

## **PRICE and MOUTH four ways: nucleus quality, diphthong length, offglide quality and allophonic raising in Falkland Island English**

Canadian Raising (CR), an allophonic split of /au/ and /ai/, whereby nuclei are higher when in pre-voiceless position than elsewhere, is well-known in a number of varieties of English, including Canada, parts of the US and England, and some insular (post-)colonial Atlantic varieties, such as Bermuda, the Bahamas, Saba, St Helena and Tristan da Cunha. Indeed Trudgill argues that it is found “in nearly every form of non-creolised, mixed, colonial English outside Australasia and South Africa” (Trudgill 1986: 160).

The English of the Falkland Islands (FIE), too, has been reported as demonstrating CR of both /ai/ and /au/ (Trudgill 1986, Sudbury 2000). One aim of our paper is to plot the recent fate of CR there, and consider the plausibility of Trudgill’s (1986) contact-based argument - a reallocated outcome of the mixture of ingredient variants of both variables - for the emergence of it in colonial Englishes. How does CR pattern across apparent time, how robust is it in the Falklands, and is it more stable, as some have suggested is more likely (e.g. Moreton 2021), for /ai/ than /au/?

In order to investigate this, we analysed a large corpus of the informal speech of over 60 speakers of FIE, collected in 2020. The corpus was transcribed into ELAN and then WebMAUS forced aligned. Formant values were automatically extracted in Praat at 10% intervals.

We find that while the allophonic split is distinct for both /ai/ and /au/ among older speakers in the corpus, it is gradually obsolescing for /au/ over time. The social patterning of the allophonic split, furthermore, still demonstrates traces of ingredient settler dialects, lending weight to Trudgill’s argument that CR is contact-driven, but that new dialect focussing was slow in the Falklands.

As we will see, however, there is much more to /ai/ and /au/ in FIE than simply the evolving allophonic split. A number of other changes are underway, including:

- a dramatic lowering and backing of the nucleus of /au/ across apparent time (a change characteristic also of Southern England)
- a gradual backing of the offglide quality
- a gradual shortening of the diphthong trajectory

We demonstrate in our paper how these changes intersect with the settlement history of the islands (considering, in light of considerable 19th century migration from Scotland to the Falklands, the effect of both CR and Scottish Vowel Length Rule on diphthong duration), the dramatic socio-economic developments that followed the Conflict with Argentina in 1982, as well as a range of speaker social characteristics such as gender, rural/urban socialisation and educational level.

### **References:**

Moreton, E. (2021). Phonological abstractness in English diphthong raising. In S. David and K. Berkson (eds.), *American Raising*. Durham: Duke University Press. 13-44.

Sudbury, A. (2000). Dialect contact and koineisation in the Falkland Islands: Development of a southern hemisphere variety. Unpublished PhD thesis, University of Essex.

Trudgill, P (1986). *Dialects in Contact*. Oxford: Blackwell.