

Apparent-Time Low Vowels among Mexican-Americans and Anglos in Austin, Texas

This work investigates the interaction of the LOT, THOUGHT, PRICE, and TRAP vowels among 24 Mexican American and Anglo speakers in Austin, Texas. Though most research on vowel shifts in North American English has focused on the speech of Anglos or African Americans, research into Texas and Western English (e.g., Bailey, et al., 2004; Fought, 2003; Thomas, 2001) repeatedly demonstrates the importance of considering Mexican-American speech as well. Our work provides further support to Fought's (1999) suggestion that we consider the implications of supposed majority-based sound changes on minority speakers and look more closely at the interactions between speaker groups when discussing sound change in a community.