

Urbanization vs. regionalization in Utah English: A reanalysis with ramifications

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ADS 2003

4 January 2003

THE "ASSUMPTION OF REPRESENTATIVENESS"

- ❖ Urbanized areas are essentially linguistically uniform
- ❖ Individuals within a single urbanized area show differences in their use of linguistic forms
- ❖ These individuals' linguistic differences are the result of social factors other than region influencing variation

CHAMBERS & TRUDGILL (1998, p. 47)

- ❖ "As with all social surveys, there are difficulties at this point. Some of the people selected...are not willing to cooperate. The problem of refusals, however, is thought to be less serious for linguistic studies than it is for social or political surveys. People who refuse to give their views on controversial social questions may well have different views on those questions from those who agree to help, and it is therefore important to try and persuade reluctant interviewees to take part. This seems not to be the case with language."

LABOV (2001, pp. 38-39)

- ❖ "...it appears that for linguistic purposes, a reliable sample of a very large city can be achieved with comparatively few speakers; in most cases, less than a hundred."

LINGUISTIC VARIABLES TRACKED

- ❖ /ɪl/ produced as [ɪl] or [ɛl] (broken down into word-final, at a syllable break, and within a syllable)
- ❖ /iːl/ produced as [iːl] or [ɪl]
- ❖ /eɪl/ produced as [eɪl] or [ɛl]
- ❖ /uːl/ produced as [uːl] or [ʊl]
- ❖ /ɑːl/ produced as [ɑːl] or [ɔːl]
- ❖ /ɔːl/ produced as [ɔːl] or [ɑːl] (broken down into following an obstruent, following a glide, and overall)

A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- ❖ This study tests a *strong* application of the assumption of representativeness
- ❖ Verification of a strong application will also verify weaker applications

THE KEY ASSUMPTION

- ❖ If any individual speaker is linguistically representative of the urbanized area they are from (holding constant for social factors), then that individual speaker will also be linguistically representative of smaller units within the urbanized area, such as the individual municipality they are from.

SOCIAL ATTRIBUTES TRACKED

- ❖ Total population
- ❖ Median age
- ❖ % of population racial/ethnic minorities
- ❖ Median household income
- ❖ % of households receiving public assistance

CORRELATIONS FOR THE SALT LAKE CITY URBANIZED AREA

	Word-final /ɪl/	Syllable-break /ɪl/	Syllable-internal /ɪl/	/il/	/eɪ/	/uɪ/	/ɑɪ/	/ɔɪ/ following obstruent	/ɔɪ/ following glide	/ɔɪ/ overall
Population	0.18	-0.26	0.41	0.08	0.33	0.53	uniform	uniform	-0.57	-0.40
Median age	-0.79	-0.12	0.42	0.55	0.24	0.53	uniform	uniform	-0.28	-0.23
% minority	0.23	-0.42	0.41	0.05	0.31	0.74	uniform	uniform	-0.15	-0.04
Median household income	-0.23	0.54	-0.11	-0.03	-0.33	-0.45	uniform	uniform	0.09	0.00
% receiving public assistance	0.07	-0.33	0.46	0.09	0.47	0.63	uniform	uniform	-0.35	-0.23
Number of municipalities	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	11	13

CORRELATIONS FOR THE OGDEN-LAYTON URBANIZED AREA

	Word-final /ɪl/	Syllable-break /ɪl/	Syllable-internal /ɪl/	/il/	/eɪ/	/uɪ/	/ɑɪ/	/ɔɪ/ following obstruent	/ɔɪ/ following glide	/ɔɪ/ overall
Population	-0.15	0.12	0.21	0.16	0.02	0.16	uniform	-0.15	-0.15	-0.15
Median age	-0.59	-0.06	-0.02	-0.37	0.09	-0.06	uniform	-0.59	-0.59	-0.59
% minority	0.20	0.03	0.02	0.17	-0.05	0.15	uniform	0.20	0.20	0.20
Median household income	-0.07	-0.31	-0.18	0.17	0.41	-0.42	uniform	-0.07	-0.07	-0.07
% receiving public assistance	0.11	0.24	0.36	0.11	-0.04	0.28	uniform	0.11	0.11	0.11
Number of municipalities	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

CORRELATIONS FOR THE PROVO-OREM URBANIZED AREA

	Word-final /ɪl/	Syllable-break /ɪl/	Syllable-internal /ɪl/	/il/	/eɪ/	/uɪ/	/ɑɪ/	/ɔɪ/ following obstruent	/ɔɪ/ following glide	/ɔɪ/ overall
Population	0.07	-0.19	-0.02	0.38	0.42	0.08	-0.75	uniform	-0.90	-0.91
Median age	0.07	0.29	0.29	-0.12	0.10	0.07	0.01	uniform	-0.14	-0.13
% minority	0.13	-0.13	0.07	0.48	0.42	0.19	-0.75	uniform	-0.84	-0.86
Median household income	-0.17	-0.06	-0.26	-0.34	-0.34	-0.38	0.55	uniform	0.49	0.50
% receiving public assistance	-0.25	0.28	0.39	0.07	0.48	-0.01	-0.12	uniform	-0.27	-0.27
Number of municipalities	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

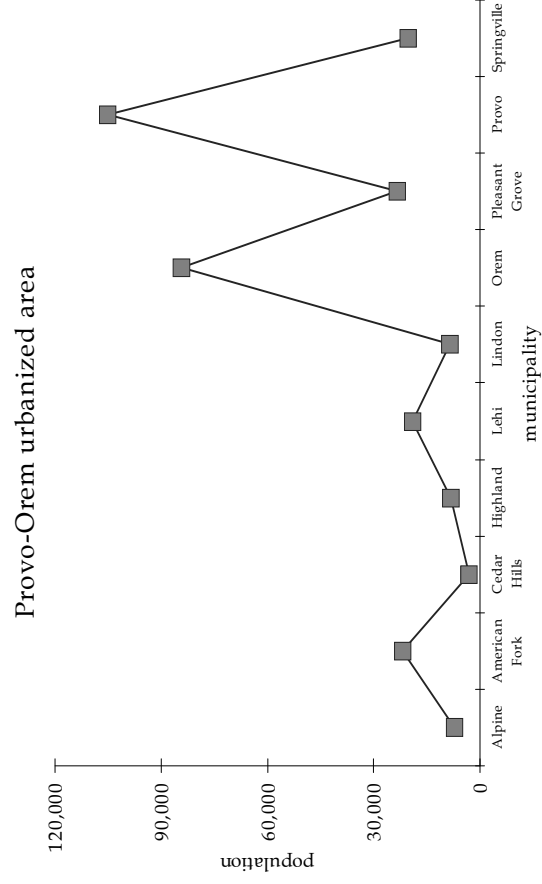
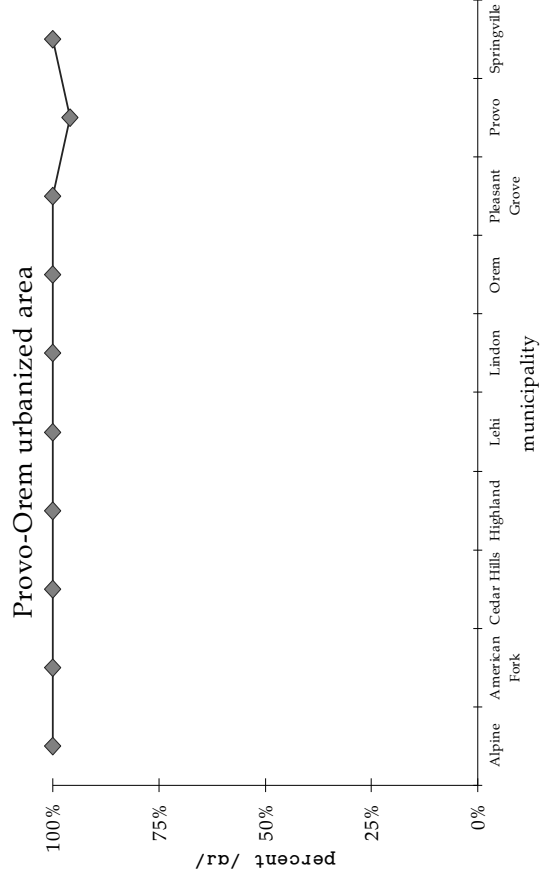
CORRELATIONS FOR THE LOGAN URBANIZED AREA

	Word-final /ɪl/	Syllable-break /ɪl/	Syllable-internal /ɪl/	/il/	/eɪ/	/uɪ/	/ɑɪ/	/ɔɪ/ following obstruent	/ɔɪ/ following glide	/ɔɪ/ overall
Population	0.28	-1.00	0.03	0.33	0.01	0.23	uniform	uniform	uniform	uniform
Median age	0.63	0.44	0.57	0.72	0.90	0.47	uniform	uniform	uniform	uniform
% minority	0.19	-0.99	-0.08	0.33	0.01	0.12	uniform	uniform	uniform	uniform
Median household income	-0.37	0.99	-0.09	-0.46	-0.15	-0.28	uniform	uniform	uniform	uniform
% receiving public assistance	0.89	-0.65	0.49	0.92	0.76	0.61	uniform	uniform	uniform	uniform
Number of municipalities	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	4

TEST CORRELATION RESULTS

Urbanized area	Correlation	Actual	Random numbers					Random order				
Salt Lake City	word-final /ɪl/-median age	-0.79	-0.15	-0.15	-0.38	-0.20	0.04	-0.12				
	/uɪ/-percent minority	0.74	0.48	-0.13	0.23	0.20	0.15	0.25				
Provo-Orem	/uɪ/-percent receiving public assistance	0.63	0.48	-0.10	0.35	0.11	0.33	0.23				
	/ɑɪ/-population	-0.75	0.15	0.26	-0.10	0.07	0.07	0.10				
	/ɑɪ/-percent minority	-0.75	0.31	0.09	0.37	-0.75	0.33	0.11				
	/oʊ/ following a glide-population	-0.90	-0.49	-0.27	0.23	-0.23	0.36	0.15				
	/oʊ/ following a glide-percent minority	-0.84	-0.56	-0.10	-0.03	-0.16	0.11	-0.13				
Logan	/oʊ/ overall-population	-0.91	0.37	-0.01	0.27	0.14	-0.59	-0.41				
	/oʊ/ overall-percent minority	-0.86	-0.19	0.19	0.44	-0.07	0.34	-0.11				
	/ɪl/ at a syllable break-population	-1.00	-0.04	-0.98	0.47	0.31	0.32	-1.00				
	/ɪl/ at a syllable break-percent minority	-0.99	-0.93	0.17	0.99	0.24	-0.99	-0.99				
	/ɪl/ at a syllable break-median household income	0.99	0.67	-0.80	-0.44	-0.22	-0.39	-0.38				

PRODUCTION OF /ɑɪ/ IN THE PROVO-OREM URBANIZED AREA BY MUNICIPALITY POPULATION IN THE PROVO-OREM URBANIZED AREA BY MUNICIPALITY



RESULTS OF UNIFORMITY TESTING

Variable	Urbanized area			
	Salt Lake City	Ogden-Layton	Provo-Orem	Logan
word-final /ɪ ɪ/	uniform	uniform	non-uniform	uniform
syllable-break /ɪɪ/	uniform	uniform	non-uniform	uniform
syllable-internal /ɪɪ/	non-uniform	uniform	uniform	uniform
/ɪɪ/	uniform	non-uniform	non-uniform	uniform
/eɪ/	uniform	non-uniform	non-uniform	uniform
/uɪ/	non-uniform	non-uniform	uniform	uniform
/ɑɪ/	absolute	absolute	uniform	absolute
/ɔɪ/ following obstruent	absolute	uniform	absolute	absolute
/ɔɪ/ following glide	uniform	uniform	uniform	absolute
/ɔɪ/ overall	uniform	uniform	uniform	absolute

REMAINING POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT CORRELATIONS

- ❖ /uɪ/ -percent of population minority
- ❖ /uɪ/ -percent of population receiving public assistance

SO WHAT?

- ❖ Geographical distributions within urbanized areas may not necessarily be attributable to social differences
- ❖ More attention to sampling methodologies is needed

Selected references

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