

AN ACOUSTIC ANALYSIS OF  
VOWEL VARIATION  
IN NEW WORLD ENGLISH

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2001

Publication of the  
American Dialect Society

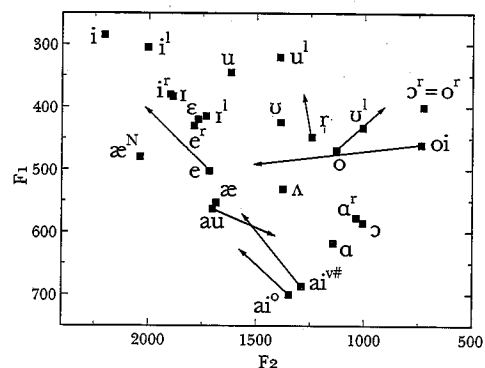
Number 85

*Published by Duke University Press  
for the American Dialect Society*



## SPEAKER 91

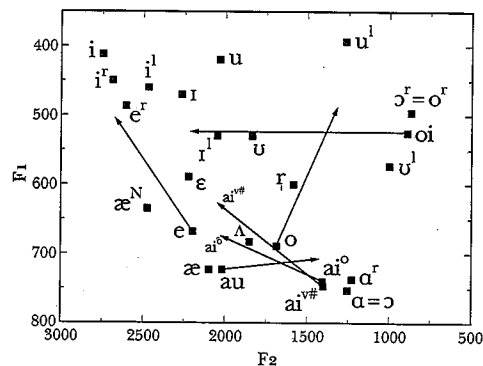
Male, Born 1937, from Yale, Oklahoma  
(recorded in 1993)



NOTE: His /ai/ shows weak glides. His /o/ is back, and his /ɔ/ is monophthongal. He merged /ɔ/ with /a/ in minimal pairs, but not in the reading passage. His /ul/ is central, and his /æ/ and /ɛ/ are raised. His /ar/ onset is rounded. (reading passage; UT)

## SPEAKER 92

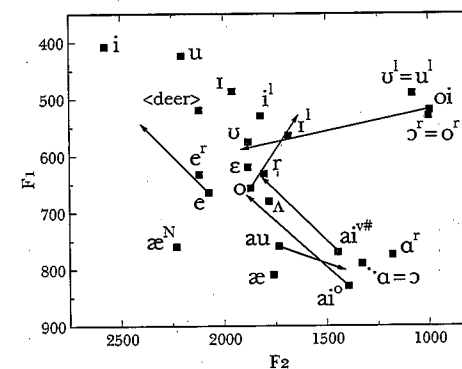
Female, Born 1960, from Yale, Oklahoma  
(recorded in 1993)



NOTE: Her /ai/ glides are fairly strong. Her /e/ and /o/ nuclei are lowered. She merges /ɔ/ with /a/, but shows no pre-/l/ mergers. Her /ul/ is backed, and her /ar/ nucleus is unrounded. (reading passage; UT)

## SPEAKER 93

Female, Born 1975, from Yale, Oklahoma  
(recorded in 1993)



NOTE: Her /ai/ glides are fairly strong. Her /e/ and /o/ nuclei are somewhat lowered. Her /o/ nucleus is fronted. She merges /ɔ/ with /a/ and /ul/ with /ul/, but /il/ and /il/ remain barely distinct. Her /ar/ nucleus is generally unrounded. (reading passage; UT)

BRAZILIAN EX-CONFEDERATES (speaker 94). As explained in more detail by Medeiros (1982), Montgomery and Melo (1990), and Bailey and Smith (1992), a group of former Confederates emigrated to Brazil after the Civil War and founded communities such as Americana there. The largest numbers came from Texas (including speaker 94's parents), Alabama, and Georgia. They are heavily *r*-less and have [ʒi] for stressed syllabic /r/. They also show little glide weakening of /ai/ and lack the merger of /ɪ/ and /ɛ/ before nasals, as in *pin* and *pen*. Montgomery and Melo (1990) and Bailey and Smith (1992) suggest that these features reflect mid-nineteenth-century Southern speech norms. However, both studies caution that Portuguese influence is possible. The strong /ai/ glides, as well as the nearly monophthongal /e/ and /o/ that speaker 94 shows, might conceivably have been influenced by Portuguese.