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"English-American Speech Relationships – A Quantative Approach"-Robert G. Shackleton JR.

Hypothesis: There was mainly southeastern English influence on American speech. The southeastern influence was somewhat greater on New England speech and the southwestern influence was somewhat greater in the American South.

Historical overview of research done by other researchers:
-        Cleanth Brooks (1935)
-        Kurath (1939), LANE
-        Lowman, LAMSAS
-        Viereck (1975)
-        Trudgill (Australia and NZ)

This study makes use of:

PEAS (Pronunciation of English in the Atlantic States) by Kurath and McDavid (1961)
DSSE (Dialect Structure of Southern England) by Kurath and Lowman (1970)

-        284 variants in 81 different words
-        Usually 1 to 4 words used for a phoneme, sometimes 5 or more

Important qualifications:
-        classification of responses
-        residual variant
-        representation on map

22 informants from Plymouth, Massachusetts, 31 from southern Virginia and northern North Carolina coast

Interviewers: Lowman, Henry Collins (7), Cassil Reynard (13), Miles Hanley (2). Research done between 1934-1940, Collins 1950. Folk speakers, mostly over the age of 60. 59 English, 72 American informants.

Quantitative techniques:

-   Using cluster analysis to find dialect regions
-   Analyzing the distribution of variants
-   Applying measures of similarity (distance measures) among informants
-   Principal componants analysis
-   Multiple regression analysis

Clustering techniques:
- Hierarchical: subclusters, agglomerative methods
- Nonhierarchical

6 regions: the East Midlands (EM), East Anglia (EA), the Southeast (SE), the Southwest (SW), Devonshire (DV) and the West Midlands (WM)

Hypothesis: Like the border informants, American speakers may best be thought of as having characteristics of several of the English regions.

288 different variants, 91% somewhere in southern England, 20% only in southern England, absent from America, so 22% lost. 80% found in America, only 9% found only in America.

Log-linear relationship for English regions, similar among the American regions, but with a lower average number of variants per speaker.

Analyzed further by calculating the percentage shared by individual informants.

Linguistic distance: An intuitive feel for the degree of difference between speaker's usages.

Principal components analysis: 2 "poles", one for negative values and one for positive values. This isolates sets of linguistic features that tend to occur together and not with other linguistic features. Southern English speech has a fairly strong demarcation between east and west. American speech forms appear to draw all over the region.

Conclusion: Preservation of English variants and relatively little phonetic innovation in America. Variants found in American regions are more likely to be found in the southeastern regions of England, particularly close to London. Variants found in Massachusetts are considerably different from those observed in the two southern American regions. Except from the absence of clear East Anglian influence on the speech of Massachusetts, the results are quite consistent with the historical record from regional migrations in the 17th and 18th century. This suggests that the Puritan migration came largely from the eastern counties of England, while the migration to the Tidewater came mainly from the metropolitan center around London and from the southwest. The uniformity of American speech may be caused by the dominance of immigrants from the London region.

Bibliography:
Robert G. Shackleton, Jr. (2005) English-American Speech Relationships: A Quantitative Approach. *Journal of English Linguistics* 33(2), 99-160. DOI: 10.1177/0075424205279017