The Presence and Progress of the Canadian Shift in Halifax and Vancouver

Meredith Tamminga
Emily Sadlier-Brown

McGill University
Department of Linguistics
• Previous research
• Methodology
• Results
  – Presence of the shift
  – Progress of the shift
  – Implications of /ah/
• Future research
• Conclusion
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Previous research

Fig. 1. Vowel notation and example words
Previous research

Fig. 2. Clarke, Elms & Youssef (1995)  
Fig. 3. Boberg (2005)
Previous research

“...excluding the Atlantic provinces...”
- Labov et al. (2006: 219)

“...a pan-Canadian development...”
- Boberg (2008: 136)
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Methodology

- 26 interviews with local speakers
- Older b. 1922-1972; Younger b. 1981-1986
- Word list analysis in CSL, stats in Excel
- 4-10 tokens per vowel, excluded /_N, /_r,l, /_g

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Vancouver</th>
<th></th>
<th>Halifax</th>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young</td>
<td>3 F</td>
<td>3 M</td>
<td>3 F</td>
<td>3 M</td>
<td>6 F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old</td>
<td>4 F</td>
<td>2 M</td>
<td>6 F</td>
<td>2 M</td>
<td>10 F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Total:</td>
<td>7 F</td>
<td>5 M</td>
<td>9 F</td>
<td>5 M</td>
<td>16 F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 6. Participant makeup
• Previous research
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• Results
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• Conclusion

Outline
Results: Presence

Fig. 7. Indiv. speaker averages relative to thresholds in Vancouver
Results: Presence...

Fig. 8. Indiv. speaker averages relative to thresholds in Halifax
Outline

• Previous research
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Results: Progress

Fig. 9. Age group averages and Cartesian distances for Halifax
Results: Progress...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Halifax</th>
<th>(i) F1</th>
<th>F2</th>
<th>(e) F1</th>
<th>F2</th>
<th>(æ) F1</th>
<th>F2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test 1: Pearson Correlation with birth year</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>-0.21</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>-0.51</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>-0.64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test 2: t-test Difference between old and young groups</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 10. Pearson correlations and t-tests of apparent time vowel trajectories in Halifax
Results: Progress...

Fig. 11. Age group averages and Cartesian distances for Vancouver
Results: Progress...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vancouver</th>
<th>(i)</th>
<th>(e)</th>
<th>(æ)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F1</td>
<td>F2</td>
<td>F1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Test 1: Pearson</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correlation with birth year</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$r = $</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>-0.32</td>
<td>0.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Test 2: t-test</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference between old and young groups</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$p = $</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.04</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 12. Pearson correlations and t-tests of apparent time vowel trajectories in Vancouver
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Results: (ah)

Fig. 13. Older speaker averages for (oh) and (ah) in Halifax
Results: (ah)

Fig. 13. Older speaker averages for (oh) and (ah) in Halifax
Results: (ah)...

Fig. 14. Older speaker averages for (ae) and (ah) in Halifax
Results: (ah)...

![Diagram showing the results of (ah) and (ae) in Halifax for the old group.](image)

**Fig. 14.** Older speaker averages for (ae) and (ah) in Halifax
Future research

• Further exploration of (ah)
• Social factors
• Regional comparisons in apparent time
• Mechanical or socially-motivated?
  – Other dialect areas with low-back merger
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Conclusion

Q: Is the Canadian Shift an active change in both Halifax and Vancouver?
A: Yes.

Q: Is the Canadian Shift following the same phonetic path in Halifax and Vancouver?
A: No.

Q: Is the (ah) merger in Halifax structurally related to the Canadian Shift?
A: Possibly.
Thank you

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Contact us: meredith.tamminga@gmail.com
            emily.sadlierbrown@yahoo.com
References