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Collaborative Research: A Sociolinguistic Investigation of Franco-American French

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Final Report for Period: 08/2001 - 07/2005**Submitted on:** 10/29/2005**Principal Investigator:** Smith, Jane S.**Award ID:** 0004039**Organization:** University of Maine**Title:**

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH: A Sociolinguistic Investigation of Franco-American French

Project Participants

Senior Personnel

Name: Smith, Jane**Worked for more than 160 Hours:** Yes**Contribution to Project:**

My involvement in the project is as outlined in the collaborative proposal. I conduct and supervise research for half the project in northern New England: Van Buren, Waterville, and Biddeford, ME, and Berlin, NH.

NEW: In mid August 2002, I was diagnosed with a recurrence of cancer and I had to take medical leave from September 27, 2002, through January 14, 2003. My course of chemotherapy treatments will continue until early March, 2003. Consequently, my progress in field work and research has been set back approximately six months. This means that I have been unable to complete the interviews scheduled for Waterville in Year 1 and interviewing for Year 2 in Biddeford, ME, and Berlin, NH, will thus be delayed, with completion of this phase of interviewing to be pushed into Year 3. During my leave, I was able to meet several times with the G.R.A. and other graduate students who are transcribing the interviews, but needless to say, progress in data analysis has also been delayed.

Post-doc

Graduate Student

Name: Bloom, Michelle**Worked for more than 160 Hours:** Yes**Contribution to Project:**

Ms. Bloom is a graduate research assistant who has conducted historical research on Van Buren and Waterville, Maine, the two target communities for Year 1. She has also copied and catalogued the tapes from the first set of interviews, completed a summary sheet for each interview, begun setting up a database for responses to the sociolinguistic survey, and helped to organize and set up the project office. She has begun the transcription process and will participate in the transcription and database workshop in May.

Name: Todorova, Alexandra**Worked for more than 160 Hours:** Yes**Contribution to Project:**

Ms. Todorova is the Graduate Research Assistant on this project whose role is to compile interview summaries and transcribe interviews from Van Buren and Waterville, conduct background research on the target communities of Biddeford, ME, and Berlin, NH, for the interviews in Year 2, and assist in data analysis. She also provides clerical organizational support, and is supported by NSF funding for this project.

Name: Day, Susan**Worked for more than 160 Hours:** Yes**Contribution to Project:**

Ms. Day is a graduate work-study student supported by NSF funding for this project whose job is to compile interview summaries and transcribe interviews conducted in Year 1.

Name: Houle, Peter**Worked for more than 160 Hours:** Yes**Contribution to Project:**

Like Ms. Day, Mr. Houle is a graduate work-study student supported by NSF funding for this project whose job is to compile

interview summaries and transcribe interviews conducted in Year 1.

Name: Perrin, Julie

Worked for more than 160 Hours: Yes

Contribution to Project:

Ms. Perrin transcribed interviews and proofread transcriptions in summer 2003.

Name: Wood, Sarah

Worked for more than 160 Hours: Yes

Contribution to Project:

Ms. Wood transcribes interviews and fills out interview summaries. She is employed for the academic year 2003-04.

Name: Domareki, Mary

Worked for more than 160 Hours: Yes

Contribution to Project:

Ms. Domareki transcribed interviews.

Name: Dupuy, Brooke

Worked for more than 160 Hours: Yes

Contribution to Project:

Ms. Dupuy worked as a special project assistant (Brooke Plourde) in 2003. She is now a graduate student and returned to the project to review and correct interview transcripts from Van Buren, Waterville, Biddeford and Berlin and was paid at an hourly rate.

Name: Saint-Pierre, Adele

Worked for more than 160 Hours: Yes

Contribution to Project:

Ms. Saint-Pierre transcribed interviews from Waterville and Berlin and was paid at an hourly rate.

Name: Seekins, Margaret

Worked for more than 160 Hours: No

Contribution to Project:

Ms. Seekins transcribed interviews from Biddeford and was paid at an hourly rate.

Name: Harnum, Hayward

Worked for more than 160 Hours: No

Contribution to Project:

Mr. Harnum transcribed interviews from Biddeford and was paid an hourly wage.

Undergraduate Student

Name: Austin, Charles

Worked for more than 160 Hours: No

Contribution to Project:

Mr. Austin transcribed interviews from Biddeford and was paid at an hourly rate.

Name: Teko, Dope

Worked for more than 160 Hours: No

Contribution to Project:

Ms. Teko transcribed interviews from Biddeford and was paid at an hourly rate.

Technician, Programmer

Other Participant

Name: Fox, Cynthia

Worked for more than 160 Hours: Yes

Contribution to Project:

Dr. Fox of the University at Albany is a collaborative researcher in this project. She conducts and supervises research for half of the project: Bristol, CT, Woonsocket, RI, Gardner and Southbridge, MA.

Name: Plourde, Brooke

Worked for more than 160 Hours: Yes

Contribution to Project:

Ms. Plourde transcribed interviews and proofread transcriptions in the summer of 2003. Because she had completed her B.A. in May, she had to be hired from the university temp pool and not as a student.

Research Experience for Undergraduates**Organizational Partners****SUNY at Albany**

As explained in the collaborative proposal.

NEW 04/30/04:

The Albany team has a native speaker, Ms. Genevieve Fortin, who is assisting the Maine team with proofreading and correcting transcriptions. This is a short-term arrangement for 300 hours of assistance that has been set up as a sub-contract for approximately \$5,800.

Other Collaborators or Contacts

Over the course of this project, the following people have served as local consultants:

In Orono: Susan Pinette, Director, Franco-American Studies Program, University of Maine; Yvon Labbe, Director, Franco-American Center, University of Maine; Lisa Michaud, Coordinator of Communications, Franco-American Center; Rhea Cote, author and founder of the Franco-American Women's Institute;

In the Saint John Valley: Jason Parent, President, Maine Acadian Heritage Council; Lisa Ornstein, Director, Acadian Archives, University of Maine at Fort Kent; Don Levesque, Editor, Saint John Valley Times; Judy Paradis, former State Senator, District 1, Maine; Dayton Grandmaison, French teacher, Van Buren District Secondary School.

In Waterville: Gregoire Chabot, author and Franco-American language activist; Sylvane Pontin, founder of French Language Club Les Bavards of Waterville, Maine.

In Woonsocket: Suzanne Bernier, President, les Dames du Richelieu de Woonsocket and host of French language radio program Salut! Bonjour!; Louise Champigny, Assistant Vice-President of Fraternal Activities, L'Union Saint-Jean Baptiste; Sister Charles, Librarian, Mallet Library, l'Union Saint-Jean Baptiste; Sylvia and Roger Bartholomew, American-French Genealogical Society; Jacques Staelin, President, Le Club Richelieu de Woonsocket; Raymond Bacon and Anne Conway, Co-Site Managers, Museum of Work and Culture; Eugene Peloquin, community leader and volunteer, Museum of Work and Culture.

In Bristol: Father Rousseau, Pastor, Saint Anne's Roman Catholic Church (Bristol, CT); Therese Lachance, noted community member, holder of various leadership positions in numerous Franco-American organizations (Bristol, CT); Methode Domingue, former President of the Club Franco-Americain de Bristol; Renaud Albert, former President of the Club Franco-Americain de Bristol; Ron Heroux, Correspondant for Rhode Island, Le Forum. Gail Leach of the Bristol Historical Society, Normand Morneault, President, L'Union des Franco-Américains du Connecticut.

In Southbridge: Charlene Laporte, Southbridge Town Clerk; CÚcile Caouette, secretary, Notre Dame Parish, Southbridge; Elaine Martel, Administrative Assistant, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Southbridge; Margaret Morrissey, Adult Services Librarian, Jacob Edwards Library; the board of the Southbridge Historical Society; Ted Bartlett, Union Saint-Jean Baptiste.

In Gardner: Andrew Boucher, President of the Acadien Social Club, Gardner; Val Cormier, Vice President, the Acadien Social Club; Mary Ann Hunt, Museum Coordinator, The Gardner Museum; Leonard Dorval, Trustee, The Gardner Museum.

In Berlin: Jacklyn Nadeau (Recording Secretary) and Odette Leclerc (Director and Curator), Berlin and Coos County Historical Society; David J. Thurlow, Executive Director, Northern Forest Heritage Park; Albert R. Morissette, Rotary Club of the White Mountains; Karen Sue Grosz, President, New Hampshire Community Technical College; Mary Elizabeth Klechot, Gorham Middle High School.

In Biddeford: Raymond Morin of the Club Richelieu and Carl Frechette, Manager at West Point Stevens Mill.

Within the academic community, both Dr. Fox and I corresponded with graduate student Joseph Price (Indiana University) as he defined a thesis topic focusing on Franco-American French in the Saint-John Valley and Edith Szlezak (University of Regensburg, Germany) spent an afternoon in Albany to learn about the current project and to discuss her plans to complete a dissertation on Franco-American French in Massachusetts. At their request, copies of the transcription protocol were sent to Professors Tom Klingler (Tulane) and Michael Picone (Alabama). We also shared our interview questionnaire with Professor Becky Brown (Purdue) who has begun fieldwork in Lewiston, Maine. Other researchers who have expressed interest in future collaborative work include Virginia Hill of the University of New Brunswick (St. John) and Claude Poirier (Université Laval) who would like to include material from the corpus in the Base de données lexicographiques panfrancophone (BNLP), a project of the Agence universitaire de la francophonie (AUF).

Finally, as our project has progressed to the point where we are able to report findings, we have received invitations to present our work at academic conferences and to make contributions to edited volumes. To date, we have accepted invitations to speak at Indiana University and the University of Texas at Austin and to contribute chapters in volumes edited by Albert Valdman, Julie Auger and Deborah-Piston-Hatlen and by Robert Fournier.

Activities and Findings

Research and Education Activities:

The objectives of the present project are 1) to collect and preserve a scientifically based sampling of a rapidly disappearing, unique variety of North American French from representative communities in the northeastern United States; 2) to create a computerized database for the study of Franco-American French; 3) to delimit the use of French and the degree of language maintenance and shift within these communities and to compare findings across communities; 4) to examine the question of geographically-based dialect variation within Franco-American French and of the relationship between Franco-Canadian and Acadian varieties in this context and 5) to examine the effects of language contact and restriction both within and across speech communities. Annual reports from 2002-2004 present the activities conducted in years 1-3 of the project. This report includes activities and findings that have occurred since April 2004 during the no-cost one year extension.

In May of 2004, I attended the international colloquium 'Grammaire comparée des variétés de français d'Amérique' held in Avignon, France, where I presented a paper on the implications of the loss of initial *l* in articles and object pronouns for the degree of analyticity-syntheticity of the verb and noun groups in Van Buren French. A written version of the paper was completed in December of 2004 and will appear in *Français d'Amérique : approches morphosyntaxiques* edited by Patrice Brasseur and published in Paris by L'Harmattan. This paper addresses one of the specific research questions described in the proposal as part of goal 5.

In the summer of 2004, I completed fieldwork on the Maine portion of the corpus with the final set of 12 interviews conducted in Waterville, and this allowed us to complete the set of written interview summaries. The corpus consists of interviews with 29 speakers from Van Buren (approximately 25 recorded hours of material), 36 speakers from Waterville (approximately 34 recorded hours); 37 speakers from Biddeford (approximately 34 hours) and 37 speakers from Berlin (approximately 34 hours). Transcription continued to be a major focus of our activity in 2004 and 2005. Our corpus totals 2,666 pages of electronically searchable transcriptions of directed conversation coded for approximately 28 linguistic traits and another 670 pages of similarly coded, electronically searchable translations of 45 English sentences designed to elicit linguistic features that are of low frequency in natural discourse. All but two interviews have been transcribed (one each in Van Buren and Waterville).

Also during the summer of 2004, Graduate Research Assistant Alexandra Todorova and I began preparing for a round table on Franco-American identity which I had proposed at the request of conference organizers for the annual meeting of the American Council on Quebec Studies in November 2004. In addition, my article titled, 'From adverb to discourse marker and beyond: That status of *l'Ń* in Franco-American French', was accepted for inclusion in the volume tentatively titled *Historical Romance Linguistics*, in honor of Jürgen Klausenburger, edited by Deborah Arteaga and Randall Gess and published by John Benjamins. The article delves into the area of information structure, an interest which was triggered by the omnipresence of discourse marker *l'Ń*, particularly in the data collected in Van Buren, and which will be pursued in future research.

With respect to addressing goals 4 and 5, in October 2004 the Maine team (Smith and graduate student Brooke Dupuy) attended a workshop on the use of Goldvarb hosted by the Albany team and led by Isabelle LemÚe, a junior colleague of Dr. Fox on a visiting appointment at Albany.

In November, Ms. Todorova and I participated in the round table on Franco-American identity with our counterparts from Albany at the annual meeting of the American Council for Quebec Studies in Quebec City.

In January 2005, Dr. Fox and I learned that a paper we had proposed on *La Distribution de traits phonologiques dialectaux en franco-amÚricain* had been accepted for presentation at the Symposium on North American French that was part of *Methods in Dialectology (Methods XII)* to be held at the University of Moncton (NB) in August. We were ultimately unable to attend the conference but are continuing to work on this paper for submission to an academic journal or conference.

In April, Ms. Todorova successfully defended her master's thesis titled, *A Linguistic Study of the Subjunctive in the Spoken French of Waterville, Maine*.

Also in April, the volume on *Le franais en AmÚrique du nord* edited by Albert Valdman, Julie Auger and Deborah Piston-Hatlen in which Dr. Fox and I contributed a paper on *La situation du franais franco-amÚricain: aspects linguistique et sociolinguistique* was published in Quebec by the Presses de l'UniversitÚ Laval. Following its publication, we were contacted by Robert Fournier (University of Ottawa), who has invited us to make a contribution on a similar theme to the ninth issue of *GLOTTOPOPOL*, an electronic journal of sociolinguistics. The issue, for which he is guest editor, will be devoted to the topic of Francophonies amÚricaines.

Data analysis continues as Dr. Fox and I pursue the question of dialectal variation and dialect leveling in the eight communities. In addition, for her master's thesis, Brooke Dupuy is studying the Waterville corpus with a view to determining to what extent age, gender, and level of education play a role in the occurrence of diphthongs that are typical of the source dialect in QuÚbec.

In November 2005, I will be presenting results from this project to project participants and other interested members of the Waterville community in a talk titled, 'Who speaks French in Waterville?' at Colby College in Waterville. Additional reports to the communities in Berlin, Van Buren and Biddeford are projected for the coming months.

Findings:

The following is a summary of findings to date that is based either wholly or in part on material gathered in Northern New England that has been presented at conferences or in publications by members of the Maine team of researchers as sole or co-authors. Findings that are based solely on material gathered in Southern New England or by researchers from Albany only are available in Dr. Fox's (separate) report.

1) Language maintenance and shift (Goal 3)

a) French language use today

The analysis of data from 256 French-speakers has allowed us to delimit the use of French and the degree of language maintenance and shift with each of the eight communities and to compare our findings across the communities. These individuals are almost evenly divided between residents of northern (n=129) and southern (n=127) New England. Forty-eight percent (n=126) are male and 52% (n=135) are female. The youngest speaker is a 6-year-old from Van Buren; the oldest a 98-year-old from Bristol.

Figure 1 represents the distribution of the speakers according to age, and reveals that 84% (n=214) of the subjects are 50 years or older. This percentage reflects the fact that, in most families, French has not been transmitted to the youngest generations. Although no single factor can explain why parents stopped using French with their children, several trends can be identified. For example, informants whose marriages were exogamous or exolinguistic almost always chose to use a single language ũ English ũ at home rather than raise their children with multiple languages. Those who experienced difficulty in school, in the workplace, or socially because of their lack of skills in English often spoke of wanting to spare their children the problems that they themselves went through. Although speakers uniformly asserted that knowing another language was a great advantage, many felt that knowledge of French did not have the same utility in the community for their children that it once had for them.

The percentages reported in Figure 1 also reveal that over half (58%) of the speakers who are 70 years and older reside in the southern communities. In this case, the skewed distribution reflects the fact that the shift toward English monolingualism is more advanced there than in northern New England, a trend previously noted by Veltman and by GiguPre. In Southbridge, for example, we had some difficulty recruiting Franco-Americans who still spoke French; only three of the speakers under the age of 70 were able to sustain a conversation in the language. Similarly, although we did interview fluent speakers under the age of 40 in Bristol and in Woonsocket, our informants could not identify others their own age who speak French and still live in the community. While recruitment of younger speakers was challenging in the northern

communities as well, at least some of the difficulty can be attributed to problems of scheduling. Active members of the work force, younger speakers could not always find the time to be interviewed for the project

According to our informants, there is no domain reserved for the exclusive use of French in any of the target communities. In general, the language is most likely to be spoken in the home, where it may still be the preferred language in some families. Speakers who operated a family business often reported some use of French in the workplace, as did those employed in healthcare and other service sector jobs, where knowledge of the language was not only useful, but sometimes necessary, when dealing with older clients.

Support for French is also now largely absent from the institutions that have traditionally provided the community infrastructure. In parish schools where the language was once the medium of instruction for half of the day, children can now study French only as a foreign language if the school is still open, and if French is offered at all. In these classrooms, too, a European, rather than a North American, standard now serves as the target model. Similarly, the use of French in church services occurs at the sole discretion of the priest and has nearly disappeared. Informants also describe a decline in the use of French in Franco-American service and social clubs. Although still numerous, most younger members are reported not to speak French, and the need to attract new blood may necessitate opening membership to individuals who may not even be of French descent.

The highly restricted domains of language use described by our informants and outlined above seem to suggest that French plays a fairly minor role in Franco-American lives today. Despite this, 62% of the speakers assert that they use French often (18%) or daily (44%) while only 26% claim to use it rarely (20%) or never (6%) (Figure 2). When broken down by community, these percentages continue to hold fairly well in all but two cases (Figure 3). In Van Buren, all informants report using French at least occasionally and 79% use it daily. In Southbridge, on the other hand, less than 20% said they used French daily, while nearly 30% said they never speak it. These exceptions, which reflect again the differences between northern and southern New England, place these two communities at the two extremes of the continuum of French language maintenance and shift toward English.

b) Community norms and language attitudes

As the domains where the French is used continue to shrink, its use comes increasingly to be associated with a particular person or persons rather than a particular type or location of an interaction. Across the eight communities in this project, informants describe a similar pattern whereby they tend to use French, in decreasing order of likelihood, with particular friends, their spouses, parents, children, siblings, relatives, and clients.

One of the consequences of using French with such a restricted set is that reports of the frequency of language use are necessarily very volatile. Indeed, a person who would identify herself as someone who uses French daily could become *à* literally over night *à* someone who rarely uses French, frequency of use and fluency in the language may not be directly correlated and must be measured independently.

In their explanation of when French is likely to be spoken, many informants mentioned a norm whereby, in any gathering, the presence of a single non-French speaking person requires the use of English by everyone present. In their eyes, this behavior sets Franco-Americans apart from other ethnic groups whose continued use of a language others do not understand is considered very rude. Such a rule of etiquette is of course a strong deterrent to the use of French in public.

Another factor that curbs the use of French is related to the question of the 'quality' of the Franco-American variety. Speakers are sensitive to non-standard or stigmatized pronunciations and code mixing is a particularly salient in distinguishing 'good' and 'bad' French for many. Negative attitudes about regionally based differences are also admitted, and may affect a speaker's willingness to use French, particularly in communities such as Bristol and Gardner, where immigrants came from several distinct dialect areas.

While the speakers we interviewed acknowledge that the perceived lack of utility of the language and the sometimes negative evaluation of its quality have contributed to its abandonment by some Franco-Americans, their own feelings toward French are strongly positive and far outweigh these considerations.

c) Franco-American Identity

The rapid transformation of the Franco-American community over the last 60 years has led scholars to wonder to what extent Franco-Americans can be said to maintain a common identity today. Our research in Northern New England suggests that many of them do. Of those interviewees who responded to the question about identity, in each community the majority (ranging from 49% in Van Buren to 68% in Biddeford) consider themselves to be Franco-American. The next most frequent category for identity is 'American', with 30% self-identifying as such in all three communities except Biddeford, where this is the response of only 21% of the respondents. Some identify themselves as 'Canadian' (17% in Van Buren and Waterville, 11% in Biddeford and 7% in Berlin), while a very small percentage name other categories (Qu'Ébécois, Acadian, American Canadian, French Canadian, etc.) and even then, only in Van Buren and Berlin.

It is interesting to note that even in Van Buren, an area known for its Acadian heritage and culture, speakers most often identify themselves as Franco-American. For some, 'Franco-American' is clearly a term that they are not accustomed to using, yet they apparently chose it as the

most appropriate response at the time of the interview. In addition, this is a term used by local media and Franco-American politicians when treating topics pertaining specifically to people of French Canadian and Acadian origin throughout the state. A label that originated among French Canadians whose roots were in Quebec and not the Acadian Maritimes, 'Franco-American' is clearly undergoing an expansion in scope in the Maine context.

Our data from across all four communities indicate that women (62.5%) are somewhat more likely than men (58.1%) to claim a Franco-American, Canadian or French identity. Of all the respondents who do, 75% tend to be more aware of Franco-American festivals such as La Kermesse in Biddeford and the Festival du Bois in Berlin as compared to 'Americans' (53%), and are more likely to attend or participate in these events, 85.7% versus 47.6%. In addition, they are more likely, 84.2% as compared to 42.1% of 'Americans', to feel connected to Franco-Americans elsewhere in Maine and New England. When asked what it means to be Franco-American, many respondents note ancestral ties to Canada as an integral part of their identity.

2) Geographically based dialect variation (Goal 4)

Our data is rich in evidence of the regional variation within and between the source dialects, Quebec and Acadian French that can be attributed to the patterns of migration to each of the target communities.

For example, features that are typical of Quebec French can be found in Waterville, Biddeford, Berlin, Bristol, Southbridge and Woonsocket, where the communities are largely of French Canadian origin. They include the assibilation of /t/ and /d/ before closed vowels and semi-vowels, the laxing of high vowels in checked syllables, diphthongization of long vowels in accented position, and a more closed variant of nasal vowel [ɛ̃];. We find evidence of the regional variation present within Quebec in the fact that some speakers in Bristol, Woonsocket and Biddeford pronounce [g] instead of /j/ in word-final position. In addition, in Bristol and Woonsocket, we note the opening of [ɛ̃] to [a] in the 3s form of the imperfect. In Van Buren and Gardner, however, speakers of Acadian origin are predominant, and this is reflected by the pronunciation of [u] where open [o] is pronounced in other varieties of French, the opening of [ɛ̃] to [a] before /r/, and affrication of /t/ and /d/ when followed by /i/. Additionally, in Van Buren but not in Gardner, we note the strong aspiration of fricatives /ʃ/ and /x/, another feature that is typical of Acadian French. The fact that some speakers in Van Buren show evidence of features that are normally typical of Quebec French, including the assibilation of /t/ and /d/ (see above) and lax high vowels in checked syllables, is especially interesting because it suggests that, in areas where different regional varieties have come into contact, some dialect leveling has taken place.

Verbal inflection in all communities is marked by regularization of irregular present indicative and subjunctives forms. The Acadian 3p present tense ending [ʒ] is found in Gardner but not in Van Buren. Certain marked forms of the imperfect are found in Woonsocket, Van Buren and among speakers in Bristol whose families migrated there from Van Buren or other communities in northern Maine's St. John Valley, which is largely Acadian in origin.

3) Language contact and restriction (Goal 5)

The St. John Valley where Van Buren is located has been teasingly referred to by some as 'IÓ-IÓ land' because of the frequent use of IÓ 'there' in oral discourse. Speakers tend to perceive it as a filler or rhythm marker, and it is viewed by some as a sign of being poorly educated. Our preliminary study of the use of IÓ in the speech of four speakers from Van Buren suggests, however, that IÓ serves several pragmatic functions similar to those which Forget found to be the case in Quebec French. They include singularizing the referent (based on presupposition) according to its role in the discourse. In another analysis, Vincent demonstrates that in Quebec French, IÓ acts as an accentuator, signaling thematic and syntagmatic segmentation. This is true for the Franco-American French of Van Buren, as well.

These preliminary findings raise two intriguing questions. First, does the use of frequency of discourse marker IÓ stem from the proximity of Quebec and Quebec-influenced varieties of Acadian French spoken across the border, thereby constituting an instance of dialect leveling? Cross community comparisons with the Acadian French spoken in Gardner and Bristol will enable us to address this question. Second, the question of the influence of English is raised by the comparison of the speech of the two younger speakers referred to above, both of whom are fluent speakers in their early 40s. One shows a much higher frequency of discourse marker IÓ and prosodic stress patterns typical of French. The other uses IÓ far less frequently but tends to use stress patterns resembling those of English. Given the different means by which French and English express topic and focus in oral discourse (Lambrecht argues for a language-specific grammatical role for information structure), the bilingual context of the Franco-American communities currently under investigation promises to be very fruitful to informing our understanding of information structure in a language contact situation.

Our examination of the Van Buren data also brings to light some interesting facts in respect to the notions analytic and synthetic as put forth by Schwegler. Although on the whole the phenomena are the same in both Franco-American and Standard French, the specific features that typify this dynamic differ in some aspects. For example, in Franco-American French the positioning of object clitics with respect to the verb is fixed in post-verbal position in both the affirmative and negative imperative. In Standard French, on the other hand, the positioning varies, with the clitics occurring in their usual pre-verbal position in negative commands and post-verbally in affirmative ones. Their fixed nature in Franco-American lends a more synthetic quality to the verb group, a 'speech unit', in Franco-American. The loss of l from 3s and 3p subject

and object clitics and definite articles strengthens the synthetic nature of these speech units in Franco-American as compared to Standard French, which is traditionally viewed as an analytic language.

Training and Development:

Graduate student Brooke Plourde and I participated in the Goldvarb training workshop held at Albany in October 2004.

Outreach Activities:

In May 2004, I was the invited speaker at the monthly meeting of the Club Richelieu in Biddeford, a Franco-American service organization that encourages the maintenance of the French language. This gave me an opportunity to present some of our preliminary findings from this project to club members and guests. More formal reports of findings to project participants will be presented in open meetings in Waterville (November 30, 2005), Van Buren, Biddeford and Berlin (in the coming months).

Journal Publications

Books or Other One-time Publications

Jane S. Smith, "Sociolinguistic and Linguistic Aspects of French in New England, Part II: Report from the North", (2003). Preliminary version of planned volume on French in the United States, Manuscript distributed to contributors and sold to attendees of conference

Editor(s): Albert Valdman, Julie Auger and Deborah Piston-Hatlen

Collection: Colloquium on French in the United States

Bibliography: Creole Institute at Indiana University

Jane S. Smith, "From adverb to discourse marker and beyond: The status of là in Franco-American French", (). Chapter in a festschrift, Accepted

Editor(s): Deborah Arteaga (UNLV) and Randall Gess (Univ. of Utah)

Collection: Historical Romance Linguistics, in honor of Jurgen Klausenburger

Bibliography: John Benjamins

Fox, Cynthia and Jane Smith, "La situation du français franco-américain: aspects linguistique et sociolinguistique", (2005). Collection of selected papers from "French in the U.S." conference, Indiana U., Published

Editor(s): Albert Valdman, Julie Auger, Deborah Piston-Hatlen

Collection: Le français en Amérique du Nord: état présent; Langue français en Amérique du Nord collection

Bibliography: Les Presses de l'Université Laval

Smith, Jane, "L'effet de la chute du l dans le français acadien de la vallée", (). Chapter in a collection of selected papers from 5/04 colloquium, Accepted

Editor(s): Patrice Brasseur

Collection: Français d'Amérique: approches morphosyntaxiques

Bibliography: L'Harmattan, Paris.

Web/Internet Site

Other Specific Products

Product Type:

Audio or video products

Product Description:

The Maine portion of the sociolinguistic corpus of Franco-American French currently consists of:

Van Buren: 29 interviews, approx. 25 hours of recording
 Waterville: 36 interviews, approx. 34 hours "
 Biddeford: 37 interviews, approx. 34 hours "
 Berlin: 37 interviews, approx. 34 hours "

The Albany portion of the sociolinguistic corpus of Franco-American French consists of:

Bristol: 31 interviews, 39 hours of recording
 Woonsocket: 34 interviews, 50 hours "
 Southbridge: 35 interviews, 25-30 hours "
 Gardner: 35 interviews, 32 hours "

Total: 274 interviews, approx. 278 hours of recording

Sharing Information:

Scholars from other institutions will be able to consult recordings at the University of Maine and the University at Albany.

Product Type:

Data or databases

Product Description:

The transcriptions for the Maine portion of the corpus are distributed as follows.

Van Buren: 390 + 144 pages (interviews + translations)
 Waterville: 556 + 184 pages
 Biddeford: 586 + 175 pages
 Berlin: 636 + 167 pages

Maine Totals: 2,666 pages transcribed interviews, 670 pages transcribed translation tasks

The Albany corpus totals 2,819 pages of transcribed interviews and 614 pages of transcribed translation tasks.

Grand totals:

5,485 pages (interviews); 1,284 pages (translation tasks)

Interviews entail semi-directed conversation coded for approximately 28 linguistic traits and similarly coded translations of 45 English sentences designed to elicit linguistic features that are of low frequency in natural discourse.

Sharing Information:

The transcriptions archived at the University of Maine will be made available to researchers for consultation.

Contributions

Contributions within Discipline:

First, the audio recordings collected during this project represent a significant contribution to Franco-American heritage in that they are the only systematically collected recordings of this rapidly disappearing dialect. Moreover, they are representative of this dialect as spoken in geographically dispersed and historically different communities.

Second, the Franco-American corpus built by Dr. Fox's and my investigation is a significant resource for researchers in North American French, French dialectology and French sociolinguistics, as well as for scholars in linguistic theory who seek to expand their theoretical approach beyond the notion of the ideal speaker.

Third, the journal articles, book chapters and conference presentations focusing on linguistics which have already been published help tremendously to fill the gap in the linguistic literature on North American French in general and on French in the U.S. in particular.

Fourth, our investigation has raised a number of questions for future research including an expansion of our examination of the maintenance of source dialect features, an analysis of the lexicon of Franco-American French, information structure theory, and discourse analysis among bilinguals to name just a few. This corpus provides a plethora of data that we and our students will continue to mine for years to come and that will be made available to other scholars through future publications and direct access to the data.

Contributions to Other Disciplines:

First, the articles and presentations on Franco-American identity contribute to the field of ethnic studies.

Second, in a very specific way, these articles and the linguistic research have greatly enriched the Franco-American Studies program at the University of Maine, a program which includes courses on ethnic identity, culture, literature, history and language.

Contributions to Human Resource Development:

Contributions to Resources for Research and Education:

Contributions Beyond Science and Engineering:

Categories for which nothing is reported:

Any Journal

Any Web/Internet Site

Contributions: To Any Human Resource Development

Contributions: To Any Resources for Research and Education

Contributions: To Any Beyond Science and Engineering