nov. 20, with notification of acceptance in January 1999. Abstracts will be refereed anonymously.

Abstracts should be no longer than 400 words, including bibliography. They may be submitted in either hard copy or, preferably, by e-mail. If a paper version is submitted, three copies of the abstract should be provided. Each copy should include only the paper title and the abstract text; a separate page should contain the author’s name, address, affiliation, e-mail address, fax and phone numbers, along with the title of the paper and any requirements for special equipment. Authors submitting a hard copy should also include a diskette containing the abstract text. Authors using e-mail should submit the abstract as an ASCII text file, which also includes, separately, all of the above information.

Send e-mail abstracts to: methodsx@mun.ca. Send hard copy abstracts to Methods X Organizing Committee, Linguistics Department, Memorial University, St. John’s, NF A1B 3X9, Canada; fax (709) 737-4000 (Attn: Linguistics Department). For further information see the website at www.ucs.mun.ca/~methodsx.

Anyone interested in organizing a special session or workshop should contact the organizers at the above address. Proposals for sessions that relate to the conference focus, or that involve innovative methodology in the treatment of language/dialect variation (e.g. computational procedures and applications), are particularly welcome, although topics are by no means restricted to these areas.

Information will be posted on our website as it becomes available. If you did not receive the initial call for papers via e-mail and would like to be added to our e-mail list, please let us know.

We look forward to seeing you in Newfoundland in the summer of 1999, and will endeavour to ensure that the conference will stand out not only with respect to its quality, but also, in the tradition of previous Methods conferences, its conviviality.

2/NADS 30.3 September 1998
Annual Meeting 1999: Los Angeles, January 8–9

Remarkable developments are taking place in American English, and remarkable new methods are being developed to study them. Happily, these developments and methods are reflected in the remarkable program for our last Annual Meeting of the 1900s.

Our host, once again, is the Linguistic Society of America. The venue is the Westin Bonaventure, 404 S. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles 90071-1710. Rooms are $80 single or double, plus 14 percent tax. For reservations call (800) 228-3000 or (213) 624-1000, or fax (213) 612-4797—and mention LSA. To get the special rate, you must make reservations by Dec. 16.

LSA registration: As guests of LSA, we are expected to register with them, at their members’ rate. In return, we get the Meeting Handbook and admission to all LSA meetings. Until Dec. 7, preregistration is available at $50, students $20. On-site registration is $60, students $25. Send check to LSA Secretariat–Annual Meeting, 1325 18th St. NW Suite 211, Washington DC 20036-6501, phone (202) 835-1714, fax (202) 835-1717, e-mail lsa@lsadc.org.

For further information on LSA and the meeting, go to the LSA website at www.lsadc.org.

ADS registration: Additional and entirely optional, but those who attend ADS sessions are encouraged to register with ADS for $20, students $10. This enrolls you among the ADS Immortals, helps defray the cost of the refreshments for which our meetings are noted, and earns you a distinctive decoration for your LSA badge.

Annual luncheon: 1:15 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8. Walt Wolfram, ADS President, will speak on “The Reconfiguration of American Dialects in the 21st Century.” Cost is $30 inclusive. LSA friends are welcome. Make reservations with ADS Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf, or use the form enclosed with this newsletter.

Words of the Year and the Century: Send nominations to New Words Committee Chair Wayne Glowka, Dept. of English and Speech, Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville GA 31061, wglowka@mail.gac.peachnet.edu; or to David Barnhart, PO Box 2018, Hyde Park NY 12538, e-mail Barnhart@highlands.com. Then come to the nominating session and the final vote Jan. 8.

We will also begin discussion of candidates for Word of the 20th Century, with the final vote in January 2000. If you wonder where to start, you will find 99 nominees, one for each year, in Barnhart and Metcalf’s book *America in So Many Words* (Houghton Mifflin, 1997).

Bring your latest book to the B.Y.O.B. exhibit and reception after the New Words vote. Sponsored by Duke University Press in celebration of the new affiliation for our journals.

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ADS ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, January 8: Council, New Words Nominations, Papers

ADS Executive Council

Los Cerritos Room, Westin Bonaventure

• 8:00 a.m.: Open meeting; all members welcome. Coffee will be served. Presiding: ADS President Walt Wolfram.

The Executive Council discusses and sets policy for the Society and hears reports from officers, editors, committee chairs, and regional secretaries. To get an advance copy of the agenda in early December, write or e-mail the Executive Secretary.

Words of the Year 1998 and Word of the 20th Century

San Gabriel B, Westin Bonaventure

• 10:30–11:30 a.m.: New Words Committee. Chair: Wayne Glowka, Georgia Coll. and State Univ. Review of new words of 1998; nominations for Word of the Year. (Voting at 5:15 p.m.; see Page 6.) Leading candidates in particular categories will be identified. Also, nominations will be taken for the Word of the Century (final vote in January 2000). All members are welcome.

General Session I

San Gabriel B, Westin Bonaventure

1:00–3:00 p.m. Chair: M. Lynne Murphy, Baylor Univ.

1 • 1:00–1:30: “Come/came Variation in English: Where Did It Come From and Which Way Is It Going?” Sali Tagliamonte, Univ. of York, England.

Variation in the past tense paradigm of the verb come, as in (1), has been identified as having “the greatest degree of non-standardness” amongst verbs in some English dialects (Christian, Wolfram & Dube, 1988:106).

(1) a. When I came home that day, it was a different world.

b. Well when war come out they pulled me in.

Analyses of over 1100 tokens in a corpus of 92 male and female speakers between 15-91 years of age reveal that the factors which contribute to the variation are multidimensional. Unsurprisingly, age and sex are heavily implicated. The more striking finding is the discovery of grammatical conditioning—come is favored with singular subjects and disfavored with plural subjects. There seems to be a clear historical explanation for this patterning: come was the older preterit singular form. The fact that it is still correlated with this grammatical person suggests historical continuity. However, the results also reveal that the variation has undergone a number of specific changes over the generations in the community as well. Indeed, older and younger speakers as well as male and female speakers can be shown to follow quite different systems.

2 • 1:30–2:00: “Out of Ireland: Second-Person Pronouns in American English.” Michael Montgomery, Univ. of South Carolina.

Since the time that English lost the number distinction in second-person pronouns in the 16th century as you was extended into the singular, speakers of the language have devised a number of alternatives to compensate for this and to restore the functional differentiation maintained by first- and third-person pronouns. Innovative second-plural forms have routinely taken you as the base of a phrase and have become grammaticalized as compounds to one degree or another: you’uns/yuns (from you + ones), y’all (from you + all), yours, and you(s) guys. It is intriguing, however, that not all varieties of English have developed such new, unambiguously plural pronouns. In Survey of English Dialects: The Dictionary and Grammar (Upton et al. 1994), no forms are recorded from England. By contrast, varieties of Irish English use yours and y’uns today, and there is strong evidence that two other pronouns current in the American South (y’all and y’uns, both with roots ultimately in Scotland) were brought from Ulster by Irish emigrants to the U.S. in the 18th century.
This paper examines the variety of second-person pronouns used in the British Isles and North America today. Then it reconstructs the history of *y'all*, *you'uns*, and *yous*, explores the grammatical and semantic properties of these pronouns by using manuscript evidence from the past three centuries, and considers questions about variation between them. How could settlers from Ireland, a relatively small part of the English-speaking world, have brought *you'uns*, *y'all*, and *yous*? Were the three semantically or socially differentiated from one another in Irish English? What developments have taken place since these pronouns were brought to the United States?

3 • 2:00-2:30: "The Sociolinguistic Interview Meets the Family: Leveling the Recording Field." **Elaine Green**, North Carolina State Univ.

Despite concerns for balancing the "unequal partnership" between linguists and the speech community (Rickford 1997), many would argue that concern for "naturalness" outweighs concern for cooperation, and consequently, that the researcher cannot afford to relinquish any power to equalize the partnership. This paper argues, however, that some methods involving more proactive roles for field researchers can alter the goals of an interview while only negligibly affecting the study's objectivity. One proactive technique for interviewing uses the Family Tree Method. By adding the explicitly shared goal of producing a family tree to the traditional sociolinguistic interview (TSI), the FTM alters the community participant's orientation to the speech event, as well as the event-based roles for the participants. In order to better understand these modifications, I use Schiffrin's (1994) ethnographic analysis of the TSI to contemplate how the FTM throws light on the TSI's status as a speech event that mixes genres. In addition, I use Fairclough's (1989) critical language study model to focus on how the discord in the TSI's global coherence (as a mixed genre speech event) impacts its interpretation as participants try to place it within their repertoire of speech events.

4 • 2:30-3:00: "In Search of 'Natural' Speech: Performing the Sociolinguistic Interview." **Natalie Schilling-Estes**, Old Dominion Univ.

Sociolinguists have long been driven by a concern for obtaining "natural" or "vernacular" speech versus speech which is affected by the presence of the interviewer or other situational factors (e.g. Labov 1972). In this presentation, I demonstrate that this focus is perhaps misplaced, because all speech varieties, whether overtly performative, affectedly formal, or seemingly "natural," can be seen as "affectations" or "performances." These performances are not "unnatural" but are the natural means whereby speakers shape and reshape their personal and interpersonal identities in conversational interaction. In the current investigation, I focus on the ongoing construction of identity in a single sociolinguistic interview, conducted as part of a large-scale sociolinguistic study of the rural, tri-ethnic community of Robeson County, North Carolina. The interview is analyzed in terms of (1) usage levels of ethnic and regional variables in different portions of the interview, (2) shifting patterns of co-occurrence of variables, and (3) strategic use of variables during key moments. The analysis reveals that, even within a single interview, each interlocutor demonstrates several different types of "natural," "vernacular" speech. Further, a number of speech events, both "careful" and "casual," are clearly performative and hence resist classification according to the traditional Labovian scheme.

**General Session II**

San Gabriel B, Westin Bonaventure


5 • 3:15-3:45: "Evidence of American Dialect Leveling in the Academic Sphere." **Anne Marie Hamilton**, Univ. of Georgia.

William Kretzschmar (1997) argues that it is not the presence of features that marks Standard American English but the absence or limitation of regionally and socially marked features. In order to investigate the elusive composition of the American standard variety, I interviewed four English Department graduate assistants at the University of Georgia. The informants are four male Caucasians, natives of Boston, the Midwest, North Georgia, and South Georgia. As Freshman English teachers, they have an interest in speaking standard English. The study is a qualitative assessment of the similarities and differences between the informants' speech habits. While I expected to find that they do not speak alike, owing primarily to their different regional affiliations, the results support Kretzschmar's assertion.
Friday, January 8 (Cont): General Session, New Words, BYOB


*Slang* is an 18th-century word that crowded its way in among other words for vocabulary that was less than respectable. Eighteenth-century English, from a modern perspective, is often viewed as “classical” (or even moribund) in Britain and gripped by residual Puritanism in the United States. In fact, most speakers were free-wheeling and often bawdy; prudery was only beginning to emerge; and the doctrine of correctness had just begun to take hold. My paper will discuss, with examples, this transformation.


One can learn a lot about current trends in American slang by watching “Buffy, the Vampire Slayer,” a television series conscious, not only of vampires, ghouls, witches, and other threats to peace in Sunnydale, its fictional venue, but also of language and its uses. The show’s creator and chief writer, Joss Whedon, often publicly mentions the show’s slang, and characters discuss problems of American idiom in various episodes. As commentary on the language, and as an exercise in the pleasure of language-formation, “Buffy, the Vampire Slayer” is well ahead of any other network television show.

Even when the slang is invented, and most of the interesting items are written for the show, not borrowed from real life, it constitutes a reading of current trends in American slang and the linguistic habits of the young (and young at heart). But “Slayer slang” is likely to be influential, too: with nearly 200 websites devoted to the series (many with chat rooms), the show’s language is disseminated and developed beyond what one might at first suspect. The paper will discuss, not only the vocabulary and what it signifies about slang, but also the “net” evidence of its influence.


This paper offers overviews of the impact that macroeconomic policies and macrosocial ideologies have had on “rural” dialect speakers belonging to fishing and farming communities in North America and Europe. More specifically, this initial phase of a larger research project introduces ethnographic data from documentary films on subsistence farmers in Kentucky and fishermen in New Brunswick. The initial conclusions are further supported by a decade-long investigation into a similar community in Denmark. All of these communities are facing the end of cultural and linguistic ways of life as a direct result of external ideologies, macroeconomic quota systems, and the globalization of industries. Witnessed is the similarity of the direction and type of ideological and linguistic change across these seemingly very different communities and people. The encouraging aspect of these similar defeats of the pressures of macro-industrialization—and the ethnolinguistic ramifications thereof—is the isolation of factors that are actuators of linguistic change, hence the possibility for the development of cross-culturally applicable methods for understanding the direction of sociolinguistic change in single-industry economies. This paper will open these questions, offer initial data, and outline the directions for continued research into these pressing questions for “rural” dialect investigation.

Words of the Year 1998 and Word of the 20th Century

San Gabriel B, Westin Bonaventure

5:15–6:15 p.m. Discussion and voting on nominations for Words of the Year 1998 made in the morning (see above, Page 4). All present are invited to vote.

Also discussion of candidates for Word of the 20th Century. Voting to take place in January 2000.

Bring-Your-Own-Book Exhibit and Reception

La Cienega, Westin Bonaventure

6:15–7:30 p.m. Tables will be available to display your books and order forms. Refreshments will be served. The reception will be sponsored by Duke University Press in celebration of their publication of ADS journals starting in 1999.
Annual Business Meeting

8:00–8:45 a.m.: Election (see below); report of yesterday's Executive Council meeting; as time permits, reports of officers, editors, committee chairs, regional secretaries. Most of the business of the Society is conducted at the Executive Council meeting (8 a.m. Friday, open to all members).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee (John Baugh, chair; Lawrence Davis, William Kretzschmar) proposes for Vice President 1999 and 2000, succeeding to the presidency in 2000 and 2001: Dennis Preston, Michigan State Univ. For Executive Council member 1999 through 2002: William Kretzschmar, Univ. of Georgia. For member of the Nominating Committee 1999 and 2000: Natalie Maynor, Mississippi State Univ. Additional nominations may be made by a petition with the signature of at least ten members. It must reach the Executive Secretary by Dec. 23.

General Session III

San Gabriel B, Westin Bonaventure

8:45–11:15 a.m. Chair: Joan Hall, DARE.


Is the speech of young Southern Californians following the patterns observed elsewhere in the country? Which vowels are moving, where are they headed and who is moving them? Which consonant pronunciations strike the ear as being typically Southern Californian these days? Who seems to be on the leading edge of some of these changes? This paper will be a snapshot of the speech of this region’s youth in the 1990’s.

10 • 9:15–9:45: “A Question of Perception and Production, or What Does It Mean to Sound Like a New Yorker?” Susan L. Tamasi, Univ. of Georgia.

This study focuses on perception and production and their roles in identification through language. Specifically, this research is based on a Jewish community in Southern California (Los Angeles County) whose members, even though they are native Californians, have been described as sounding like they are from New York. This study attempts to find the reason behind this incorrect identification.

Approximately 150 University of Georgia students will be played a tape of voice samples from 12 people. Three of the people are members of the above-mentioned Jewish community; three are from the same area in California but are neither a part of the Jewish community nor perceived as being from New York. Another three are from a Jewish community on Long Island. The remaining speakers are from Atlanta, Georgia. The students will be asked to listen to each of the voices and determine which area of the country the person is from. The participants will also be asked to note which word or words led them to their conclusions.

The data will be analyzed to see which speakers are actually perceived as being from New York, and furthermore, to determine any phonetic, syntactic, lexical, or morphological patterns in their speech. Then the words which were noted will be analyzed to see what the participants believe they heard.

11 • 9:45–10:15: “Patterns of Language Variation: A Synchronic View.” Allison P. Burkette, Univ. of Georgia.

This paper describes a pervasive pattern in language variation using data from dialect geography and psycholinguistics. A pattern involving the distribution of “core” terms and “peripheral” terms is illustrated by data from the Linguistic Atlas of the Middle and South Atlantic states as well as a number of psycholinguistic experiments. The same pattern is evident in data gathered by both methods. The pattern in language variation speaks to the communicative element of language as well as to the concept of dialects themselves.
Saturday, January 9 (Cont): Morning General Sessions

12 • 10:15-10:45: “Ethnic Identity as a Factor in the Adoption of Language Change.” Matthew Gordon, Purdue Univ. Calumet.

This paper examines the extent to which members of different ethnic/racial groups vary in their adoption of a current language change, the Northern Cities Shift (NCS). The NCS is a pattern of sound change that is active across the Northern dialect region and involves variation in as many as six vowels. Previous work on the NCS has been focused on the speech of White speakers as researchers have tended to assume that other speakers do not participate in the changes. In fact, the shift has been mentioned by Labov and others in support of claims for the divergence of African-American and White vernacular speech. To my knowledge, however, no empirical evidence exists to support (or refute) the claim that the NCS is found only in the speech of Whites. The present study seeks to fill some of this gap in the NCS research by investigating the status of the changes in the speech of members of three ethnic/racial groups: African-Americans, Latinos, and Whites.

This paper examines the speech of adolescents from Hammond, Indiana (located just outside Chicago), sampling 10 members of each of three ethnic/racial groups, with equal numbers of male and female participants. Auditory coding is used to assess speaker participation in the NCS changes, and patterns of variation in the data are examined through quantitative analysis. The results will be discussed in terms of their implications for our understanding of the NCS (especially of its social meaning and diffusion) and for the broader questions of the divergence of vernacular speech along racial/ethnic lines.

13 • 10:45-11:15: “Regional Variation and Local Identity in Puerto Rico.” Elizabeth Dayton, Univ. of Puerto Rico.

According to Tomas Navarro (1966), his research objective in 1928, when he collected his data, was to counter the view that Spanish in Puerto Rico, a commonwealth of the United States since 1898, was a uniform linguistic entity. Within a framework for linguistic geography, he set out to examine Spanish in different places around the island. He observed variation in the use of several phonetic, grammatical, and lexical features, and, on the basis of geographical distribution, he reported that the island could be divided into four major linguistic areas, northeast, northwest, southeast, and southwest, and several smaller subregions. The north was separated from the south by a mountain range; the east and the west each contained longstanding centers of population and influence, San Juan and San German.

To address the question of whether or not there is evidence today for the linguistic areas proposed by Navarro, I focused on lexical variation and developed a rapid, anonymous questionnaire with 26 items. The questionnaire was completed by 1260 subjects between the ages of 17-21, most of whom were college students, with roughly equal numbers of males and females. Despite the seventy years between Navarro’s study and this study, the influence of English, and the differences between Navarro’s subjects and these subjects, this paper presents evidence for the linguistic areas and subregions proposed by Navarro and unique combinations of lexical variants. It focuses on local identity (cf. Labov, 1963) and settlement history as reasons for the maintenance of these areas.

General Session IV

San Gabriel B, Westin Bonaventure
11:30 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

14 • 11:30-12:00: “Rule Loss and Contact-Induced Rule Substitution in Amish High German.” Silke Van Ness, University at Albany, SUNY.

Of the languages in use among the Amish—Pennsylvania German, American English, and Amish High German—the latter has received by far the least attention. The paper follows up some aspects touched upon in earlier studies. Among the Old Orders of the Amish spectrum (most conservative) the standard variety of German, generally called Amish High German, has prototypically survived as a corpus of texts sanctified by tradition and recited in unmodified form (with phonic interference from Pennsylvania German and American English as well as spelling pronunciation) mostly in religious registers. In that function it has lost the design feature of productivity and can be considered as a fossilized or classicised variety (William Stewart), a hagiolect. In this capacity it can be compared to the use of Latin in the Roman Catholic church.
Saturday, January 9 (Cont): General Session and Luncheon

Whenever attempts are made at using it productively, two processes make themselves felt: a) the loss of old rules, often to the extent that the texts become hardly understandable, and b) the emergence of new rules, mostly borrowed forms of either of the two productive varieties. Examples are taken from printed materials, some of which serve the teaching of AHG in Amish Parochial schools. The emergent new rules thus assume the status of a new standard norm offered as a model for the students. In conclusion the paper discusses the chances a) of the survival of AHG as a linguistically unproductive hagiolect among the Old Orders as well as b) of resurrecting AHG as a productive variety.

15 • 12:00-12:30: “An Endangered Indigenous Language on a Pacific Island: English.”
Daniel Long, Osaka Shoin Women’s College.

Linguists who are even the least bit familiar with Japan have often heard of the Okinawan, Ainu, and Korean linguistic minorities in Japan. Few people are aware, however, of a small population of English-speaking Japanese citizens on the remote Bonin Islands which lie between the Marianas and Japan. These islands were completely uninhabited until a group of Europeans and Pacific Islanders settled there in 1830. By the mid 19th century, the island’s tiny population consisted of speakers of English, German, Danish, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, French, Chamorro, Hawaiian, Kiribati, Ponapean, Tahitian, North Marquesan, Chinese, and a Philippine language. They are reported to have used “English” as the common language of communication, though there is little doubt this was a contact variety of the language. In 1876, Japan claimed the islands, sent droves of Japanese settlers and established schools. Thus began a period of diglossia in which the “Western” islanders used English in private and Japanese in public situations. In 1946, the United States Navy seized control of the islands, allowing only that small portion of islanders who claimed “Western” ancestry to live there. During this time, the island children attended the Navy school, and most adults were employed as Navy workers, thus initiating a period of diglossia in which Japanese was the language used inside the home and English the language used in public. With the end of Navy occupation in 1968, and the return of hundreds of displaced Japanese islanders, the “Western” islanders again found themselves a minority. Increasing Japanese monolingualism in the subsequent three decades of Japanese administration has driven this indigenous island language (English) to the verge of extinction.

16 • 12:30-1:00: “Sociolinguistic Variation in American Sign Language: The ‘1’-handshape Variable.” Mary Rose, Stanford Univ.; Ceil Lucas, Gallaudet Univ., and Robert Bayley, Univ. of Texas-San Antonio.

In American Sign Language (ASL), signs produced with a 1-handshape (index finger extended, other fingers and thumb closed) offer clear examples of phonological variation. Variation can include thumb extension, and extension or relaxation of any combination of the four fingers. This paper presents a quantitative analysis of 1-handshape variation by 208 signers residing in seven states. The approximately 5,400 tokens examined include data from African American and White women and men of varied socioeconomic strata who range in age from 15 to 80. Results of multivariate analysis using VARBRUL show that 1-handshape variation is a classic sociolinguistic variable, conditioned by linguistic and social factors, including the sign's grammatical category; its preceding and following phonological environments; and the signer's ethnicity, social class, region, and language background. In assessing the influence of assimilation on patterns of variation, we pay particular attention to the effects of the preceding and following phonological environments. We consider two analyses of these constraints: (1) a multifactorial analysis, in which the phonological environments were coded as whole handshapes, creating multiple factors in a single factor group; (2) an analysis by separate binary features, in which features of the thumb, index finger, and remaining fingers were treated as discrete, binary factor groups. Finally, we discuss the strong contributions of the grammatical category of the sign to the observed variation, in which lexical signs favor the citation form but pronouns favor handshapes other than 1.

Annual Luncheon

Location to be announced. Write the Executive Secretary for information on place and menu.

1:15-2:30 p.m. Speaker: Walt Wolfram, North Carolina State Univ., ADS President. “On the Reconfiguration of American Dialects in the 21st Century.” Price $30 inclusive; all are welcome. Make advance reservations with the ADS Executive Secretary.

Echoing the received wisdom of our profession, Victoria Fromkin and Robert Rodman (An Introduction to Language, 6th ed.) write, “One dialect is neither better nor worse than another, nor purer nor more corrupt; it is simply different” (409). This truism is of course correct in the sense that no dialect is “more logical, more complex, nor more regular than any other language or dialect. . . . [value judgments] are social judgments . . .” (ibid.). Even so, as usually presented, the prescriptivism/descriptivism dichotomy is problematical in at least three significant ways. First, by framing the argument (as we generally do) in terms of “better” vs. “worse,” linguists inadvertently obscure the very social and aesthetic reality of prescriptivist judgments: to the layman, nonstandard English is definitely “worse” precisely because of the social stigma attached to it, and our failure to highlight the social reality in itself appears to be a dereliction of our ostentatiously announced “descriptivist” goals. Second is the Romantic danger that, by focusing as we do—intensely on demotic speech—linguists risk implying (and in many cases believing ourselves) that demotic speech is in fact somehow superior to prestigious speech (e.g., the preference for anaphoric plural pronouns instead of singular masculine ones; the praise that gets heaped upon double negatives as a “natural” phenomenon). Third is the fact that we linguists ourselves cannot avoid a prescriptive agenda of our own (usually manifesting itself in lexicography and usage), often referred to as the problem of “political correctness.”


This paper explores the ideological implications (here “ideology” means “lived relations” [see Althusser 1971 and Eagleton 1991]) of employing a stylistically neutral narrator to transmit socially or regionally marked speech instead of allowing dialectal utterances to stand by themselves. I assert that where a neutral frame narrator is present, the reader is constantly being given a message about the embedded dialect speaker something like that formulated by Krapp (1925) in his discussion of eye dialect: We (dear reader, you and I) are not the same as this poor/black/partially literate figure. By contrast, when the “other” is simply allowed to speak for himself, the reader is hailed only by (and can only identify with) the nonstandard speaker. I use examples from the work of Mark Twain, Carolyn Chute, etc. My argument grows out of a set of assertions articulated by M. M. Bakhtin (Moscow 1979/Austin 1986) and not taken into account by other scholars in the field of literary dialect (e.g. North 1994, Shepherd 1990, Nettels 1988, Sabin 1987, Dillard 1973, Williamson 1971): that extremely intimate styles and objectively neutral styles presuppose a relationship between addressee and speaker in which their viewpoints are united and their identities nearly merged.

19 • 3:45-4:15: “Nonstandard /j-/ and /w-/ in the British Isles and Beyond.” Bernhard Diensberg, Univ. of Bayreuth.

In the dialects of England, the glides /j-/ (palatal) and /w-/ (velar) occur initially, preceded or not by a consonant, e.g. jed for head, jear for ear, wuts for oats, wole for whole and bjek for bake, kwol for coal, bwoi for boy. These and other examples will be illustrated by a selection of phonological maps. The historical background of these phonemes, based on the treatises of Early Modern English grammarians, will be examined together with some hypotheses which try to account for the origin of /j-/ and /w-/ in nonstandard English. As was to be expected, both nonstandard /j-/ and /w-/ made their way to the New World. Jamaican English is one of the overseas varieties which, among other peculiarities, shows kyat for cat and bwail for boil.

ADS Author Honored

In October, Richard W. Bailey’s Nineteenth-Century English will be awarded the University of Michigan Press Book Award for the best book by a University of Michigan faculty member published by the press. Nineteenth-Century English was published two years ago; the press waits to review the reviews before making its award.
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NEW BOOKS BY ADS MEMBERS

Canada and Prince Edward Island, Sin and American English

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


T.K. Pratt and Scott Burke, editors. Prince Edward Island Sayings. Univ. of Toronto Press, 1998. Cdn $29.95. A companion volume to Pratt’s Dictionary of Prince Edward Island English. ADS members were contributors through answers to queries on ADS-L.


National Arts Month
October

National Arts Month
October

NADS 30.3 September 1998/21
REGIONAL MEETINGS, FALL 1998

Rocky Mountain Region

In association with RMMLA, Oct. 8–10; Salt Lake City, Doubletree Hotel, 255 South West Temple.

Session 301, 1:30–3:00 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, Meeting Suite 324.

1. “Cross-Cultural Dialects and Perception in Oklahoma, West Texas, and New Mexico.”
   Mary Morzinski, Univ. of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and Jodey Bateman.

Silver City, New Mexico, has a Hispanic population of approximately 40 percent while that in surrounding communities may be as high as 70 percent. Since 1980 a large number of middle-aged counter-cultural people have moved to Silver City with their children. Probably as a cultural defense against outsiders, there has been a small revival of the use of Spanish among younger Hispanics, and the Anglo and Hispanic cultures have resisted integration. Because of this separation, while various linguistic changes which Labov mentions in TELSUR are active in the Silver City area, they spread at different rates among Anglos and Hispanics.


We analyze phonetically significant phenomena in the speech of a Non-Standard Southern English speaker, a 22-year-old Caucasian female born and raised outside of Memphis, Tennessee. We hypothesize that diphthongs in Standard American English are pure vowels for the subject and vice versa. We also hypothesize that the subject exhibits bursts of significantly shorter duration than those of SAE. Waveforms, spectrograms, and spectra were used to examine each hypothesis.

Chair: Simonie Hodges, Georgetown Univ. ADS Regional Secretary 1998–99: Mary E. Morzinski.


Midwest Region

In association with MMLA, Nov. 5–7; St. Louis, Regal Riverfront Hotel.

Session 119, 8:30–10:00 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, Jefferson D.

1. “Historical Evidence of Social Structure and Standard-dialect Contact.” Bruce Spencer, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Studies employing social network theory (see L. Milroy 1987 and J. Milroy 1992) have illustrated that the social structure of individual communities is indicative of receptiveness to incoming linguistic features, particularly standard language features; weak-ties indicate receptiveness, whereas strong-ties indicate resistance to standardizing pressures. I will illustrate this point with evidence from 16th and 17th century Northern Germany; political, economic and cultural factors are generally viewed as motivating the decline of Northern varieties and the selection of East Middle German as the basis for standardization (see Gabrielsson 1983). However, historical evidence also indicates weakening of social networks in Northern Germany and thus increased susceptibility to incoming features and standardization.


The little-known linguistic term *ebonics* moved into the public domain as a result of the media attention given to a resolution drafted by the school board of the Oakland, California, Unified School District in December 1996. This study looks at continued usage of the term by the media. It further addresses the question of whether the term will continue to be used based on responses to the word by college freshmen and fifth graders in a small midwestern town.

Discussant: Greg Pulliam, Illinois Inst. of Technology.

Chair: Anna Fellegy, Dept. of English, 207 Lind Hall, Univ. of Minnesota, 207 Church St. SE, Minneapolis MN 55455-0134; felle001@maroon.tc.umn.edu.

(Continued on next page)
MEETINGS

Midwest Meeting and Others (Continued)

ADS Regional Secretary 1997–98: Beth Lee Simon, CM 109, Dept. of English and Linguistics, IPFW, Fort Wayne, IN 46805; phone (219) 424-8834; e-mail simon@cvax.ipfw.indiana.edu.

Registration by Oct. 29 is $40 (includes 18 papers), students $20 (no papers); on-site $5 additional. Membership in MMLA is $25 full and associate professors, $20 other faculty, $15 students. Write MMLA, 302 English-Philosophy Bldg., Univ. of Iowa, Iowa City IA 52242-1408; phone (319) 335-0331; fax (319) 335-3123; e-mail mmla@uiowa.edu.

Future meetings: 1999 Nov. 4–6 Minneapolis, Marriott City Center; 2000 Nov. 2–4 Kansas City, Missouri, Hyatt Regency Crown Center; 2001 Nov. 1–3 Cleveland, Sheraton City Centre Hotel.

South Atlantic Regional Meeting

In association with SAMLA, Nov. 5–7; Atlanta, Hyatt Regency.

ADS session 3:00–4:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, Piedmont Room.

1. “Syntactic Features of Gullah and Southern English.” Bettie Sommers, Univ. of Central Florida.


4. “Two Views of One Place: The Dialect of Putnam County, Georgia, in the Hands of Joel Chandler Harris and Alice Walker.” Ellen Johnson, Western Kentucky Univ.

Chair: Mary Brown Zeigler, English Dept., Georgia State Univ., Peachtree Plaza, Atlanta GA 30303; phone (404) 651-2900; fax (404) 651-1710; e-mail engmez@gsu.edu.

ADS Regional Secretary 1997–98: Michael Picone, Dept. of Romance Languages and Classics, Univ. of Alabama, Box 870246, Tuscaloosa AL 35406-0246; e-mail mpicone@ua1vm.ua.edu.

Nominating Committee: Crawford Feagin, Chair; Connie Eble, Peter Patrick.

Registration is $45 in advance, $25 students; $5 extra on site. Write SAMLA, Georgia State Univ., University Plaza, Atlanta GA 30303-3083; phone (404) 651-2693; fax (404) 651-2858; e-mail engmlh@gsusgi2.gsu.edu; www.gsu.edu/~engllm/samla.htm.

Future meetings: 1999 Nov. 11–13 Atlanta, Hyatt Regency; 2000 Chattanooga.

South Central Region

In association with SCMLA, Nov. 12–14; New Orleans, Radisson.

ADS session 5:45–7:15 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, Audubon B.

1. “English Register Shift in an Academic Lecture Format: The Case of a Graduate Course in International Political Environments.” John Staczk, Thunderbird Graduate School of International Management.

This paper reports on the use of English by three professors in a graduate course in international business. One is an L1 speaker of English, another an L2 speaker of English whose L1 is Arabic, and the other an L2 speaker of English whose L1 is Hindi. Their shift of register throughout an intensive series of lectures to L1 and L2 English-speaking students represents a personal accommodation to language use that facilitates and interferes with comprehension. Samples of idiomatic and specific purposes usage included: you bet, you betcha, sure, sure ‘nough, ain’t, like a squirrel on a treadmill, execs in pinstripe suits; acronyms (LIBOR, MIGA, GATT, NICs); abbreviations (MCB, LT-FI, ST-VI, PDI, EPZ, SEZ, WTO); proper names and places; dates; distinctions between British and American English and L2 lecturer English.


In “The Three Dialects of English,” William Labov suggests that the transition zone of the Third Dialect of American English runs through Wisconsin and Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Arkansas, and the Panhandle of Texas. My evidence corroborates Labov’s assertion regarding the Panhandle. In part of the Panhandle, short open o and long open o, particularly among younger speakers,
have merged in a single low back phoneme. Other mergers are quite common as well, such as the laxing of /i/ and /e/ to /I/ and /E/ and before /l/. Some younger speakers, consciously aware of the stigma attached to Southern speech and of the prestige of other varieties, at times un-merge the pen-pin Southern merger.


Many times, when speakers discuss subjects with which they feel uncomfortable, they employ lexical items which distance themselves from the topic. Terms such as they say or a pronoun shift are ways of negotiating distance. Speakers will sometimes begin a piece of discourse using I and then will shift to you to include the audience in their discourse, or to distance themselves from uncomfortable subjects. This paper will examine the use of narrative stance indicators in the Tennessee Civil War Veterans’ Questionnaires, collected in the 1920s.


In the spring of 1997, Grand Forks, North Dakota, experienced a "500-year flood." This project utilizes tape-recorded "flood stories" of individuals who were either living in Grand Forks at the time of the flood or who had connections to the city and returned to assist with the cleanup. Using narrative analysis techniques patterned after Barbara Johnstone’s work with the Fort Wayne, Indiana, flood of 1982, this project blends the individual stories into one community narrative. Emphasis is placed on how the language of the story (and the story itself) reflects the values and myths of the region, and comes to be a symbol of the city.

Chair: Patricia Cukor-Avila, Univ. of North Texas. ADS Regional Secretary 1998–99: Charles B. Martin, U. of North Texas.

For membership and registration information write Jo Hebert, SCMLA, Dept. of English, Texas A&M Univ., College Station TX 77843-4227; phone (409) 845-7041; fax (409) 862-2292; e-mail scmla@acs.tamu.edu; http://www-english.tamu.edu/scmla.

ADS at MLA, San Francisco, Dec. 27–30

ADS still sponsors sessions at the annual convention of the Modern Language Association of America. This year MLA will meet in San Francisco, Dec. 27–30.


1. "The Influence of Peter Tamony on Word Research." Gerald Cohen, Univ. of Missouri-Rolla.

Tamony was a San Franciscan who devoted his life to the study of words, and as a major beneficiary of that life's work, I will mention the influence he has had on my research and that of other scholars. His extensive collection of file cards and newspaper clippings, now housed in the Western Historical Manuscript Collection, University of Missouri-Columbia, still holds enormous potential for word research on American English.


In 1997 I conducted a survey of slang heard and used by students of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. The survey was conducted, in part, to produce entries for future volumes of J.E. Lighter's Random House Dictionary of American Slang. Synonyms of the adjective cool and slang pertaining to alcohol and drug use, disliked individuals, and sexuality were quite frequent, but very few ethnic slurs were recorded. The cultural influences upon that usage appear to represent a major shift over the past decade or so. Virtually every response included at least one term that originates in Black English. My paper will also examine how survey respondents' methods of recording and defining slang diverge from standard lexicographic practice.


Where does one find emerging slang? A survey of mass media and of my students revealed that many new words enter the language from TV, motion pictures, and computer technology. That is not surprising since almost every American is surrounded by mass media every day and many use computers in earning their livelihoods or getting their educations. One has only to think of such examples as soup Nazi and yadda-yadda (actually the return of an old slang term) from Seinfeld or comparisons using pulp fiction. A good looking guy is a Baldwin; a not-so-good looking guy is a Barney, both media references. A person who is oppressed at work is said to be dilberted.

Wired magazine, Newsweek, Atlantic Monthly, U.S. News and World Report, the venerable American Speech, and even the occasional newspaper publish lists of new words. Not all of these words qualify as slang, however. Rockumentary, for example, is a new blend from the media; it seems to lack the informality and irreverence of most slang, though. My paper will survey the sources listed and the Internet for new slang terms, identify the most productive source and discuss the fuzzy line between neologisms, jargon, and slang.

Session 660: Language Variation: Virtual, Stereotypical, and Real. Tuesday, Dec. 29, 3:30-4:45 p.m., San Francisco Hilton, Union Square 1 and 2. Chair: Dennis Baron, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.


For information write MLA Convention Office, 10 Astor Place, New York NY 10003-6981; phone (212) 614-6372; e-mail convention@mla.org; http://www.mla.org.

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Lurline Coltharp 1913–1998

By Grant W. Smith

Dr. Lurline Hughes Coltharp, a life member of ADS and a former member of the Executive Council, 1982–85, passed away August 1. She had been convalescing from bypass surgery but died unexpectedly of a virulent cancer. She had brought exceptional grace and warmth to our meetings and will be missed by everyone who knew her.

Lurline, to the many who knew her well, was born in Bridgeport, Texas, on May 9, 1913 shortly before her parents—Frank A. Hughes, a noted engineer and inventor, and Mary (Fisher) Hughes, a well-known civic leader—moved to El Paso. She attended the University of Texas at Austin, where she graduated summa cum laude in 1935. After teaching public school and then starting a family, she later earned her masters and doctoral degrees and began teaching at the University of Texas, El Paso, becoming in 1970 one of the first women full professors in the Texas system. Her academic honors included Delta Kappa Gamma, Phi Lambda Theta, and Phi Kappa Phi.

Her dissertation was published by the University of Alabama Press in 1965 under the title The Tongue of the Tirilones: A Linguistic Study of a Criminal Argot, and she authored many presentations and journal articles. In addition to her service to ADS, she served as president of the El Paso AAUW (1953-54), delegate of the Modern Language Association (1971-75), president of the Texas Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (1972-73), president of the American Name Society (1978-79), member of the University of Texas System Chancellor's Council, and since 1981 as Professor Emerita of Linguistics and English, an uncommon title at UTEP of which she was justly proud.

Throughout her life Lurline was also an important member of El Paso’s cultural and civic institutions—e.g., as honorary member and club historian of the West El Paso Rotary Club, life member of the Chamber of Commerce, charter member of the El Paso Museum Association, and on the Board of Directors of the El Paso Symphony. She was an active fundraiser for many organizations such as the Community Chest, Red Cross, and American Cancer Society. Such activities led to many awards by her community, culminating in her election to the El Paso Women’s Hall of Fame in 1992.

Lurline had a tough-minded, empirical approach to issues but will be most remembered for her positive, encouraging, generous, and supportive personality. I remember her taking me, an insecure newcomer, by the arm and asking me to sit by her at the annual ADS luncheon. Although not directly involved, I was also impressed by her hosting meetings of the ADS Executive Council in her New York hotel suite. Many others have sent me fond memories. Don Lance, who knew her at least as well as I, says, “I would like to write volumes about our dear friend, Lurline Coltharp, but words are poor tools for the expression of my feelings at this moment. We were graduate students at the University of Texas at the same time... A very dear person and serious scholar. It was an honor to know her and be influenced by her positive approach to everything.”

With her passing we have lost a very wise colleague who brought a kind and loving touch to our professional lives. Memorial gifts may be sent to: Lurline H. Coltharp Collection of Onomastics, c/o Development Office, University of Texas at El Paso, 1100 N. Stanton Street Suite 205, El Paso, Texas 79902.

Morton W. Benson

Another long-time member of ADS, Morton W. Benson of the Department of Slavic Languages at the University of Pennsylvania, died July 21. He had belonged to ADS since 1983 and was also active in the Dictionary Society of North America.
By Virginia G. McDavid

Tom Creswell, an active member and former president of ADS, died at his home in Chesterton, Indiana, on June 18. He was 77 and had had heart problems for many years. He is survived by his wife Beverly and two children.

He grew up on the South Side of Chicago where his father managed a steel mill. Tom’s first job was rushing the growler for the mill workers. He graduated from what was then Chicago Teachers College in May 1943 and entered the Army the same day. He took part in the landing on Omaha Beach on D-Day and in later campaigns in western Europe, resolutely maintaining his rank of private throughout the entire conflict.

After the war Tom returned to teaching in Chicago, first in an elementary school, then in a community college, and finally in the fall of 1958 at Chicago State University where he was professor of English until his retirement in 1980. His graduate studies were at the University of Chicago where he worked with Gwin Kolb and Raven I. McDavid, both of whom encouraged his interest in language and lexicography, and especially their importance in the training of teachers. His Ph.D. dissertation, Usagé in Dictionaries and Dictionaries of Usage, was published in 1975 as PADS 63–64. In the American Dialect Society he served as vice president 1987–88 and president 1989–90. His knowledge and enthusiasm animated both his colleagues and his students.

He worked as a consultant on usage and synonyms for The Random House Dictionary of the English Language, Second Edition, Unabridged (1987) and for the Random House Webster’s College Dictionary (1991). He co-authored with Virginia McDavid a composition handbook, Today’s English (1983), and wrote many papers on various aspects of language usage. Among them was one on the otiose apostrophe, “Watch My Rear End, Not Her’s,” a title taken from a graffito on the back of a truck. Another was on the etymology and history of sneak as the preterit of sneak (in PADS 78). His interest in lexicography, usage, and labeling practices in dictionaries continued to the end of his life. His last article, “American English Dictionaries on CD-ROM,” reflects his enthusiasm for the resources for the study of lexicography offered by modern technology.

No man is indispensable, but Tom is irreplaceable.

(Reprinted with the author’s permission from the Dictionary Society of North America Newsletter.)

Memorial Gifts

Beverly Creswell suggests that gifts in Thomas Creswell’s memory may be made to the Dictionary of American Regional English (address on next page).

Creswell’s Gift

Would you or your library like a free complete set of American Speech from 1970 to the present? Virginia McDavid will pack and ship this legacy of Tom Creswell to a deserving recipient. Write or e-mail her at the address in the directory.

LAMSAS Handbook Super Sale

Editor William Kretzschmar reports: The University of Chicago Press has now remaindered the Handbook of the Linguistic Atlas of the Middle and South Atlantic States for the low, low price of $3 a copy (down from $24.95). Shipping is $3.50 for the first book, only $0.75 for each additional. There are lots of copies left. If you call to place an order (800-621-2736), you will need the code number from the sale brochure to get the $3 price: “AD6142”.

This seems a good opportunity for ADS members to find out for cheap about one of the principal projects with which ADS has been associated this century.
DARE QUERIES

DARE Ratches for Pencil Points, Privy, Runarround

If you can help with any of the following words, please send your information (including date and place of use) to DARE’s Associate Editor, Joan Hall. She can be reached at 6125 Helen White Hall, 600 N. Park St., Madison WI 53706, e-mail jdhall@facstaff.wisc.edu.

pencil points—A correspondent reports this from New Jersey in reference to pasta in rice-like particles (apparently orzo or something similar). Has anyone else heard this?
periwinkle, pennywinkle—Any “sightings” of these words in reference to critters (not flowers, please!) other than marine molluscs would be welcome; we are especially interested in the application to various insect larvae used as bait.

place backs!—exclamation by which one retains the right to a seat that one is leaving temporarily. We have a single citation; is it a well-established formula?

privy—var (by folk-etymology?) of privet. We have scattered examples, beginning with George Washington, from VA, WV, and KY. Has anyone heard this? Is it an established form, or merely a recurrent malapropism?
ranch road—Four informants, all from Texas, gave this in response to questions about unpaved or less important roads; two LAGS informants also used it. Is it characteristic of Texas and the Gulf States? Is it simply a road linking the ranch buildings with a public road?

rank (cars)—We have two citations saying that in Trenton, New Jersey, people used to rank cars instead of parking them. Is this still true? Is the word used anywhere else in this sense?
ratch—Does anyone know this verb in either of these senses: “To search, root about” (as in “She ratched in the drawers for something”) or “To move about restlessly” (as in “He ratched around in bed last night?”)?
ratgut—var (by folk-etymology?) of rotgut “bad liquor.” 7 of the 8 informants who used this are from eastern Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey. Do others, there or elsewhere, know this form?
rattleran(d)—This old Massachusetts term for the rear under-portion of a forequarter of beef was retained in Fannie Farmer’s Boston Cooking School Cook Book at least into the 1940’s; is it still known or used?
rawny(-boned)—“rawboned.” We have 8 examples from LANE and DARE, all in Maine and New Hampshire. Is this still current there or elsewhere?

rent house—apparently “rental house.” Our rather meager evidence suggests that this is concentrated in Texas and Arkansas, but we need more evidence. (If you’re not sure what your local usage is, check out the classified ads in your local paper.)

rowdy—A 1942 note in American Speech says that this was common in northwest Pennsylvania at that time for a denim work jacket. Has anyone ever seen or heard this?

runaround—Two widely separated informants gave this as the name of a skin disease. They are definitely not using the word in the fairly well attested sense of “an infection around a fingernail,” but the descriptions recorded are sketchy. It seems likely that they are referring to shingles (which typically “runs around” the body from spine to chest), but we would welcome any further information.

Help Wanted: Tenure Track

Associate Professor in Linguistics. Ph.D. required. American Dialectology with some knowledge of acoustic phonology required; additional expertise in linguistics of literature highly desirable. Contact Dr. Christina Murphy, Chair, Department of English, Linguistics Search, University of Memphis, Campus Box 526176, Memphis, TN 38152-6176. (901) 678-2651. (901) 678-2226 (fax). cmurphy2@cc.memphis.edu. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply. The University of Memphis, a Tennessee Board of Regents Institution, is an EO/AA Immigration Reform Act Employer.