

## **Participation of second generation immigrants in Canadian Shift and Raising in Vancouver**

Until recently, many sociolinguistic studies conducted in multiethnic urban centers have focused predominantly on the speech of the “founder population,” which in North America have typically been speakers of English of Anglo-Celtic descent (Trudgill 1986; Labov 2001; D’Arcy and Tagliamonte 2010). The limited scope of such studies has been critiqued because they only give a partial picture of the dynamics of the entire speech community (Sankoff and Horvath 1987; Kerswill 1994) which in many large urban centers consists of representatives of other races and nationalities as well, both first generation immigrants and their descendants.

The presentation reports some of the results from my PhD research which explores if and to what extent second generation immigrants participate in the Canadian Shift and Canadian Raising in Vancouver, two features that have been shown to be undergoing change in Canadian English (Canadian Raising: Hung, Davidson, & Chambers 1993; Boberg 2008; Pappas & Jeffrey 2013; Canadian Shift: Clarke, Elms, & Youssef 1995; Sadlier-Brown and Tamminga 2008). SFU male and female undergraduate students (18-21 y.o.) who self-identified as Anglo-Canadians, Chinese Canadians, and South Asian Canadians (second generation immigrants) were recruited to participate in sociolinguistic interviews and to read a word list. 145 words containing the target vowels were extracted from each of 24 recordings; F1 and F2 were measured in Praat and the measurements normalized following Boberg (2010). Data on ethnic orientation (Hoffman and Walker 2010) was recorded for each speaker, and the speakers were positioned along a continuum of having a stronger or weaker affiliation with their heritage language and culture.

The preliminary results suggest that overall speakers with different ethnic background share the same linguistic system; like reported in Hoffman and Walker (2010), the difference is “more a question of degree than of kind” (p.59). However, there is a lot of intra-group variability that maybe accounted for by different ethnic orientation of speakers. Interestingly, there is a clear difference in linguistic behaviour of speakers with different ethnic backgrounds in regards to Canadian Raising and Canadian Shift

that may be explained by higher level of awareness of the former, as well as by bi-ethnic identity of some of the participants.

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