

Early American English, with Special Reference to the English Spoken in Pre-Confederation Canada

Javier E. Díaz Vera
Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha

The study of the history of the English language in the Northern half of the American continent has become one of the most vivid fields of linguistic research in recent years. The recent publication of two volumes (by J.L. Dillard and R. Lass) that, for the first time, try to give a complete view of the origins and development of what has come to be known as early American and Canadian English, has permitted a systematization of the abundant, but extremely scattered and heterogeneous, bibliography published by scholars from the field of diachronic linguistics and, much more frequently, dialectology.

Further, another consequence of the growing interest in the study of early American English among European scholars is the compilation of the future "Helsinki Corpus of early American English", a continuation of the famous "Helsinki Corpus of English texts", which focuses on English texts written in the North-American colonies in the period between 1607 and 1700.

The following is a list of publications on the history of early American English, with special reference to the varieties of English used in Canada before 1860 (Constitutional Law). I have tried to exclude those books and articles that deal exclusively with dialectal aspects of American English, to concentrate on mainly diachronic approaches to this variety of English.

- Alatis, J.E. *Georgetown University round table on languages and linguistics*. Washington: University of Washington Press, 1969
- Andersen, H. and K. Koerner. *Historical Linguistics 1987. Papers from the 8th International Conference on Historical Linguistics (8. ICHL)*. Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 1990.
- Avis, W.S. *A Dictionary of Canadian English on Historical Principles*. Toronto: Gage, 1967.
- Avis, W. and A.M. Kinloch. *Writings on Canadian English 1792-1975: An Annotated Bibliography*. Toronto: Fitzhenry and Whiteside, 1978.
- Bloomfield, M.W. "Canadian English and its relation to eighteenth-century American Speech." *Journal of English and Germanic Philology*, 47 (1948): 59-67.
- Chambers, J.K. "Lawless and vulgar innovations: Victorian views of Canadian English." *Focus on Canada*. Ed. S. Clark, 1993. 1-26.
- Clarke, S. *Focus on Canada*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamin, 1993.
- Craigie, W.A. ed. *Dictionary of American English on Historical Principles*. London: Oxford University Press, 1938-44.
- Daviault, P. "The Evolution of the English and French languages in Canada." *Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada* 5 (1959): 63-72.
- Dillard, J.L. *A History of American English*. London: Longman, 1994.
- Fisiak, J. *Papers from the 6th International Conference on Historical Linguistics*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 1985.
- Graham, R.S. "The Transition from German to English in the German Settlements of Saskatchewan." *Journal of the Canadian Linguistic Association* 3 (1957): 9-13.
- Gregg, R.J. "Canadian English Lexicography." *Focus on Canada*. Ed. S. Clarke, 1993. 27-44.
- Kytö, M. "Shall or will? Choice of the variant form in Early Modern English, British and American." *Historical Linguistics 1987. Papers from the 8th International Conference on Historical Linguistics (8. ICHL)*. Eds. H. Andersen and K. Koerner, 1990. 275-288.
- _____. *Variation and Diachrony, with early American English in focus: Studies on CAN/MAY and SHALL/WILL*. Frankfurt/Bern: Peter Lang, 1991.
- _____. "Shall (should) vs. will (would) in early British and American English: A variation study of change". *Nowele* 19 (1992). 3-73.
- _____. "A supplement to the Helsinki Corpus of English texts: The Corpus of Early American English." *English language corpora*. Eds. J. Aarts, P. de Haan and N. Oostdijk, 1993. 3-10.
- _____. "Towards a corpus of early American English." *Corpora across the Centuries*. Eds. M. Kytö, M. Rissanen and L. Wright, 1993. 33-39.
- _____ and M. Rissanen. "The syntactic study of early American English. The variationist at the mercy of his corpus?" *Neupholologischen Mitteilungen* 84 (1993): 470-90.
- _____. "Third-person present singular verb inflection in Early British and American English." *Language Variation and Change* 5 (1993): 113-139.
- _____, M. Rissanen and S. Wright. *Corpora across the Centuries*. Amsterdam/Atlanta: Rodopi, 1994.
- Krapp, G.P. *The English Language in America* (2 vols.). New York: Frederick Publishing Co., 1925.
- Laird, C. *Language in America*. New York: World Publishing Co., 1970.
- Lovell, C.J. "A sampling of materials for a Dictionary of Canadian English based on historical principles." *Journal of the Canadian Linguistic Association* 4 (1958): 7-33.
- McWhiney, G. *Cracker culture: Celtic ways in the old South*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1988.

- Magner, T. "The melting pot and language maintenance in South Slavic immigrant groups." *General linguistics* 16 (1976): 59-67.
- Marckwardt, A.H. *American English* (2nd edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1958.
- Mason, J. "The etymology of buckaroo." *American Speech* 25 (1960): 51-5.
- Mathews, M.M. *The beginnings of American English*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press (1931).
- Mencken, H.L. *The American Language* (4th edition). New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1936.
- _____. *The American Language* (Supplement 1). New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1945.
- _____. *The American Language* (Supplement 2). New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1948.
- Meredith, M. "Language mixture in American place names." *American Speech* 5 (1930): 224-7.
- _____. "Inexpressibles, unmentionables, unwhisperables, and other verbal delicacies of mid-nineteenth century Americans." *American Speech* 5 (1930): 285-7.
- Orkin, M.M. *Speaking Canadian English: an informal account of the English language in Canada*. Toronto: General Publishing Co., 1970.
- Orbeck, A. *Early New England pronunciation*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1927.
- Pound, L. "On the pronunciation of *either* and *neither*." *American Speech* 7 (1932): 371-376.
- Pyles, T. *Words and ways in American English*. New York: Random, 1952.
- Ramisch, H. and K. Wynne. *Language in Time and Space*. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner, 1997.
- Rasico, P.D. "The Spanish lexical base of old St Augustine, Mahonese: a missing link in Florida Spanish." *Hispania* 69 (1986): 267-77.
- Read, A.W. "British recognition of American speech in the eighteenth century." *Dialect notes* 4 (1933): 313-34.
- _____. "Bilingualism in the middle colonies 1725-75." *American Speech* 12 (1937): 93-9.
- _____. "The speech of Negroes in colonial America." *Journal of Negro history* 24 (1939): 247-58.
- _____. "English of Indians 1705-1745." *American Speech* 16 (1941): 72-74.
- Reed, C.E. *Dialects of American English* (rev. edn). Massachusetts: University of Massachusetts Press, 1977.
- Rissanen, M. "Periphrastic *do* in early American English." *Journal of English Linguistics* 18.2 (1985): 163-79.
- _____. "Candy no Witsh, Barbados: Salem Witchcraft Trials as Evidence of Early American English." *Language in Time and Space*. Eds. H. Ramisch and K. Wynne, 1997. 183-193.
- Scargill, M.H. "Eighteenth-century English in Nova Scotia." *Journal of the Canadian Linguistic Association* 2 (1956): 3-13.
- _____. "Sources of Canadian English." *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 56 (1957): 610-14.
- _____. *A short history of Canadian English*. Victoria: B.C.Press, 1977.
- Schneider, E.W. *American earlier Black English, morphological and syntactic variables*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1981.
- _____. "The diachronic development of the Black English perfective auxiliary phrase." *Journal of English linguistics* 16 (1983): 55-64.
- _____. "Regional Variation in 19th century Black English in the American South." *Papers from the 6th International Conference on Historical Linguistics*. Ed. J. Fisiak. 467-487.
- Sen, A.L.F. "Dialect variation in early American English." *Journal of English linguistics* 12 (1973): 41-7.
- Stewart, W.A. "Sociolinguistic factors in the history of American Negro English dialects." *Florida FL reporter* 5 (1967): 1-7.

- _____. "Continuity and change in American Negro dialects." *Florida FL reporter* 6 (1968): 3-14.
- _____. "Historical and structural bases of sociolinguistic variation: the copula in Black English." *Georgetown university round table on languages and linguistics*. Ed. J.E. Alatis. 112-125.
- Tjossem, H.K. *New England pronunciation before 1700*. Unpublished D.Ph. dissertation, Yale University, 1956.
- van den Bark, M. "Nebraska pioneer English." *American Speech* 6 (1931): 237-41.
- Viereck, W. "On the origins and development of American English." *Papers from the 6th International Conference on Historical Linguistics*. Ed. J. Fisiak. 561-569.
- Walser, R. "Negro dialect in eighteenth-century drama." *American Speech* 30 (1955): 270-6.
- Wood, G.R. *Vocabulary change: a study in varieties of regional words in eight of the Southern states*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1971.