

## **Perspectives on LAVIS III \***

### **1. Defining the South**

- Sociohistorical, ecological, social, and cultural issues  
e.g. G. Bailey; Mufwene
- Linguistic structures and regional distribution  
e.g. Kretzschmar; Labov; Hall & Schneidmeyer
- Objective and subjective perspectives on the South  
e.g. Antieau; Baugh; Fridland & Bartlett; Preston; Tamasi; Thomas & Reaser; Torbert
- Extending the South  
e.g. Anderson; Poplack, Labov, & Baranowski

### **2. Southern Language History**

- Native American languages  
e.g. Broadwell; Chafe; Haag; Munro; Rankin; Rudes
- The multilingual South  
e.g. Klingler; Vélez-Salas, Schouten-Treviño, Cárdenas, & Bayley
- Earlier Southern English  
e.g. Aguilar; Ehrhardt; Feagin; Montgomery; Schneider; Tillery
- Earlier contact situations and languages  
e.g. Aceto; Dubois & Horvath; Eble; Klein; Picone; Rivera Castillo; Valdman
- Earlier African American English  
e.g. S. Davis; Rickford; Van Herk; Wright

### **3. Contemporary Descriptive Issues**

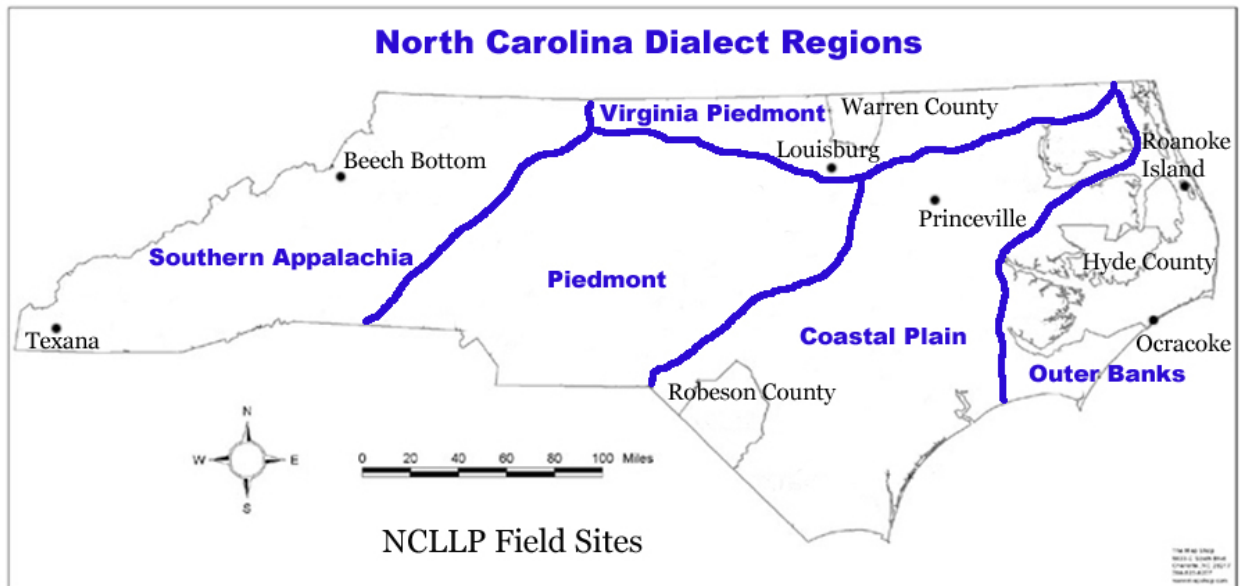
- The diversity of Southern English  
e.g. Barry & Osiapem; Nerbonne; Rojas; Shackleton
- Variation in the multilingual South  
e.g. Bayley & Lucas; Coles; Dubois; Hislope & Pomphile; Johnson; Lestrade; Lipski
- Specific structures  
e.g. Colley; Fridland; Sabino, Diamond, & Oggs; Rottet
- Groups, individuals, and identities  
e.g. Bean; Bernstein; Brewer; Burkette; Cukor-Avila; Lanehart; Mallinson & Childs;  
McNair; Nunnally; Puckett; Schilling-Estes
- Presentation, performance, and style  
e.g. Bolden; Brewer; Davies; Herman; Knight; Johnstone; Minnick; Nuckolls & Beito;  
Shuttlesworth

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#### 4. Reconfiguring the Past and Present Development of Southern AAE

The empirical base: Community studies of African American English in North Carolina



#### SOME EMERGING CONCLUSIONS:

##### ***The substrate hypothesis:***

Comparative evidence supports the claim that persistent substrate influence typically distinguishes African American speakers from regional European American benchmark speakers. However, there may be significant differences in the degree of such influence. For example, substrate influence in African American communities in Coastal North Carolina appears to be more extensive than in African American communities in Southern Appalachia.

##### ***Regional accommodation***

Evidence from different regions supports the conclusion that regional dialects played a major role in shaping the earlier Southern roots of AAE. Furthermore, regionality continues to play a significance role in many Southern communities.

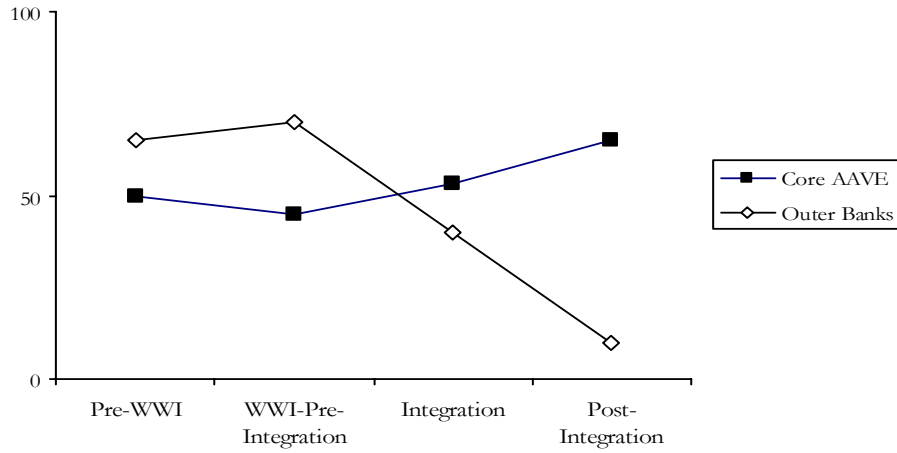
##### ***Trajectories of change***

African American communities in the rural South may show alternative trajectories of change with respect to core AAE structures and regional accommodation. These range from the intensification of AAE features concurrent with the reduction of regionalized features to the reduction of AAE features and the maintenance (even intensification) of regionalized features. Communities may also indicate a kind of ebb and flow in which core AAE features may be more intensified or reduced at different periods of time, or among different subgroups and/or individuals within a community.

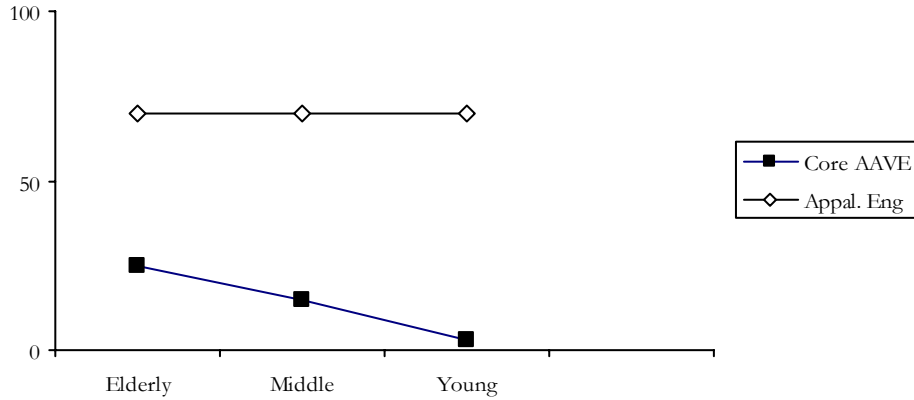
**Models of Change**

**a) Regional Reduction and AAVE Intensification: The Hyde County Trajectory**

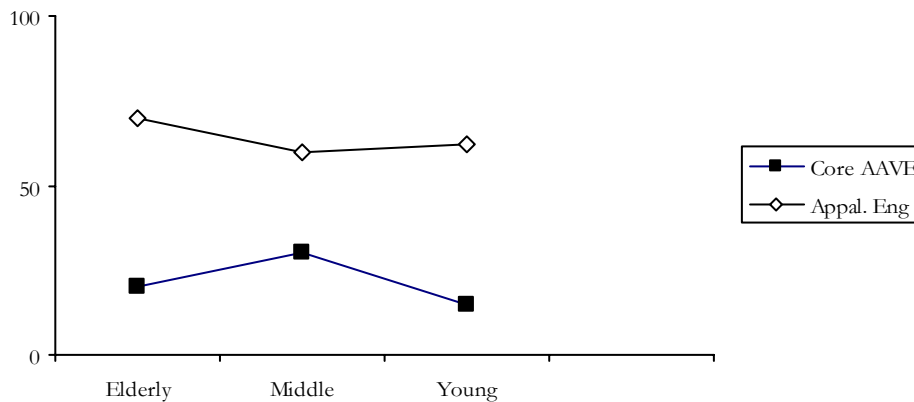
(adapted from Wolfram & Thomas 2002: 200)



**b) AAVE reduction and regional dialect maintenance: The Beech Bottom trajectory (Mallinson & Wolfram 2002)**



**c) The curvilinear model: Texana (Roanoke Island) trajectory (Childs & Mallinson 2004; Carpenter 2004)**



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### ***Factors that may influence change trajectories***

Factors that affect trajectories of change include the regional setting, the size of the community, the past and present extent of isolation, significant macro and micro sociohistorical events, patterns of contact with external African American communities, intra-community social divisions, and cultural values and ideologies within the community. The nature of structural-linguistic variables is also a factor; different linguistic variables may follow diverse paths of change based on their linguistic and sociolinguistic status.

### ***Individuals and change***

There is considerable individual variation within small, rural Southern African American communities that suggests that linear outlines of change are, at best, idealized profiles and, at worst, misleading overgeneralizations of change.

### ***Sociolinguistic description and language change in AAE***

Change in African American speech communities cannot be captured by a unilateral model. A variety of complex, intersecting factors need to be considered in describing trajectories of change in African American speech communities, just as they do in any other community.

## **5. Sociolinguistic Engagement and the Linguistic South**

- Informal and Formal Public Education  
e.g. Hazen; Hislope & Pomphile; Nichols; Petrovic; Pickering et al.; Wolfram & Reaser
- Specific etiologies  
e.g. B. Davis, Shenk, Moore, & Greene
- Forensic sociolinguistics  
e.g. Butters; Dumas
- Language and cultural revitalization  
e.g. Ancelet; Martin & Maudlin
- Community relations  
e.g. Wolfram, Rowe, & Grimes

## **6. Lacunae in the Linguistic Study of the South**

- The urban South
- Incipient language and dialect communities
- The theoretical proving ground of Southern English
- Assumptions, categories, and methodologies
- The engagement challenge
- The collaborative spirit

## **References**

- Carpenter, Jeannine. *The Lost Community of the Outer Banks: African American Speech on Roanoke Island*. M.A. thesis. Raleigh: North Carolina State University.
- Childs, Becky, & Christine Mallinson. forthcoming. African American English in Appalachia: Dialect accommodation and substrate influence. *English World-Wide*.
- Mallinson, Christine, & Walt Wolfram. 2002. Dialect accommodation in a bi-ethnic mountain enclave community: More evidence on the development of African American Vernacular English. *Language in Society* 31: 743-75.
- Wolfram, Walt & Erik R. Thomas. 2002. *The Development of African American English*. Malden/Oxford: Blackwell.