

Space



Three questions

- What is space?
- How do we locate our studies in space?
- How does space function in the construction of meaning in variation?

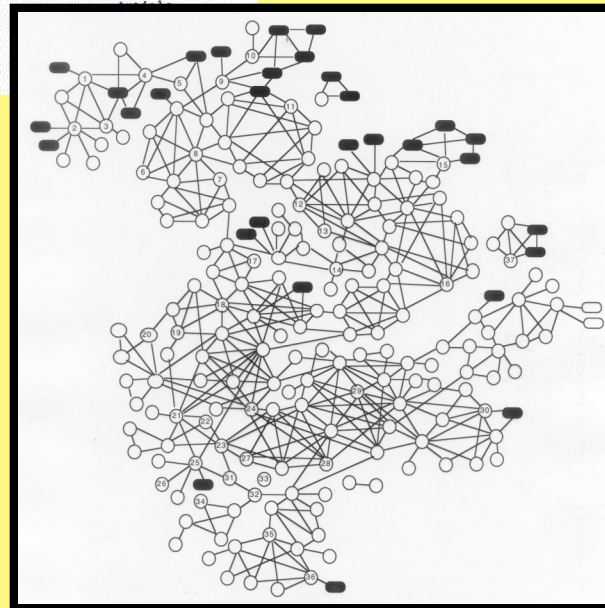
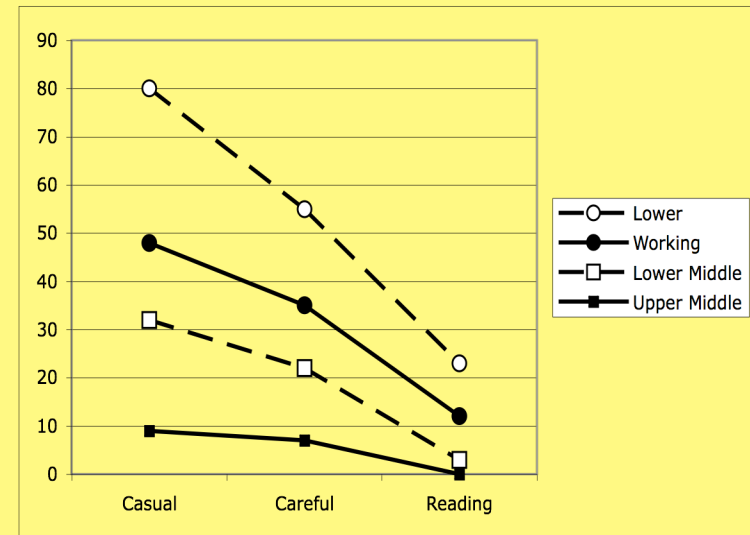
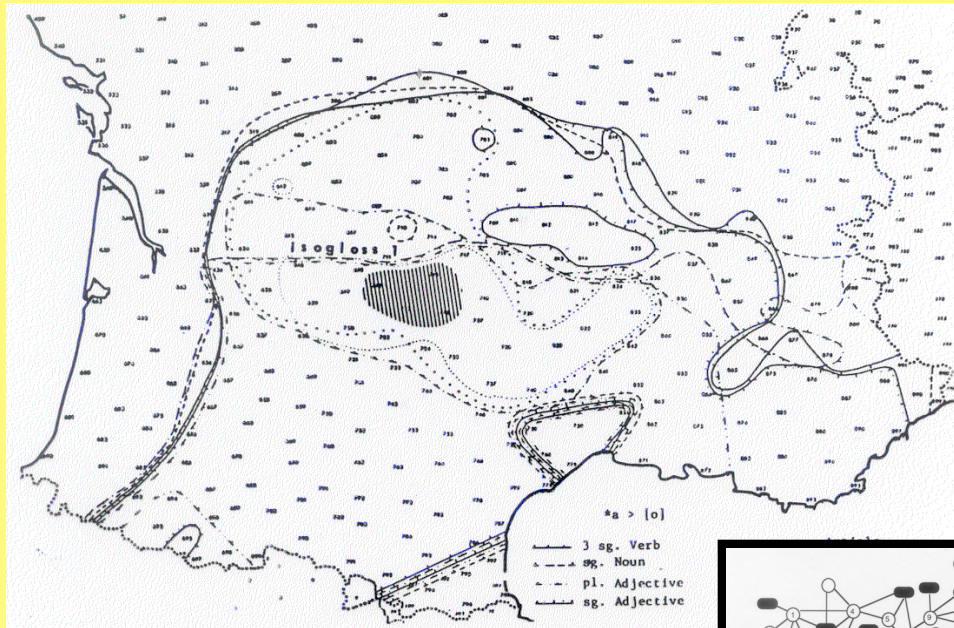
Why do sociolinguists talk about speech communities?

- delimiting a population.
- delimiting a variety (or varieties).
- locating the social structure that structures (or explains) the diversity of language use.

The speech community

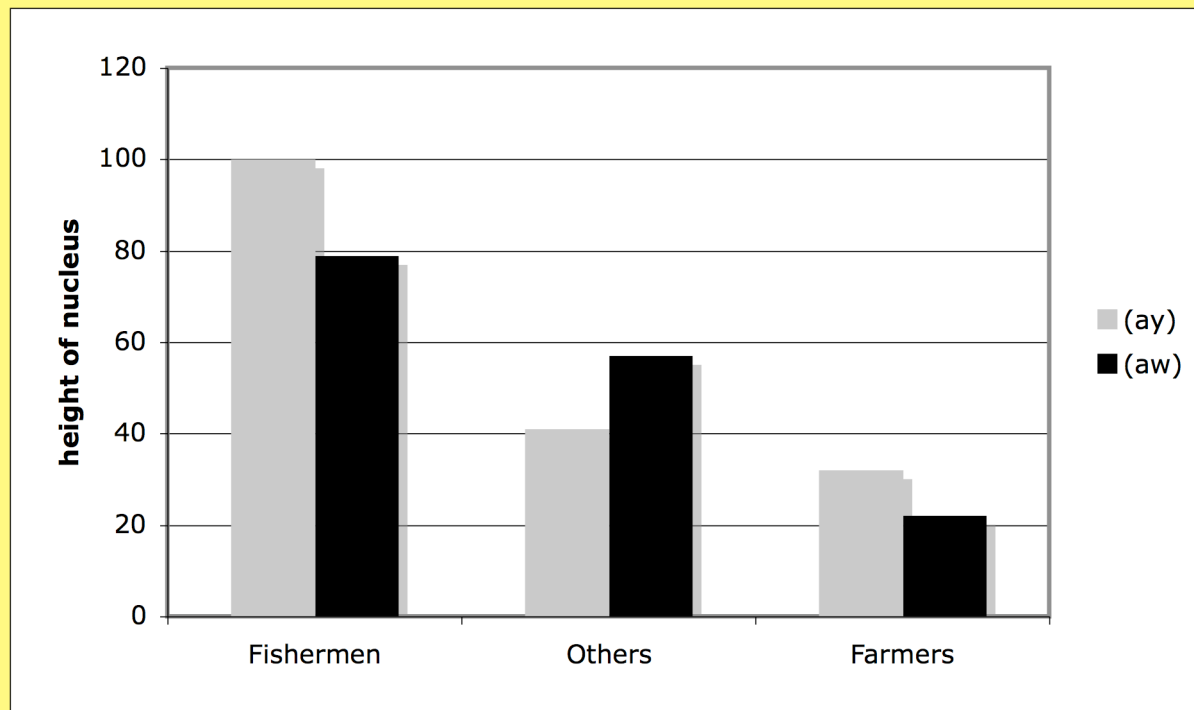
- Delimited by the aims of the study, not by an independent definition of speech community.
- Defines a center (Pratt 1987)
- Defines the universe in which the meaning of variation will be interpreted.

Dialect space ... our dialectology roots



Local Identity

What does it mean to be a Vineyarder?



Labov, W. (1963). "The social motivation of a sound change." Word 18: 1-42.

What does it mean to call these speech communities?

- Martha's Vineyard, Cane Walk, Soulan
- New York City
- Belten High
- Japan

Place, Space and Identity

Gupta and Ferguson, “Beyond ‘Culture’: Space, Identity, and the Politics of Difference”

- “Culture” understood as “naturally” discontinuous spaces
- Isomorphism of space, place, and culture
- “Cultural differences” *within* a locality



the power of the topography conceals the topography of power

The topography of power

- Globalization
- Transnationalism
- The notion of “the local” (“the local identity,” “the vernacular”)

What if we begin with the premises

- that spaces have always been hierarchically interconnected, instead of naturally disconnected
- Cultural difference not a matter of cultural contact and articulation but one of rethinking difference *through* connection

Away from seeing cultural difference as the correlate of a world of “peoples” whose separate histories wait to be bridged by the anthropologist and toward seeing it as a product of shared historical process that differentiates the world as it connects it (Gupta and Ferguson 1997:46)

Penny says

- It is not enough to describe a speech community as an isolated unit, for no community is isolable; the description of a speech community is most importantly an account of that community's linguistic place in the wider society. AN account of a speech community, then, will optimally account for the articulation between the internal dynamics of the speech community and its relation to other localities (2000:34).

Scapes

- A framework for exploring “certain fundamental disjunctures between economy, culture, and politics,” exploring five dimensions unified by the common suffix “-scape.”
- “-scape” is used to indicate “that these are not objectively given relations which look the same from every angle of vision, but rather that they are deeply perspectival constructs, inflected very much by the historical, linguistic and political situatedness of different sorts of actors...” (296)

Appadurai, Arjun

1990. Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy. *Theory, Culture & Society* 7. 295-310.

Appadurai's scapes

- Ethnoscapes
 - “the landscape of persons who constitute the shifting world in which we live: tourists, immigrants, refugees, exiles, guestworkers and other moving groups and persons” (297)
- Technoscapes
 - “the global configuration, also ever fluid, of technology, and of the fact that technology, both high and low, both mechanical and informational, now moves at high speeds across various kinds of previously impervious boundaries” (297)

- Financescapes

- the disposition and configuration of capital, as currency markets, national stock exchanges, and commodity speculations move vast amounts of capital fluidly across borders

- “the global relationship between ethnoscapes, technoscapes, and financescapes is deeply disjunctive and profoundly unpredictable, since each of these landscapes is subject to its own constraints and incentives [...], at the same time as each acts as a constraint and a parameter for movements in the other”
(298)

- Mediascapes

- Both “the distribution of electronic capabilities to produce and disseminate information” and “the images of the world created by these media” (298-9)

- Newspapers, magazines, television stations and programs, film production studios

- Ideoscapes

- Like mediascapes, also chains of images, “but they are often directly political and frequently have to do with the ideologies of states and the counter-ideologies of movements explicitly oriented to capturing state power as a piece of it.” (299)

- e.g. “freedom,” “welfare,” “rights,” “sovereignty,” “democracy”

“Other” modes of belonging

- Cosmpolitanism
- Postmodern nostalgia
- Media public space
- Transit subjects

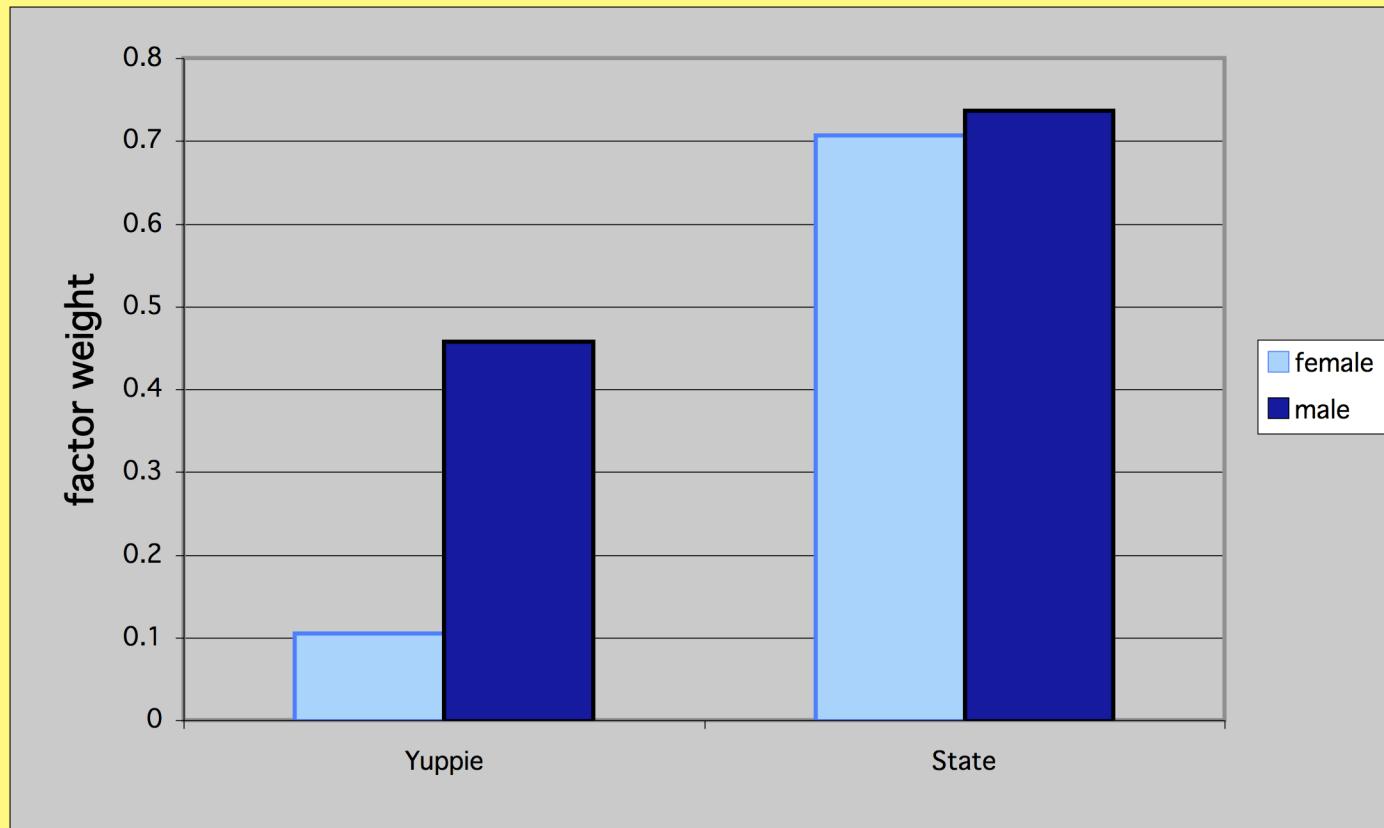
“What does it mean, at the end of the twentieth century, to speak...of a native land? What processes rather than essence are involved in present experiences of cultural identity? (James Clifford, *The Predicament of Culture*, Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1988), p. 275.

POINTS TO MAKE

- Space is not power-neutral
- The relationship between the local and the global (see Johnstone)
- Deessentialize the notion of “the local”
 - Internal
 - external

Rhotacization of finals

'flower' hua [hua] 花 < huar [hua] 花儿



Zhang, Q. (2005). "A Chinese yuppie in Beijing: Phonological variation and the construction of a new professional identity." *Language in society*.

local personae and iconization

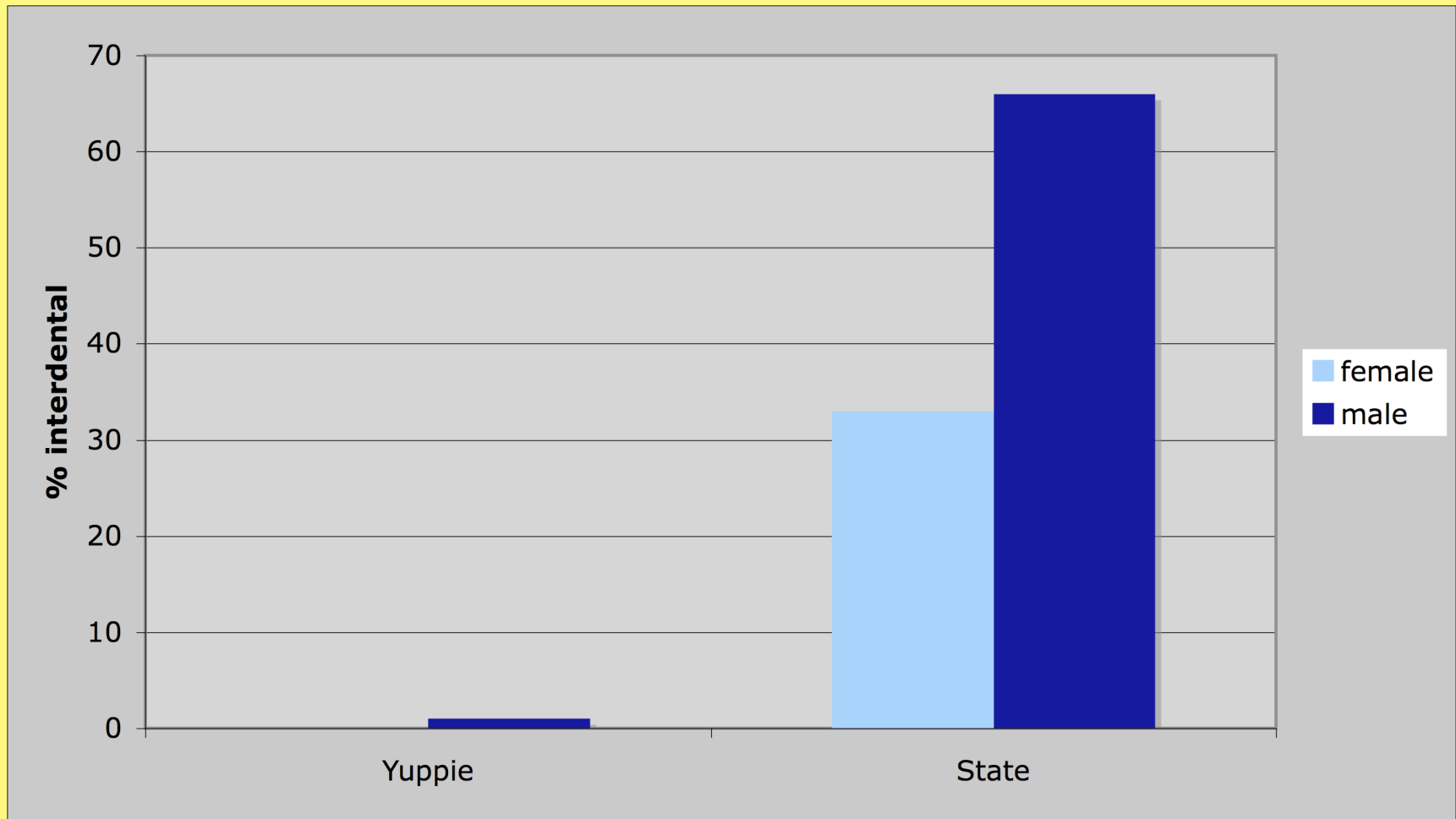
The Smooth Operator. Urban male character type

“Have you ever heard anybody saying the Cantonese have “oily accent, slippery tone”? That’s because their tongues can’t curl.”

Zhang, Qing. In preparation. The smoothness of Beijing speech. *Journal of Sociolinguistics*.

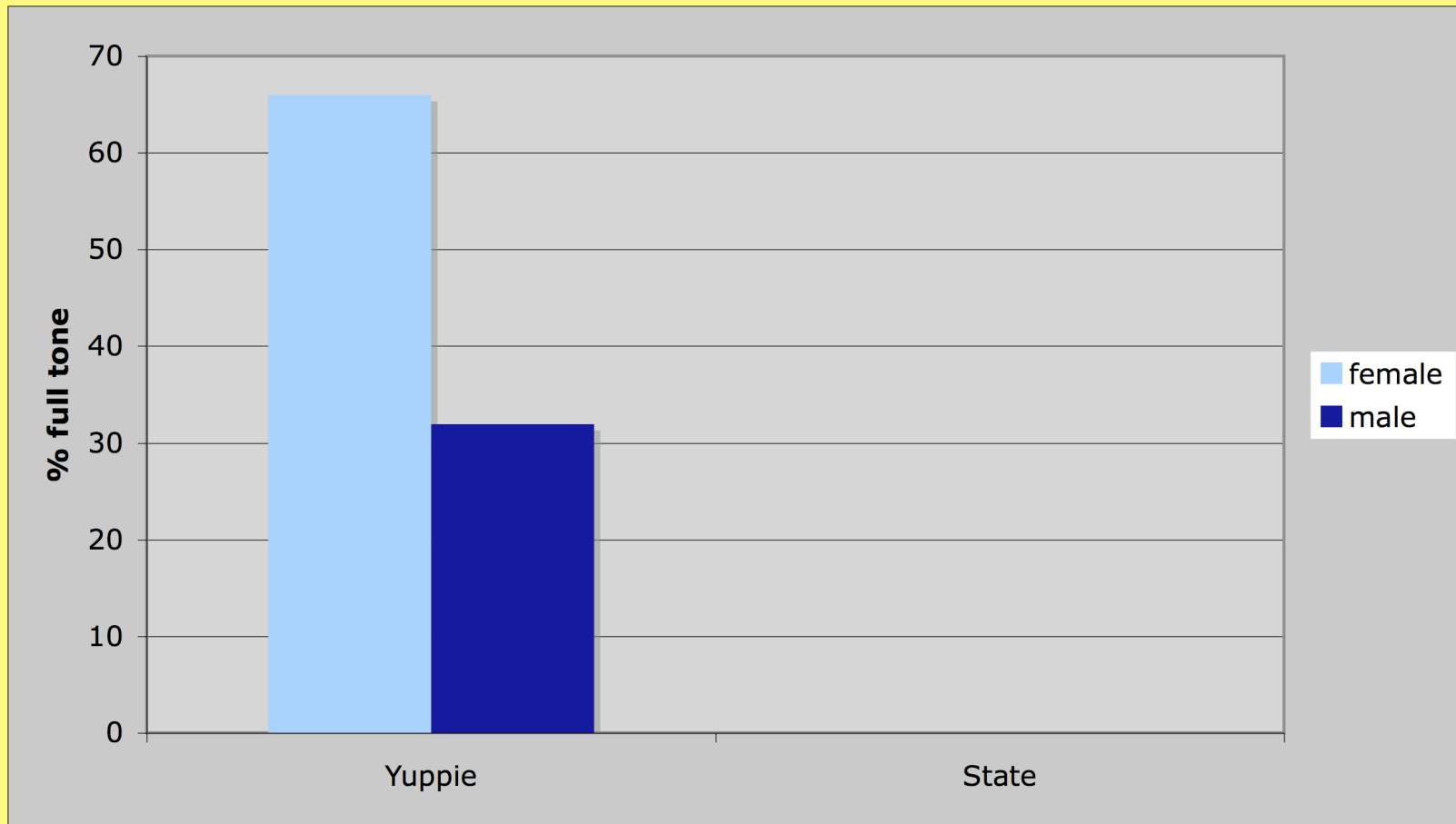
One has to acknowledge the fact that Beijing is a metropolis. It is the political center of the country and also has an advanced commercial economy. The stink of money from commercialism, the mentality of profit-before-everything, has been absorbed into the ancient culture and civilization of Beijing, which leads to the formation of another mentality of Beijingers ≡ particularly among the inhabitants of lower social strata: smoothness [youhua]. Thus, "Beijing Smooth Operator" is nationally well-known.

% interdental /z/



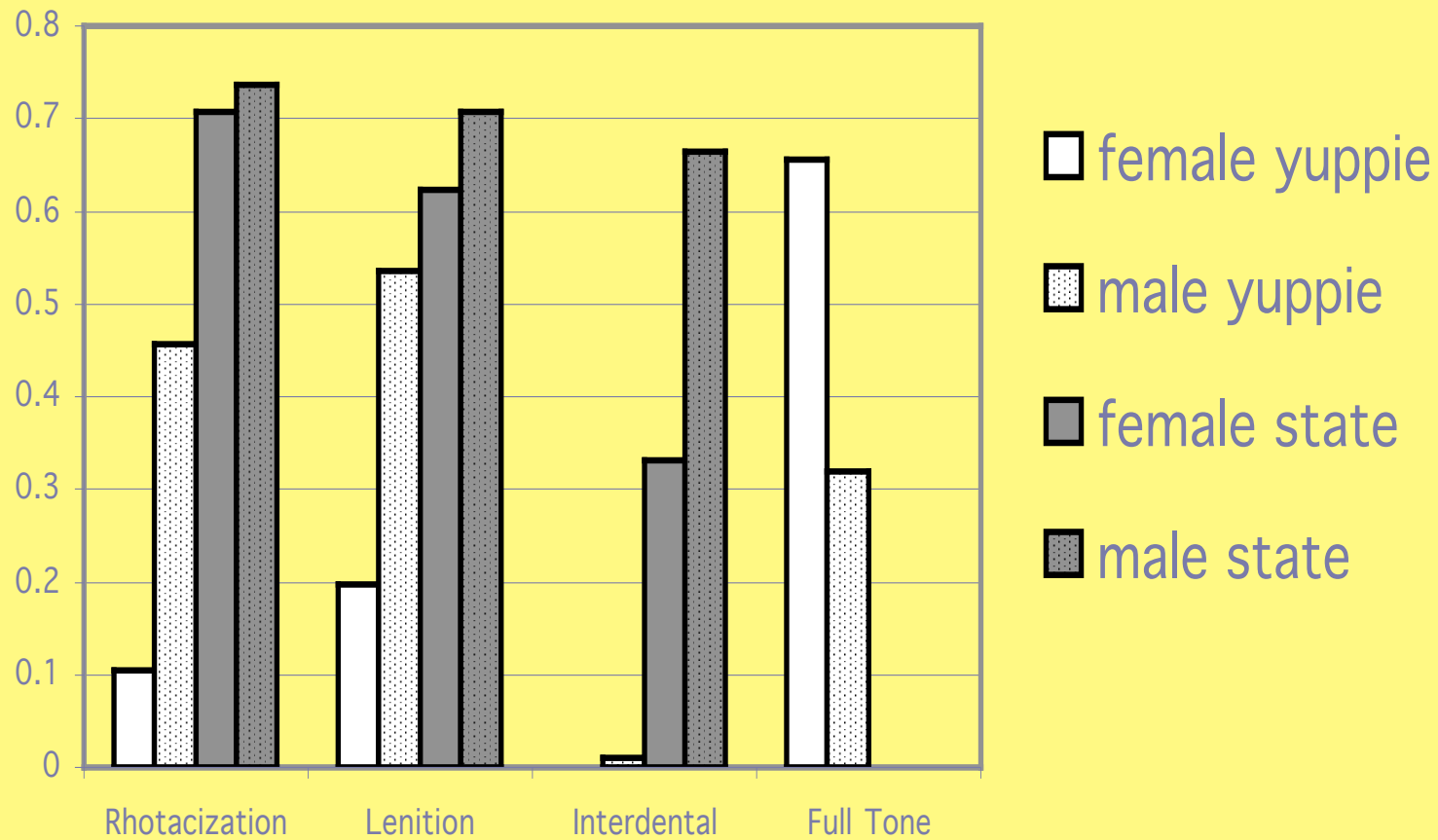
Zhang, Q. (2005). "A Chinese yuppie in Beijing: Phonological variation and the construction of a new professional identity." *Language in society*.

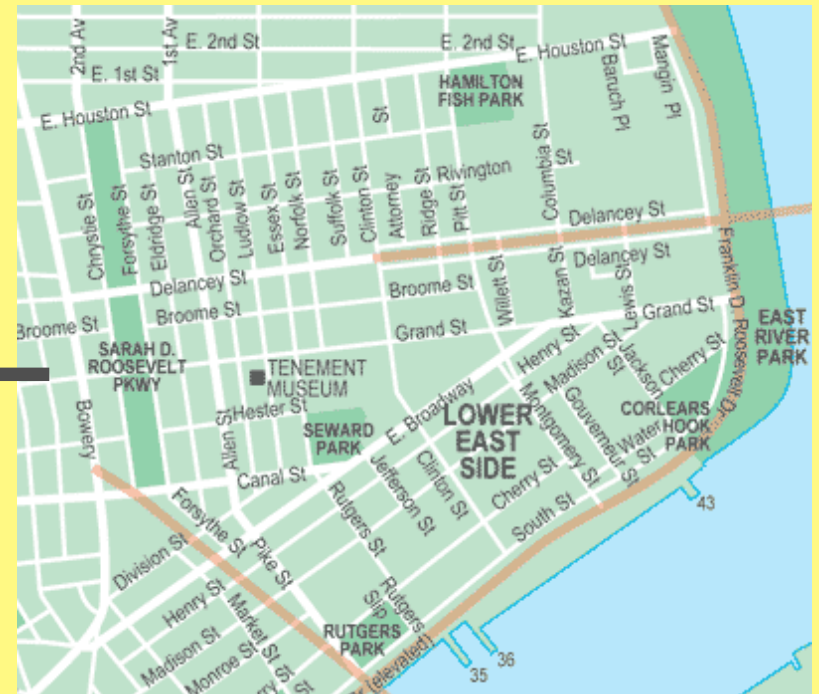
% full tone in Beijing Mandarin

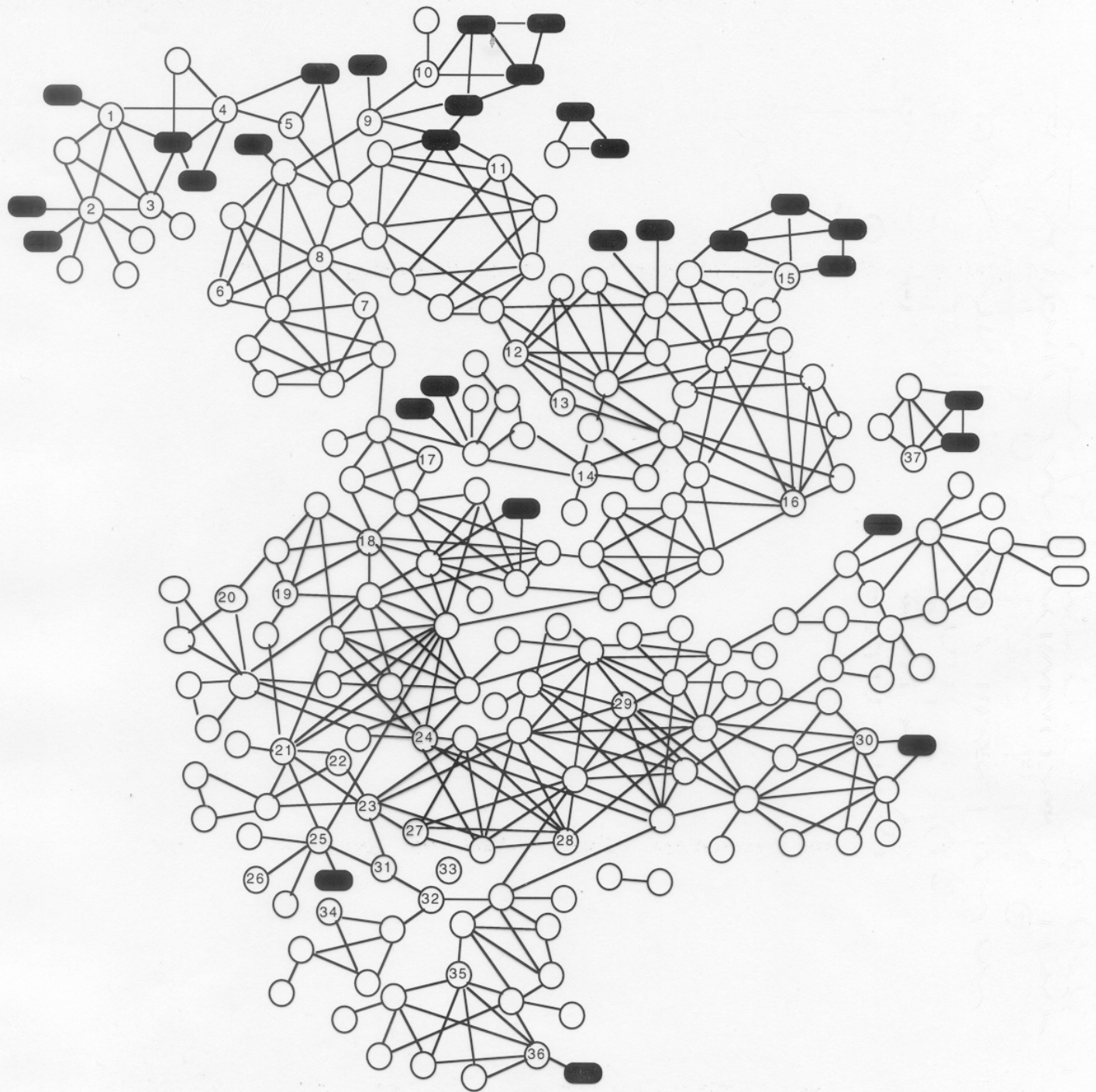


Zhang, Q. (2005). "A Chinese yuppie in Beijing: Phonological variation and the construction of a new professional identity." *Language in society*.

Beijing Manager Styles







Kids at Steps Elementary

- Going public
 - class trips
 - going to the mall
 - going to Stanford

Geography as meaning

- The international level
 - Brits and /t/ release
- The regional level
 - The US South
- The local level
 - [rʌjt]

Michiganders' evaluations of northern/southern speech

| Means scores (ordered) South | | | | Means scores (ordered) North | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|------|------------------------------|--------|------|---------------|
| Factor | Mean | Attribute | Rank | Rank | Factor | Mean | Attribute |
| -1&2 | 4.66 | Casual | 1 | 12 | -1&2 | 3.53 | Casual |
| 2 | 4.58 | Friendly | 2 | 9.5 | 2 | 4.00 | Friendly |
| 2&-1 | 4.54 | Down-to-earth | 3 | 6 | 2&-1 | 4.19 | Down-to-earth |
| 2 | 4.20 | Polite | 4 | 9.5 | 2 | 4.00 | Polite |
| ∅ | 4.09 | Not nasal | 5 | 11 | ∅ | 3.94 | Not nasal |
| | * | | | | | | |
| 1&2 | ‡3.22 | Normal [Abnormal] | 6 | 3 | 1&2 | 4.94 | Normal |
| 1 | ‡3.04 | Smart [Dumb] | 7 | 4 | 1 | 4.53 | Smart |
| 1 | ‡2.96 | No twang [Twang] | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5.07 | No twang |
| 1 | ‡2.86 | Good English [Bad English] | 9 | 5 | 1 | 4.41 | Good English |
| 1 | ‡2.72 | Educated [Uneducated] | 10 | 8 | 1 | 4.09 | Educated |
| 1 | ‡2.42 | Fast [Slow] | 11 | 7 | 1 | 4.12 | Fast |
| 1 | ‡2.22 | No drawl [Drawl] | 12 | 1 | 1 | 5.11 | No drawl |

Preston, D. (ms). "The south: Still different."
<http://www.msu.edu/~preston/LAVIS.pdf>.

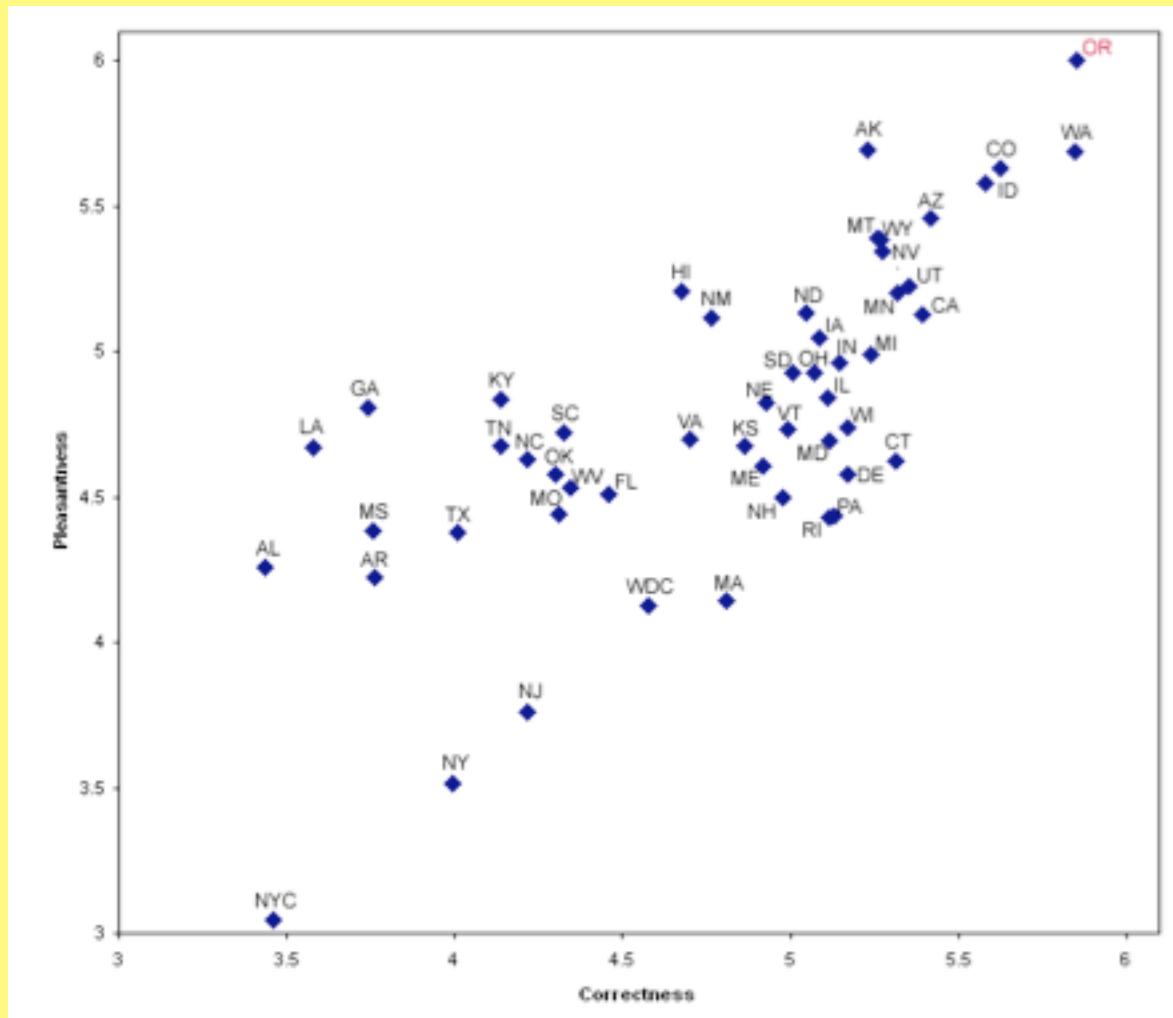
Not just northerners ..

Texans' evaluations of northerners and southerners

- Northerners superior in: intelligence, education, ambition, talent, success and proper English.
- Southerners superior in: honesty, friendliness, trustworthiness, down-to-earthness, casualness, community, politeness, and large families. Bad English

White, Jessica and Kathleen Shaw. 2004. The North, the South, and Texas: Linguistic and regional perception from the Lone Star State. A paper presented at NWAV (New Ways of Analyzing Variation). Ann Arbor. (cited in Preston ms.)

Oregonians' evaluations of regional speech



Hartley, Laura. (1999). A view from the west: Perceptions of U.S. dialect regions by Oregon residents. Handbook of perceptual dialectology. D. R. Preston. Amsterdam, Benjamins: 315-32.

And no, I wouldn't hang out with him. Although I will tell you since this is a linguistic study that, um people do like to say that once you hear Southern accent you have to subtract several intelligence points just because of the accent which is unfortunate; 'cause there are a lot of, um smart Southern people, and they have accent but people think of the Southern accent as being dumb. It just sounds dumb to a lot of people.

Campbell-Kibler, K. (2007). "Accent, (ING), and the social logic of listener perceptions." *American speech*. 82(1): 32-64.

Region and (ING)

The **-in** form enhances perceived Southern accents and shares with them associations with the country, lack of education, and the image of the redneck. In a different performance, the **-ing** variant strengthens an accent associated with being gay or metrosexual, with the city, and with less masculinity.

Campbell-Kibler, K. (2007). "Accent, (ING), and the social logic of listener perceptions." *American speech*. 82(1): 32-64.

'natural' -ing speakers

So I think it sounds more natural for her to say -ing. Hiking. Hikin' just - it just doesn't mesh well with the rest of the sentence. But I mean if she did, if she were, if I did have a true situation in which she was saying - which she was saying hiking or sorry hikin' with i-n on the end of it? It would sound as though she's trying, she's maybe around somebody Southern, and she's trying to be Southern or trying to be a little bit too laid-back relaxed linguistically.

Campbell-Kibler, K. (2007). "Accent, (ING), and the social logic of listener perceptions." *American speech*. 82(1): 32-64.