Dialectology
Day 2: History
Archival Research for Historical Sociolinguistics

When: Wed, 12 July 2017, 12:30-5:00
Where: meet outside JSB 143, 12:30

Details: Bring note-taking materials (physical or digital) and a sense of curiosity and discovery!

Register: NARNiHistSoc@gmail.com
Dual purposes: We’ll do projects, preferably in groups, but I also want to talk to you and work with you on your own interests even if those aren’t things that work as projects for now.

Reminders:
- Archival workshop on Wed., including sound
- grade, pass/fail, audit
- Ppts in Canvas
- Today, hands on first, then yacking …


SOME DATA

- Kentucky dialect syntax
  - Double modals
  - Negative concord
  - Aspect: done + past part.
- Stereotyping Kentucky syntax in Kentucky
- Beyond syntax: verb morphology, pronouns, ‘eye’-dialect
"So prithee, Cobb, take my advice,
Make over your domains, sir;
Or, sure as I am Captain Robb,
Will I blow out your brains, sir!"
Poor Cobb can only grind his teeth
And grumble protestations,
That might should be the rule of right
Among enlightened nations.

But now, Mr. President, I must come to
the bitter end of my despatches, and bitter
enough it is. This business needs some
explanation, you may rest, and the
sooner I get it the better. That glorious
day aboard the Two Pollies we was all
swimmin' in happiness mast head high.

DOUBLE MODAL ... CONTEXT?
tobacco war in Western Kentucky, and
told the jury it must return indict-
ments if the evidence justified, no mat-
ter who was found to be guilty. Judge
Cook denounced the use of force in the
fight against the tobacco trust and said
if might could make right anarchy
would soon prevail.
Dere Maw...

This here is quite a instishun you and Pa done had me in all year. Of course, it ain't nothing like home—down here there ain't nobody whut gits up afore six o'clock—they don't never start school till the middle of the morning, around 7 o'clock—and I ain't found nobody whut goes to bed afore 9. Sure is a funny place—but I still think hit's worth it, even if it did cost Pa his pigs.

Things sure happens fast and furios around school though—ever week or so we has some kind of a big blow-out that is worser than election day back home. We has our own elections too—we flung some big uns back in the winter. A lot of hicks run around writing things on the sidewalk—and they put signs all over the place—wisht I could have read some of them—they wuz lots of three or four letter words on them but I no they couldn't have said what I thought they said.

Then we all bunched together and a lot of big shots got up and blew off about a lot of other big shots that none of us orduny stewdents didn't know nothing about—they called them “candy dates” or something—guess that is a affecshunate word on the order of preseraw turnips. Leastways everbody got powerful excited about something or other—ever now and then some honery feller would jump up and yell “Kill him”—jist like on feudin day back home.

We sure been having big doings this week. It's kinda floated around school lately that they is a war going on somewhar and everbody is getting anxshus to do something about it. Seems like this is between a guy named Roseflet and a rat named Hiltler and from what I can gather it's all being fit over this rat stealing our sugar or something.

Gotta close now—I'm a gittin powerful homesick which I does purty often down here. Ever time I gits homesick I wants to be alone an when I wants to be alone I goes over to the library where

Yore Loving son,

Tommie
Twang, accent, brogue / mountain, mountaineer, hillbilly
EXERCISE 1

• With a couple of other people, pick some topic that you can get corpus data on. Any language, any corpus is fine but here are some examples:
  • https://kentuckynewspapers.org/kdnp
  • https://www.newspapers.com/
  • http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/
  • http://corpus.byu.edu/
• Pick some dialect feature (like the examples already discussed), gather some basic examples, and describe what these examples suggest. This is basically working to formulate an idea, research question, hypothesis.
  • Evidence of change over time?
  • Evidence of regional distributions?
  • Evidence of social awareness — positive or negative?
AN OLDER VIEW

THE REGIONS OF AMERICAN ENGLISH: A vast country more than 35 times the size of the United Kingdom, the United States has far fewer regional varieties of English. As the first Americans headed westwards, their speech merged into the accents of "General American", the flat-vowelled speech of the Mid-West, the voice most of the world knows as American.
YANKEE CULTURAL IMPERIALISM

• What’s the basic story?
Three classic patterns of the Upper Midwest:

- Monophthongal ‘goal’ vowel
- Low-back (or ‘cot-caught’) merger
- Ash-raising (before varying consonants)

Different stories about the history of each …
MONPHTHONGAL 'BOAT'

Time (s)          Frequency (Hz)
17.33 17.92       17.4465353 17.7944069

-0.3216          0.1997

5000

0
cot = caught, Don = Dawn, etc.
WHAT DO YOU NOTICE?
• Allen 1973 and Thomas 2001 report Scandinavian substratal monophthongal GOAT.

• For the low back merger, involving LOT and CLOTH, Labov (1966) and others draw isoglosses for the merger within the region. Previous work leads us to expect more merged speakers over time with a west-to-east spread.

• Labov et al. 2006) report TRAP raising in parts of the Upper Midwest. (See his powerpoint.)
Table 12.1  Upper Midwestern data sets. “Transcripts” refers to manual transcriptions of lexical items, not free conversation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Year(s) data collected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linguistic Atlas of the North Central States (LANCS)</td>
<td>Transcripts only</td>
<td>1940, 1941</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 12.2  Distribution of 277 UME speakers by birth date and gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1850 to 1879</th>
<th>1880 to 1889</th>
<th>1900 to 1909</th>
<th>1919 to 1929</th>
<th>1930 to 1960</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F  M</td>
<td>F  M</td>
<td>F  M</td>
<td>F  M</td>
<td>F  M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANCS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>11 31</td>
<td>3 4</td>
<td>– 1</td>
<td>– 1</td>
<td>– 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAUM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>8 17</td>
<td>12 14</td>
<td>2 8</td>
<td>– 1</td>
<td>– 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WELS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>3 4</td>
<td>10 4</td>
<td>8 8</td>
<td>2 2</td>
<td>2 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DARE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan’s Upper Peninsula</td>
<td>– –</td>
<td>4 10</td>
<td>5 9</td>
<td>6 3</td>
<td>4 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>– –</td>
<td>2 7</td>
<td>2 2</td>
<td>3 3</td>
<td>2 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>– –</td>
<td>13 9</td>
<td>6 4</td>
<td>9 5</td>
<td>2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>22 52</td>
<td>44 48</td>
<td>23 32</td>
<td>24 16</td>
<td>10 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Map 12.2 Settlement patterns into Wisconsin between 1830 and 1920 (Ostergren 1997:138). By courtesy of the University of Wisconsin Press.
Map 12.3 Geographic distribution of [u] offgliding in GOAT class words in the Upper Midwest. (Sources: LAUM and LANCS)
Table 12.6 *DARE* subjects from southeastern Wisconsin used in the present study. Subjects are listed by general acoustic pattern.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em>DARE</em> subject number</th>
<th>Observed pattern</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Birth year</th>
<th>Age at recording In 1968</th>
<th>Urban, rural/region</th>
<th>Dialect city</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WI022</td>
<td>GAE</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1888</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>sc/SW</td>
<td>Janesville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI049</td>
<td>GAE</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>1890</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>sc/CE</td>
<td>Menomonee Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI062</td>
<td>DG</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>1890</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>v/SE</td>
<td>Burlington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI019</td>
<td>GAE</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1892</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>sc/SW</td>
<td>Janesville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI021</td>
<td>GAE</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>1892</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>sc/SW</td>
<td>Janesville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI010</td>
<td>GAE</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1898</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>r/NW</td>
<td>Hustisford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI020</td>
<td>GAE</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>1908</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>sc/SW</td>
<td>Janesville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI011</td>
<td>GAE</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>1908</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>r/NW</td>
<td>Hustisford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI018</td>
<td>GD</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>1914</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>v/CW</td>
<td>Jefferson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI071</td>
<td>GD</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>1916</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>sc/NE</td>
<td>Manitowoc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI017</td>
<td>DG</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1918</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>v/CW</td>
<td>Jefferson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI048</td>
<td>DG</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1920</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>lc/CE</td>
<td>Cudahy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI050</td>
<td>GD</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>1923</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>sc/CE</td>
<td>Menomonee Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI013</td>
<td>GD</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>1926</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>v/CW</td>
<td>Jefferson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI047</td>
<td>GD</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>1933</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>lc/CE</td>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NB Codes for location size based on population figures accompanying the *DARE* recordings (lc = large city, sc = small city, v = village, r = rural). Regions include S = south, C = central, N = north, E = east, and W = west for relative arrangement of the locations.
CONCLUSIONS

• Monophthongal **goat** is geographically distributed from early on, but not in ways suggestive of Scandinavian (and/or German) substrate effects. Instead, it appeared across the region and has consolidated its position to become a marker of UME, and a stereotype in Minnesota.

• Second, data points toward the development of **lot–thought** merger early on and across the region broadly, contrary to a widely assumed west-to-east spread.

• Third, **trap** raising appears far earlier in Wisconsin than earlier work has found, first with a pattern of raising preferably before apicals and later flipping to the pre-velar raising pattern that is now a stereotype of Wisconsin speech in particular.

• Most importantly, archival data shows widespread variation from early on, contrary to assumptions about linear geographical spread.
CONCLUSIONS

• Upper Midwestern English is emerging less by areal diffusion of features but rather by consolidation of particular patterns introduced as variants during settlement, akin to “new dialect formation” (cf. Salmons and Purnell 2010). The question now is how past UME variation will shape these still-emerging geographical patterns, structurally and socially.
GOT A SLIDE FOR THAT
Table 12.3 Order of selected conditioning effects of following consonants on /æ/ raising

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conditioning</th>
<th>Most</th>
<th>Least</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GAE</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>d, g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DG – NCS generally</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DG – Small-town Michigan</td>
<td>ɵ, δ, l</td>
<td>d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GD – Wisconsin</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>g, d</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 12.2 Vowel plot for General American English (GAE) speaker, female, b. 1890, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin.
Table 12.4 Comparison of trap variants in UME. Light shading identifies Wisconsin preference for raising before fortis fricatives; dark shading identifies Minnesota preference for raising before lenis velar plosives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>half</th>
<th>ashes</th>
<th>glass</th>
<th>bag</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>WI</td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>WI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ø</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-raised variants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[a]</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[a+]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[æ]</td>
<td></td>
<td>48</td>
<td>41</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ææ,],[ææ']</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ær],[æ]</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raised variants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[æ+]</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[e]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[eə],[eɪ]</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[e⁺]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GREAT VOWEL SHIFT
• Rob Brackenridge
ARE THESE SPEAKERS FROM WISCONSIN?

1. Speaker 1
2. Speaker 2
3. Speaker 3
4. Speaker 4
5. Speaker 5
6. Speaker 6
1. Speaker 1: western North Carolina, 1960s

2. Speaker 2: Plymouth, Wisconsin, 2010

3. Speaker 3: Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, 1960s

4. Speaker 4: Plymouth, Wisconsin, 1950s

5. Speaker 5: Boston, Mass., 1960s

Figure 12.1 Waveform and spectrogram of *LAUM* Speaker 41 (b. 1877, male, Montevideo, Chippewa County, Minnesota) saying *go* with a monophthongal *goat* vowel.
WHAT THAT MEANS

• Old recordings of speakers from Wisconsin are highly variable but are **not** identifiable as from Wisconsin.

• New recordings of speakers are recognized as Wisconsinites far better.

• Other regions of the country are, in contrast very stable.

• **Conclusion**: Wisconsin English is new and still emerging.
THE MAPS

What’s the same? What’s different?
Why so much variability?
• not very distinct?
• not getting the right features?
• getting different features with different patterns?
• changing?
• only now emerging?
• not just regional variation?
WHAT WORD DO YOU HEAR?
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE SPEAKER?

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
6. 
7. 
8.
HOW’D YOU DO?

- Word?
  1. pie  older female from southern Wisconsin
  2. hid  older female from western NC
  3. bag  young female from Fox Point, WI
  4. feeling  Sarah Palin
  5. caught  young man from eastern Minnesota
  6. bet  young man from western WI
  7. bad  young man from southeastern WI
  8. bed  young female from Fox Point, WI