

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY

NADS 35.2

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May 2003

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NADS is sent in January, May and September to all ADS members. Send news and queries to editor and executive secretary Allan Metcalf, English Department, MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois 62650, phone (217) 479-7117 or (217) 243-3403, AAllan@aol.com. Erin Klee, administrative assistant.

ADS Annual membership for 2003 is \$50, students \$25; plus \$10 outside the United States. Write Customer Service, Journals Fulfillment, Duke University Press, Box 90660, Durham, NC 27708-0660; phone 1-888-387-5765 or 919-687-3602; fax 1-919-688-2615; subscriptions@dukeupress.edu.

ADS Web site (Grant Barrett, webmaster):
<http://www.americandialect.org/>

ADS-L discussion list: To join, send to
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FIRST CLASS

From: AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY
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Address Service Requested

Buffy, Socialization, Hungary, Chants, Ologies & Isms

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

Michael Adams. *Slayer Slang: A Buffy the Vampire Slayer Lexicon.* Oxford U. Press, May 2003. 320 pages. Hardcover \$19.95. ISBN 0195160339. (Already out of stock, but more copies will be printed soon.) The book begins with a synopsis of the program's history and a defense of ephemeral language. A detailed glossary of slayer slang follows, annotated with actual dialogue. The book concludes with a bibliography and a lengthy index, a guide to sources (novels based on the show, magazine articles about the show, and language culled from the official posting board) and an appendix of slang-making suffixes. Introduced by Jane Espenson, one of the show's writers and herself a linguist.

Robert Bayley and Sandra R. Schecter, eds. *Language socialization in bilingual and multilingual societies.* Multilingual Matters, 2003. xii + 312 pages. \$27.95 paperback, \$69.95 hardcover. This book explores language socialization from very early childhood through adulthood, not only in often-studied communities in Canada and the United States, but also in Australia, Bolivia, Egypt, India, and Slovakia. The global perspective gained by the inclusion of studies of communities representing every inhabited continent provides readers with an indication of the richness of the field as well as a guide for future work.

Miklós Kontra, ed. *Nyelv és társadalom a rendszerváltás kori Magyarországon* (Language and Society in Hungary at the Fall of Communism). Budapest: Osiris Kiadó, 2003. 371 pages. ISBN 963 389 419 0. Written by Róbert Angelusz, Miklós Kontra, Csaba Pléh, Róbert Tardos and Tamás Terestyéni.

Stephen J. Nagle and Sara L. Sanders, eds. *English in the Southern United States.* A dozen essays providing an overview of Southern white and African-American English and current research on its phonology, grammar, vocabulary, and history. Authors are ADS members **John Algeo**, **Edgar Schneider**, **Laura Wright**, **Salikoko Mufwene**,

Patricia Cukor-Avila, **Cynthia Bernstein**, **George Dorrill**, **Crawford Feagin**, **Walt Wolfram**, **Jan Tillery**, **Guy Bailey**, **Connie Eble**, and **Barbara Johnstone**.

Lois Nathan. *Le scripteur et ses signifiants en six Chants ou le miroir brisé de Maldoror: sémiotique pour Lautréamont.* Rouen: Publications des Universités de Rouen et du Havre, 76821 Mont-Saint-Aignan Cedex, 2002. 242 pages. paperback 20 euros. ISBN : 2-87775-329-8. In French. This is a semiological analysis of *Les Chants de Maldoror* by Le Comte de Lautréamont, the 19th century French writer. It questions the sense of the act of writing, as it can be found through the text. It shows that the writer and the text mutually reflect each other, as in a mirror image, forever linked by the signature of the pseudonym: Le Comte de Lautréamont.

Michael Quinion. *Ologies and Isms: Word Beginnings and Endings.* Oxford Paperback Reference Series. New York: Oxford University Press, April 2003. viii + 270 pages, paperback. ISBN 0-19-280123-6. \$16.95. Prefixes and suffixes are among the most common—and often misinterpreted—parts of English language construction, and yet they make up much of our medical and technical vocabulary. In accessible, plain language, this book explains what each affix means, using over 10,000 examples across 1,250 entries. A selective thematic index aids identification.

American Dialect Society Officers for 2003

President: **Michael B. Montgomery**, U. of South Carolina.

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Executive Secretary: **Allan Metcalf**, MacMurray Coll.

Final Call for Boston, January 2004

It's a long way to January, but an important milestone along the way comes on **August 15**. That's the deadline for proposals for our next ADS Annual meeting—in Boston, with the Linguistic Society of America, January 8–10.

No later than August 15, send your 150–300 word abstract by email to Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf at AAllan@aol.com. If you must use the postal service instead of email, send four copies of the abstract, with your name on an accompanying letter but not on the abstract, to Allan Metcalf, English Dept., MacMurray College, Jacksonville Illinois 62650-2590.

Along with your proposal, tell us if you will need a tape or CD player. All sessions will have an overhead projector, so you need not request one. None of our sessions, unfortunately, will have an LCD projector, so be prepared to do without it. They cost about a thousand dollars to rent from the hotel.

Proposals will be judged anonymously by a committee chaired by ADS vice president **Joan Hall**. If your proposal is accepted, you'll be asked for an abstract of no more than 200 words for the LSA program.

We will follow the usual outline for our meeting:

- program sessions Thursday afternoon, Friday afternoon, and Saturday morning and afternoon;
- open Executive Council meeting early Friday morning, and Annual Business Meeting early Saturday morning;
- Words of the Year nominations late Friday morning and final vote late Friday afternoon, followed by
- our Bring-Your-Own-Book exhibit and reception; and our
- luncheon Saturday. **Charles Meyer** (U. of Massachusetts, Boston) will be the speaker.

Words of the Year: As usual, nominations are welcome all year long. Send them any time to New Words Committee Chair **Wayne Glowka**, Dept. of English and Speech, Georgia College and State Univ., Milledgeville GA 31061, wglowka@mail.gcsu.edu.

Housing: Also as usual, we are guests of the Linguistic Society of America, whose meeting extends to the 11th. We'll be at the newly renovated Sheraton Boston at 39 Dalton Street in the heart of historic Back Bay. The LSA room rate is \$109 single or double. For reservations, call the hotel at (617) 236-2020 or Sheraton Central Reservations at (800) 325-3535 and tell them you are with the LSA Annual Meeting group. Or go to the website http://www.starwood.com/sheraton/meetings/attend_enter_code.html. (That's an underline between "attend" and "enter," and between "enter" and "code.") The LSA meeting code is #11188. If you have questions, contact boston.sales@sheraton.com. December 16 is the deadline for reservations. That may seem a long way off . . . but don't delay.

For further information about LSA and the LSA meeting, see www.lasdc.org.

Future LSA-ADS meetings: 2005 Jan. 6–9 San Francisco Hyatt; 2006 Jan. 5–8 TBA; 2007 Jan. 4–7 New York Hilton; 2008 Jan. 3–6 Chicago Hilton.

Also: Final Call for ADS-COT Panel/Roundtable

The Committee on Teaching is calling for proposals for the pedagogy panel at next year's annual ADS meeting in Boston. We were delighted by the success of the ADS-COT sponsored panel focusing on pedagogy ("Teaching Varieties of English in America") at this year's annual meeting, and we are excited about sponsoring a panel/roundtable again next year. The specific focus of the panel/roundtable will be strategies for approaching the language attitudes—both about standard and nonstandard varieties of English—that students often bring to the classroom. We are seeking 15-minute talks that address specific issues and pedagogical strategies related to this subject. If you are interested in presenting at the panel/roundtable, please submit an approximately 300-word abstract by **August 15, 2003**. Abstracts should be sent to Anne Curzan, either by e-mail (acurzan@umich.edu) or by snail mail (English Department, 3187 Angell Hall, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1003).

Rocky Mountain: October 9–11

In association with RMMLA, Oct. 9–11; Missoula, Montana, Holiday Inn Parkside.

Chair: **Janna Graham**, Idaho State Univ., grahjann@isu.edu.

1. “Euphemism in the Colorado Corpus.” **Lamont Antieau**, Univ. of Georgia, antieau@arches.uga.edu.

This paper will explore the use of euphemism in the Linguistic Atlas of the Western States, particularly focusing on the Colorado corpus, a collection of interviews conducted with speakers of American English in rural communities in Colorado from 1990 to 2002. In particular, I will be examining topics in the corpus that have traditionally included extensive use of euphemism, such as terms used for male breeding animals, animal excrement, castration, and castrated animals. In addition to examining the geographic and social distribution of euphemism used in the Colorado corpus, I will also compare euphemistic terms occurring in this corpus with variants found in other Atlas records. In Colorado, Atlas records collected in the 1950s provide a means of comparing the use of these terms in the same area across a span of fifty years, giving us a way to test the validity of predictions made by Hankey (1960), who found a great number of euphemisms in the Colorado Atlas records but observed that some of these “expressions seem doomed by the natural and social environment” (128). In addition, other regional projects in dialectology, such as the Linguistic Atlas of the Middle and South Atlantic States, as well as the trend study conducted by Johnson (1996) in the southeastern United States in the early nineties, provide data for comparing the use of euphemism in the western United States with that of the East.

2. “Where the Plains Meet the Mountains: *need/want/like + V-en* in the Western United States.” **Tom Murray**, Kansas State Univ, tem@ksu.edu.

In a series of articles published in *American Speech* between 1996 and 2002, my co authors and I noted that the syntactic features *need + V-en* (*The car needs washed*), *want + V-en* (*The cat wants fed*), and *like + V-en* (*The baby likes cuddled*) seem to be limited in their geographic distribution largely to the eastern two-thirds of the traditionally defined Midland dialect area. Indeed, of the total number of informants who either used these constructions or found them acceptable, an overwhelming majority lived east of the Rocky Mountains.

That fact, however, was due at least in part to the sampling methods used in gathering the data for those articles. In this paper I discuss additional data that reveal the vitality of all three syntactic features in the western one-third of the United States. Adopting the Telsur method of contacting informants (the method William Labov and his colleagues used in gathering the data for their *Atlas of North American English*), early in 2003 I called representative samples of the population in every state lying west of the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. The results of my survey were surprising: not only are the *need/want/like + V-en* constructions used or accepted throughout much of the western United States, but they are more often than not perceived as standard. Moreover, many of those informants who use or accept one or more of the features are young, which suggests that the “vitality” mentioned above will not be short-lived. In fact, a reasonable extrapolation from my data might be that *need + V-en* and *want + V-en*, at least, will one day be ubiquitous throughout the Midland dialect area.

3. “Ojibwe Intonation among Chippewa Speakers of English.” **Mary Morzinski**, Univ. of Wisconsin–La Crosse, morzinsk.mary@uwlax.edu.

From 1998 to 2000 I conducted research involving two adjacent geographical areas in southwestern Wisconsin which had been settled by Norwegians immigrating from two different areas of Norway and speaking two distinct dialects of Norwegian. The subjects of my research averaged to be third generation Americans, and only a very small percent could speak Norwegian. Significantly, however, the intonation patterns in English of a large percentage of the speakers followed the intonation patterns of their ancestors’ dialects in Norwegian. Following the theory established by this research, that first language intonation patterns are not only transferred to a second language but transferred again to native speakers in the same community, I conducted similar research among speakers of English who live in Chippewa communities and may or may not speak Ojibwe. The results have not yet been quantified, but several similarities between the two research projects are emerging.

ADS Regional Secretary 2002-2003: **Mary Morzinski**, Univ. of Wisconsin-La Crosse, morzinsk.mary@uwlax.edu.

Registration by Oct. 1 is \$75 faculty and \$55 student, including one ticket to the Friday evening banquet. *Membership* in RMMLA is \$30 faculty members, \$20 students and emeritus. Write RMMLA, Washington State Univ., P.O. Box 642610, Pullman WA 99164-2610; rmmla@rmmla.wsu.edu; <http://rmmla.wsu.edu/>; phone (509) 335-4198; fax (509) 335-3708.

Future meetings: 2004 Oct. 14–16 Boulder, Colorado, Millennium Harvest House Hotel; 2005 Oct. 20–22, Coeur d’Alene Resort on the Lake, Idaho.

South Central: October 30–November 1

In association with SCMLA, Oct. 30–Nov. 1; Hot Springs, Arkansas, Arlington Resort Hotel & Spa. ADS session, “Community and Individual Identity in Media and Literature.”

Chair: **Shelisa L. Theus**, Louisiana State Univ.–Baton Rouge, shelisaltheus@cox.net.

1. “It’s Time to Get Loud! It’s Time to Represent! The Influence of Media on Identity Formation at Texas A&M.” **Crystal Goodman**, Texas A&M Univ., crystalea01@yahoo.com.

The appropriation of African-American cultural forms by people outside of African-American communities is not a new phenomenon, but it continues to be a trend worthy of study. Prior studies have proven to be very helpful in understanding the impact that media such as MTV have on the perceptions of African-American culture, especially when those appropriating have little or no contact with African-American communities outside of their exposure to music, television, or movies.

Cutler (1999) concludes that the use of African-American Vernacular English (AAVE) and hip-hop cultural forms by Mike, a 16-year-old, white male from the suburbs, was in accordance with the attempt of many youth to participate in the prestige of African-American culture. I build upon her findings in an ethnographic study of Fish Camp counselors, the leaders of a student-run freshman orientation camp for incoming students at Texas A&M University.

Using community of practice theory as elaborated by Bucholtz (1999 and 2000), I found that members of the organization form their identity as a group through the use of chants that contain AAVE, references to hip-hop culture, including rap music, and other communication methods used in African-American communities as discussed by Smitherman (1977 and 2000) and Rickford (1999). As sources of information on hip-hop culture specifically, I consulted Watkins (1998) and Rose (1994). Fish Camp is mostly made up of students from conservative, European-American backgrounds who are not a part of African-American communities; therefore, the cultural make-up of the group was not the source of African-American cultural forms that I observed and videotaped the students using during various activities.

2. “The Discourse of Lynching: Three Stories of Community Violence.” **Eve Dunbar**, Univ. of Texas, Austin, evedunbar@mail.utexas.edu.

This talk centers around three textual representations of lynching: a fictional lynching depicted in James Weldon Johnson’s *Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* (1912, 1927), a pamphlet published by the NAACP (1919) that contains mainstream newspaper coverage of six lynchings committed in 1919, and a 1931 essay from the *New Republic* in which a journalist recounts his attendance at and participation in one of the lynchings that is also described within the pages of the NAACP pamphlet. The aim of this talk, then, is to explore how the differing media tell the story of racially motivated violence. I’ll examine the roles race, context, intention, and temporality play in each “author’s” rendering of lynching. For instance, I explore how the concerns of white newspaper reporters are altered when their writing becomes a part of a pamphlet produced by the NAACP.

Moreover, in all three texts lynching is central; however, each text differs in the language used to describe the event and, thus, each differs in aim: for Johnson, lynching is symbolic of the sickness of racial inequality, it’s the event which incites his narrator’s flight from the Black race; for the white reporters featured in the NAACP pamphlet, lynching is the only method for white readers to deal with the perceived racial transgressions of some Blacks; for the NAACP, lynching is something of which the country must be made aware and held accountable; and for Hilton Butler, the *New Republic* reporter, lynching serves as a platform for him to both flaunt his heroism and initiate economic reform in the agricultural South. In all cases, the story of lynching is told in order to produce social change. Consequently, I explore how one might use all of these sometimes contradictory representations to develop a clearer picture of the role that the discourse of lynching plays in community formation (and destruction).

3. “Icelandic Language Policy and the Media.” **Gauti Kristmannsson**, Univ. of Iceland Translation Centre, gautikri@hi.is.

This paper provides an overview of Icelandic language politics in the face of the challenges brought on by the modern media in a small country. It starts with a short glance at the beginnings of Icelandic linguistic politics in the 19th century to reveal the basic ideological premises and show how they have been maintained in national discourse on the Icelandic language and the media. It then examines how the Icelandic national consensus on linguistic purism has been shaken by technological and political developments, in short the advancing globalization of the media. These developments are reflected in the practices of media translation and changing attitudes towards translation.

ADS Regional Secretary 2003-2004: **Michael R. Dressman**, Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Houston-Downtown, One Main Street, Houston TX 77002; phone (713) 221-8009; dressmanm@uhd.edu. (More on next page)

REGIONAL MEETINGS

Preregistration deadline is Oct. 19. *Membership* in SCMLA is \$30 full professors, \$25 associate and assistant professors, \$20 instructors and students. Write SCMLA Membership Secretary, Texas A&M Univ., Dept. of English, College Station TX 77843-4227; phone (979) 845-7041; fax (979) 862-2292; www-english.tamu.edu/scmla/; scmla@tamu.edu.

Future Meeting: 2004 Oct. 28–30 New Orleans, Radisson Hotel.

Midwest: November 7–9

In association with MMLA, Nov. 7–9; Chicago, Congress Plaza Hotel. ADS session, “New Directions in Language Variation and Change.”

Chair: **Kathryn Remlinger**, Grand Valley State University, remlingk@gvsu.edu.

1. Sound Changes in Tidewater Virginia Dialect: The Cases of /au/, /ey/, and /I/. **Yuichi Todaka**, Miyazaki Municipal University, Japan, Todaka@miyazaki-mu.ac.jp.

The present study investigated several vowel productions of Tidewater Virginia dialect speakers using young and old Norfolk residents. Productions were digitized at a 12,800 Hz sampling rate, which automatically set the low-pass filter to a cutoff frequency of 6 kHz. Impulse markers were first inserted into each waveform, and pitch-synchronous LPC derived formant histories were superimposed on the formants. F1, F2, and F4 were obtained using the formant history information. The average frequency of the fourth formants was used as an indicator of an individual’s head size and the obtained values of the first and second formants were converted to the percentages of the mean fourth formant (Ladefoged, 1993). It was found that (1) the prototypical pronunciation of /schwa + u/ has been lost; and that (2) the nucleus of the diphthong /ey/ is moving forward while the short front vowel /I/ is moving backward. These shifts contrast with the major rotation of vowel pattern in the South, the Southern Vowel Shift. It is therefore speculated that the Southern Vowel Shift has not taken place in Norfolk, and that the observed movements of the nucleus of /ey/ and /I/ may be accounted for by the principle of sufficient perceptual separation.

2. Differences in Vowel Formant Frequencies Among African-American and Caucasian Speakers in Chicago. **William Stone**, Northeastern Illinois Univ., w-stone@neiu.edu.

There are acknowledged syntactic features typical of African American Vernacular English (A.A.V.E.), yet these have been shown to be less pervasive than the phonological features of this speech variety. While much has been written about the particular phonemes whose presence or absence typifies A.A.V.E., less has been written about vowels than about consonants, and even less of a substantive nature. In this paper I investigate some of the acoustic properties of vowels. Using the Speech Analyzer from SIL, I examine the formant frequencies of vowels in the speech of male A.A.V.E. and Caucasian speakers aged between 18 and 25 in Chicago. The acoustic measures of the F1 and F2 formants correlate with the articulatory measures of frontness and height in vowels. From this correlation it can be clearly demonstrated that there are distinct differences between the two groups. In particular the vowel space among A.A.V.E. speakers is smaller; i.e. there is less variation in height and frontness than there is among Caucasian speakers. Also, there are measurable differences in the pronunciation of certain vowels and diphthongs. Given the racial segregation in Chicago, my data suggests that, there, it should be possible to distinguish ethnicity merely by hearing the voice.

3. The Last Socially Acceptable Prejudice: How Eastern Kentuckians Perceive Linguistic Bias Against Themselves. **Rebecca Greene**, Stanford Univ., greene_rebecca@hotmail.com.

To the dismay of many linguists, the general public maintains strong ideas about the superiority of “standard English.” Language attitudes are the last socially acceptable way to demonstrate geographic, racial, and other prejudices. In this qualitative study, ten individuals from the researcher’s rural Eastern Kentucky home county are interviewed regarding how they are perceived by others and how their identities and life decisions are shaped, considering the stigma of “Appalachian English.” An analysis of the results is framed in Rosina Lippi-Green’s “Language Subordination Process” (1997). The informants give evidence of almost all factors in this process. An example is the mystification of language, seen as informants denigrate their own usage and describe language as something they must aspire to using correctly. However, the informants do not claim to be victims of “linguistic discrimination,” nor do they see the stigma as particularly problematic. The reasons for the particularly low prestige of Appalachian speech are explained in an overview of findings from the field of Appalachian Studies, highlighting the 20th century phenomenon of painting Appalachians as contemporary ancestors, thus giving the rest of America a convenient comic foil and assurance of its “civilized” status.

4. “No sweat?”: Do undergraduate ESL students get American slang?” **Kim YouJin**, Southern Illinois Univ.-Carbondale, paran37@hotmail.com.

College students' use of slang has been the topic of a variety of research in the past 15 years (Cooper, 2001; Eble, 1989 & 1996; Klerk, 1990). Studies have focused exclusively on native speakers' use of slang, but neglect a significant portion of the American university population—namely, students for whom English is a second language. The present study addresses this gap. It examines four primary issues: (1) How well do ESL undergraduates understand specific slang terms compared to American undergraduates? (2) How do ESL undergraduates' reactions to slang terms compare to those of American undergraduates? (3) How do women's and men's reactions to slang terms compare within and between language groups? and (4) To what extent do ESL undergraduates report using American slang? Quantitative data (selected response and Likert-scale items) were analyzed using a two-way ANOVA, and qualitative data (open-ended responses) were coded using content analysis. Results focus on differences in American and ESL students' understandings of, reactions to, and reported usage of the 20 slang terms.

ADS Regional Secretary 2003-2004: **Kathryn Remlinger**, Grand Valley State Univ., remlingk@gvsu.edu.

Registration is \$50 for regular members (includes 12 papers) or \$25 for students, part-time, unemployed, or retired members (no papers included). *Membership* in MMLA is \$35 full and associate professors, \$30 assistant professors and school teachers, \$20 adjunct and part-time faculty, \$15 students, retired, and unemployed. Write MMLA, 302 English-Philosophy Bldg., U. of Iowa, Iowa City IA 52242-1408; phone (319) 335-0331; mmla@uiowa.edu; www.uiowa.edu/~mmla/.

Future meeting: 2004 St. Louis.

South Atlantic: November 14–16

In association with SAMLA, Nov. 14–16; Atlanta, Marriott Marquis.

Chair: **Lamont Antieau**, Univ. of Georgia, antieau@arches.uga.edu.

1. "Using Media to Make Difference: An Examination of Lexicon in the Construction of Ethnolinguistic Identity." **Becky Childs**, Univ. of Georgia, rlchilds@uga.edu, and **Christine Mallinson**, North Carolina State Univ., clmallin@sa.ncsu.edu.

Sociolinguistic studies of ethnically diverse enclave communities have typically focused on phonological and morphosyntactic variables as diagnostic indicators of the linguistic differences that distinguish ethnic varieties of regional English. However, as current studies of enclave communities (e.g., Poplack and Tagliamonte 2001, Wolfram and Thomas 2002, Mallinson and Wolfram 2002, Childs and Mallinson 2003) indicate, ethnic varieties in isolated regions may not always manifest differences in their application of variable rules. In the absence of significant phonological and morphosyntactic differences, lexical icons from within and outside the community may take on heightened significance in maintaining ethnolinguistic boundaries.

This study examines the role of lexical labeling in the maintenance of ethnolinguistic boundaries in Texana, North Carolina, an enclave community of African Americans in the Smoky Mountain region of Appalachia. Unlike other regional varieties of African American English, which are found to be diverging from Anglo English varieties (e.g., Wolfram, Thomas, and Green 2000), Texana residents maintain a variety that is quite similar to that of the surrounding Anglo community. In fact, as data from recent studies indicate (Mallinson and Childs 2002, Childs and Mallinson 2003), the dialect of the young residents is so closely aligned with Appalachian English to be virtually indistinguishable from the dialect of their white cohorts. Nonetheless, members of the community cite particular lexical items relating to ethnic labels and social relationships that tend to mark ethnic group membership. For example, young Texana African Americans often use *one*—a term popularized by reggae music—in place of *goodbye* or *peace*. In projecting the significance of these lexical items as markers of in-group status, young Texana African Americans assert their ethnic identity and separate themselves from the youth of the surrounding white community, even though they share primary phonological and morphosyntactic variables that make their natural conversation largely indistinguishable.

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South Atlantic (Continued)

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2. "Southern American English Depictions in 20th Century Literature and Film." **Rachel E. Shuttlesworth**, Univ. of Alabama—Tuscaloosa, rachel.e.shuttlesworth@ua.edu.

This study examines the depiction of Southern American English varieties in 20th century literary and film works. The features examined include two typical SAE forms (Schneider 2001), *y'all* and multiple modal verbs (e.g. *might could*, *may can*, *might ought to*) as well as *ain't*, which is certainly not exclusively Southern, but may be more common in some SAE varieties than in other American English varieties (Atwood 1953, Schneider 2001). Since the construction of SAE literary and film texts involve nonlinguist caricatures of SAE speech, these SAE depictions could be seen as folk linguistic attitudes and imitations (Niedzielski and Preston 2000) that are widely disseminated. Linguistic descriptions of the meanings and uses of these forms (Feagin 1979, Montgomery 1998) are compared to their portrayals in literature and films.

The differences between actual SAE use and its depiction are analyzed using the semiotic distortion framework of Irvine and Gal (2000), which includes three processes (iconization, fractal recursivity, and erasure) although they are modified slightly from Irvine and Gal's use. Each of these processes occurs when a particular feature is assigned a role a speaker's language ideology. Iconization occurs when a particular feature becomes intrinsically connected to the speakers who use this feature. Fractal recursivity is found when a feature's pattern of use (including who uses it and how it is used) is altered, which often involves distorting the variety's systematic use of the feature. Erasure takes place when a feature, or one of its uses, is deleted from a depiction. By determining the nature of SAE feature distortion in artistic characterizations, we can gain greater insight into the SAE language ideologies of the authors and how SAE features are used to depict Southerners. Insight may also be gained regarding the formation and nature of widespread ideologies about SAE.

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3. "From March Madness to Talladega: Closed Captioning in Sports Interviews." **Lisa Minnick**, Georgia Institute of Technology, lisa.minnick@lcc.gatech.edu, and **Susan Tamasi**, Univ. of Georgia, stamasi@arches.uga.edu..

This paper analyzes television interviews with sports figures in order to compare their (unscripted) utterances to the ways their speech is represented in closed captions. Our research focuses on phonological, grammatical, and lexical discrepancies between the speech and how it is transcribed in the captions in order to determine (1) whether the discrepancies reveal any identifiable patterns, including whether there are particular speech features that are more likely to be edited out of (or into) the captions; (2) whether there are identifiable conventions of transcription used in the captions; and (3) whether there is any correlation between patterns or transcription conventions and particular (i.e. regionally or ethnically identified) varieties of speech.

We review this information, along with the standard transcription procedures used in closed captioning. Finally, we discuss what the data reveal about the overall representation of linguistic variation in closed captioning of sports

South Atlantic (Continued)

interviews. For example, does it appear that these procedures perpetuate certain linguistic features or varieties as socially acceptable while representing others as nonstandard?

4. "Analyzing Creaky Voice in Inebriated and Sober Speech." **Kate Anderson**, Univ. of Georgia, gourdo246@aol.com.

Past phonetic research has given little attention to the role of phonation type in determining speech production models and descriptions of voice quality and recognition (Foulkes and Docherty 1997). A wide range of social factors affect phonological and phonetic data; not taking these factors into account when performing analysis can obscure results if only phonetic environments predicted to be affected by generativist theories are taken into consideration (Docherty et al 1997). In this paper I analyze the presence of the phonation type creaky voice in one white male's speech. Creaky voice, which is marked by a very low fundamental frequency and a sharp negative slope between the first and second harmonic, can be identified as a series of quick laryngeal pulses (Laver 1991). Creaky voice can be a habitual speech characteristic or can be implemented variably by a speaker to index socially marked usage (Baken 1987). Docherty et al (1997) examined creaky voice in the production of consonants for word-final stops and found this phonation type mainly before voiceless stops for white speakers. Very little research has been done on voice quality in American English, however, and even less work has focused on creaky voice, which has been found in African American and white speech (see Anderson & Arehart 2001). This study seeks to determine how presence of creaky voice differs in the social contexts of inebriated and sober speech.

Data included 200 vowel tokens taken from casual conversations, and analysis was performed using Praat. Vowel tokens were measured from the beginning of the first wave of periodic motion to the end of the last wave of periodic motion. Measurements of F0, H1-H2, F1, F2, and F3 were made at 25 ms after onset, midpoint, and 25 ms before offset using FFT analysis for each token ranging over eight different vowel types. Presence of creaky voice was determined by the amplitude slope between the first two harmonics as well as the fundamental frequency (Stevens, 1997). Analysis of the data shows that creaky voice is present in all phonetic environments for this speaker when inebriated, not just those predicted by past studies. The sober speech shows creaky voice only in limited phonetic contexts, suggesting that past research has obscured important facts about the possible presence of creaky voice in white speakers.

These findings support the notion that the social context of data collection affects results drastically. Linguistic studies using data from casual speech in multiple contexts which consider the role of all significant social variables will help to reform models of speech production and linguistic descriptions of all languages and varieties (Docherty et al 1997). As cited in Milroy and Gordon (2003), many phonological variables operate within socially specific contexts; the range of a variable in one context may not be applicable to that in another.

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ADS Regional Secretary 2003-2004: **Michael Picone**, Univ. of Alabama, mpicone@bama.ua.edu.

Registration before Oct. 15 is \$70, students \$25. *Membership* in SAMLA is \$40 individual (\$30 first year), \$25 graduate student, adjunct, and emeritus. Write SAMLA, Georgia State Univ., University Plaza, Atlanta GA 30303-3083; phone (404) 651-2693; www.samla.org; samla@samla.org.

Future meetings: 2004 Nov. 12-14 Roanoke, Virginia, Hotel Roanoke & Convention Center; 2005 Nov. 4-6 Atlanta, Sheraton Colony Square.

Philadelphia: Scholarly Publishing, History, Culture

By Joan Hall

As your delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies for the last four years, I've had the pleasure of attending the annual meetings and reporting back to you about the conference events. I've always come home feeling stimulated by both the formal presentations and the informal networking, so I recommend the position—now available—to anyone who wants to know more about other scholarly organizations in the humanities and social sciences and who can commit to a Thursday-through-Saturday meeting in late April or early May for the next four years. If you're interested in serving as the next ADS delegate, or would like to suggest a candidate, please make that interest known to Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf. The delegate will be chosen by the ADS Executive Council later this year.

This year's ACLS meeting, which took place in Philadelphia May 8–10, had a particularly lively presentation and discussion about the crisis in scholarly publishing and the uncertain fate of the monograph. For all assistant professors whose tenure decisions rest on the publication of a book, this crisis is painfully real. As fewer university presses accept scholarly monographs, it begins to seem as if those departments that require a book are "outsourcing" their tenure decisions to the presses.

To defeat "the tyranny of the monograph," Carlos J. Alonso, editor of *PMLA*, suggested that universities might move away from a published book as a tenure measure and consider instead requiring several significant articles; or they might provide a publication subvention for a scholar's first book, in an amount that would parallel the startup costs provided for academic scientists.

To confront the very real financial problems of university presses, Cathy N. Davidson, vice provost for interdisciplinary studies at Duke University, urged that humanists learn from the "plug and play" model of business by trying something new, seeing what happens, and then adapting as necessary. Her suggestions included the following: requiring scholars to join at least two professional societies, with some of the dues being set aside for book publications (i.e., a portion of ADS dues to Duke University

could be allocated for subventions for books by ADS members); publishing certain kinds of books electronically; allowing tax write-offs in lieu of royalties (i.e., the royalties would become a tax-deductible gift to the press to help it sustain scholarly publishing); stamping out course packets; urging colleagues in the sciences to battle the commercial scientific presses that drain inordinate amounts of money from library budgets; and encouraging institutional branding (e.g., having university officials give alumni and donors a gift certificate to the university press rather than the usual logoed sweatshirt or mug).

This year's meeting also included panels on "Understanding our National Past: American History and Civic Life" and "Understanding our Global Present: International Issues and Area Knowledge." And, as always, it included the Charles Homer Haskins Lecture "A Life of Learning." The speaker this year was Peter Brown, Philip and Beulah Rollins Professor of History at Princeton University. A gentle, soft-spoken Irishman, he charmed the audience with his tales of meeting Haile Selassie (when Brown's father worked in Sudan); going to boarding school in Shrewsbury, where he was introduced to Greek and to the study of Christianity; moving on to Oxford, where as a student and later as a Fellow he shared the basement of the library with a somnolent, slipper-clad cleric; teaching at the University of London; relocating to the unimaginably different University of California, Berkeley of the 1970s; and moving a decade later to Princeton.

Throughout these moves, he concentrated his scholarship on the rise of Christianity and the transition from the ancient to the early medieval world, always mindful that the study of religion cannot be divorced from that of its social context. Brown has published eleven books, including *The Body and Society*, copies of which were available to conference participants and which he graciously inscribed.

As the speaker at the annual luncheon, Bruce Cole, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, provided an upbeat report on the activities of NEH, with particular emphasis on White House and congressional enthusiasm for the "We the

(Continued on next page)

Opportunity: Nominations for Presidential Honor

ADS President **Michael Montgomery** invites nominations of students for three Presidential Honorary Memberships to be awarded in December for the 2004–2007 term.

Presidential Honorary Members are guests at our Annual Luncheon, and more importantly receive complimentary membership in ADS for four years. The aim of the awards is to encourage interest and participation of our best prospects.

Any ADS member may nominate a student, graduate or undergraduate, who shows outstanding aptitude for and interest in our field. There is no application form. Instead, send a letter detailing the nominee's qualifications, together with supporting materials if you wish, to Montgomery at Dept. of English, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia SC 29208, ullans@yahoo.com.

There is no specific deadline, but early nominations stand a better chance of success, so don't put it off.

ACLS Report (Continued from Page 10)

People" initiatives to study the history and cultures of our country. (The ADS's very own *Dictionary of American Regional English* has been designated one of those initiatives.) Cole is hopeful that President Bush's request of \$25 million for "We the People" in the upcoming budget and \$75 million for the following two years will survive the budget process intact.

After a long and careful search for a successor to ACLS President John H. D'Arms, who died in January of 2002, the ACLS Board has selected Pauline Yu, dean of humanities and professor of East Asian languages and cultures at UCLA. Although her tenure will not officially begin until this summer, she cordially agreed to participate in a discussion with the Delegates at the business meeting, listening to their suggestions of topics that the ACLS might explore in the near future. Having been a Board member herself, Ms. Yu is ideally suited for the challenges that await her, and she was enthusiastically welcomed to the post by both the delegates and the administrative officers of the ACLS.

Opportunity: Column on Teaching

The Committee on Teaching is very pleased to announce the revival of the newsletter column devoted to pedagogical issues. The goal of the column is to provide a forum for sharing innovative and effective strategies for teaching students about language, including topics such as the technical aspects of dialects and language variation, issues in language ideology and language policy, history of English, language and gender, discourse studies, and other related fields.

We invite submissions of approximately 500-700 words, with specific teaching strategies and practices whenever appropriate and possible.

Please send submissions to **Anne Curzan** by e-mail, as Word attachments, if possible (acurzan@umich.edu); if this is not possible, please send submissions by snail mail (English Department, 3187 Angell Hall, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1003).

Opportunity: Nominations for Executive Council

This is an off-year for the ADS Nominating Committee. Instead of three nominations, it has just one to propose: member of the Executive Council for the four-year term 2004–2007. This nomination will be announced in September. Before then, if you have a suggestion, the committee will be pleased to receive it.

The Executive Council makes most of the decisions for the society. Council meetings are open to all, but only members may vote.

A candidate for Executive Council must be willing and able to attend the ADS Annual Meeting regularly. Unfortunately, ADS does not have the financial wherewithal to pay the travel expenses of Council members.

Chairing the committee is Past Past President **Ronald Butters** of Duke Univ., RonButters@aol.com. The other members are Past President **Dennis Preston** of Michigan State Univ., preston@pilot.msu.edu, and elected member **Bethany Dumas** of the Univ. of Tennessee, dumasb@utk.edu.

DARE Hopes Readers Take Up Spodge Hooks

If you are familiar with any of the following words or expressions, please let us know. It is most helpful if you can give an example or examples of how it is (or was) used, and as much detail as possible about when, where, and by whom. Other data, such as references to written works where the word appears, are very welcome too, but please note that if it appears on the Web we have probably already seen it. Send your responses to George Goebel at *DARE*, by e-mail to ghgoebel@facstaff.wisc.edu (please put "NADS queries" in the subject line) or regular mail to 6125 Helen White Hall, 600 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706.

sour vine—We have three examples, all from KY. It's described as a fragrant plant with five leaves in a cluster; can someone who knows it by this name identify it?

spodge—One KY Informant gave this in response to our "crowbar" question; a 1904 quotation says that "in the large rivers of the West" a *spodge hook* is a stick with a hook on the end, used to catch large catfish. Does anyone know these or similar senses?

spread (up) a bed/table—"make a bed/set a table."

spud or spug—"Sparrow." Our only US evidence is from DARE informants, two in UT and one in ID.

stiff starch—A children's game; we have evidence for the name from AL, GA, TX, but we don't know what the game is.

tacker (usually as **little tacker**)—"Small child, tyke." We have a few citations, mostly old, from NJ, MD, DE. Is it still used there, or elsewhere in the U.S.? (It appears to be quite common in Australia.)

tag (of grapes)—"Bunch (of grapes)." We have one report from northern AL, and one example from the Web, apparently from TN.

tag—"catkin (esp. of alder or birch)." We have early evidence, but nothing later than 1878 (except in *tag alder* as the name of one or more species of the tree, for which we don't need more evidence).

take one to do—"To take one to task." Our two 20th century citations are from ME, but earlier evidence is more widespread.

take up—"to begin to consort together." Has

anyone heard *take up* used alone—not followed by *with* or *together*—in this way? (E.g.: "X and Y have taken up.") We have some questionnaire evidence suggesting that this construction exists, but no unambiguous examples.

take up—"To remove (food) from the stove, ready (food) for serving." We have scattered evidence from the South and South Midland, but more evidence would be welcome.

turkey apple, turkey haw—"A hawthorn (*Crataegus mollis*)." Is this in common use?

ADS at MLA

At the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association in San Diego, California, Dec. 27–30, ADS will have two sessions, arranged as usual by **Michael Adams** of Albright College, author of *Slayer Slang: A Buffy the Vampire Slayer Lexicon* (see Page 2).

First session, afternoon of Dec. 27: "Dead Speakers, Living Forms." Chair: **Allan Metcalf**, MacMurray Coll.

1. "Native Speaker, Dead or Alive?" **Thomas M. Paikeday**, Lexicography, Inc., thomaspaikeday@sprint.ca.

2. "105 Years of Back-Formation." **Mary Blockley**, U. of Texas, Austin, blockley@utxvms.cc.utexas.edu.

Second session: "Speech, Politics, and Social Reality." Chair: **Mary Blockley**.

1. "Making Animals out of Men: Dialect in *Dead End*." **Sylvia Swift**, U. of California, Berkeley, madonna@violet.berkeley.edu.

2. "When the Body Speaks: American Media Reception of Toni Smith's Stance." **Claiborne Rice**, U. of Louisiana, Lafayette, cxr1086@louisiana.edu.

3. "The Linguistic Uninhibition of George W. Bush." **Allan Metcalf**, MacMurray Coll., AAllan@aol.com.

To attend either session, you must pay the not unhefty MLA registration fee. (Last year, for example, MLA members paid \$95—if they did so before Dec. 1. For information on membership and registration write MLA, 26 Broadway 3rd Floor, New York NY 1004-1789 or see www.mla.org.