

Today's topics:

- Labov (2007), 'Transmission and diffusion', cont.
- Preparation for discussion of writing systems

Reminder: Transmission and diffusion

- What does Labov (2007) mean by...?
 - **transmission**
 - **diffusion**
- According to Labov, what kinds of **speakers** are involved in each type of change?
- According to Labov, what kinds of **linguistic characteristics** can each type of change have?
- Which does Labov think is the **primary mode** of language change?

The Northern Cities Shift

- What is the NCS? What linguistic categories does it involve?
- Where in the US is it found?

NCS: characteristics

- 5 main characteristics, according to Labov

ED	“e” = /ε/ moving back, “o” = /a/ moving forward • $F2(/ε/) - F2(/a/) < 375 \text{ Hz}$
UD	/ʌ/ further back than “o” = /a/ • $F2(/ʌ/) < F2(/a/)$
AE1	general raising of /æ/, non-nasal environm. • $F1(/æ/) < 700 \text{ Hz}$
O2	“o” = /a/ fronting to center of vowel space • $F2(/a/) < 1500 \text{ Hz}$ [sic; actually ‘>’?]
EQ	reversal of height, fronting of “e” = /ε/ and /æ/ • $F1(/ε/) > F1(/æ/), F2(/ε/) < F2(/æ/)$

- $F1 \leftrightarrow$ vowel height (high $F1$ = low V)
- $F2 \leftrightarrow$ vowel backness (high $F2$ = front V)

NCS: Chronology

- 1 Tensing and raising of short-*a* (/æ/)
 - 2 Fronting of short-*o* (/ɑ/)
Lowering of short-*e* (/ɛ/)
 - 3 Lowering and fronting of long open-*o* (/ɔ/)
 - 4 Backing of short-*e* (/ɛ/)
 - 5 Backing of /ʌ/
 - 6 Lowering, backing of “i” (/ɪ/)
- Does step 1 connect to anything we’ve seen?

NCS: Systematicity (?)

- Why is the NCS so systematic throughout the Great Lakes region?
- What is going on in the “St. Louis corridor”?

NCS in Great Lakes region

- Very uniform occurrence of NCS in this region
- Stages of NCS correlate with speaker age (younger speakers show more stages)
- Labov's analysis:
 - Speakers with different short-*a* systems developed 'koine' in western NY State: **tensing/raising of /æ/ in all environments**
 - These speakers then migrated as intact communities across the Great Lakes region
 - /æ/ shift 'set the stage' for the NCS
 - New generations continued **incrementation**

NCS in St. Louis corridor

- Region on a line from Chicago to St. Louis along I-55
- St. Louis corridor speakers... [Rose, Fig. 21]
 - satisfy ED at similar rate to Inland North
 - sometimes also satisfy UD
 - sometimes also satisfy AE1 (!!)
 - O2, EQ more rarely found
- Do St. Louis corridor speakers show the same relationship between age and NCS stages as Inland North speakers?

NCS: Inland North vs. St. Louis corridor

- Why is the NCS a good test case for transmission/diffusion, according to Labov?
- Which area does Labov propose is showing the effects of **transmission**? Why?
- Which area does Labov propose is showing the effects of **diffusion**? Why?

Changing gears:

Preparation for discussion of writing systems in historical linguistics

Writing and language

- From the perspective of modern linguistics, what is the relationship between *writing* and *language*?
- What are some advantages of using written materials in the study of historical linguistics?
 - Does this contradict the point above?

Types of scripts

- European languages use an **alphabetic script**
 - What are the defining characteristics of an alphabetic script?
 - What other types of scripts are there?

Types of scripts

- Alphabetic
 - Symbols represent **segments** (individual consonants/vowels)
 - Spanish
 - <a> /a/ <t> /t/ <ñ> /ɲ/
- Does English use an alphabetic system? Why or why not?

Types of scripts

- Syllabic

- Symbols represent syllables, or C+V combinations

- Japanese *kana*

<か> /ka/

<に> /ni/

<と> /to/

Types of scripts

- Logographic
 - Symbols represent morphemes [note: *not* “abstract ideas”]
 - Chinese

<人> *rén*

‘person’

<愛> *ài*

‘love’

<戀> *liàn*

‘love’