



# Atlas of North American English: Phonetics, Phonology and Sound Change

*By Professor William Labov, Sharon Ash, Associate Professor of Linguistics Charles Boberg*

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## Atlas of North American English: Phonetics, Phonology and Sound Change

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The *Atlas of North American English* provides the first overall view of the pronunciation and vowel systems of the dialects of the U.S. and Canada. The *Atlas* re-defines the regional dialects of American English on the basis of sound changes active in the 1990s and draws new boundaries reflecting those changes. It is based on a telephone survey of 762 local speakers, representing all the urbanized areas of North America. It has been developed by Bill Labov, one of the leading sociolinguists of the world, together with his colleagues Sharon Ash and Charles Boberg. The *Atlas* consists of a printed volume accompanied by an interactive CD-ROM. The print and multimedia content is also available online.

**Combined Edition: Book and Multimedia CD-ROM** The printed volume contains 23 chapters that re-define the geographic boundaries of North American dialects and trace the influence of gender, age, education, and city size on the progress of sound change; findings that show a dramatic and increasing divergence of English in North America; 139 four color maps that illustrate the regional distribution of phonological and phonetic variables across the North American continent; 120 four color vowel charts of individual speakers. The interactive multimedia CD-ROM supplements the printed articles and maps by providing a data base with measurements of more than 100,000 vowels and mean values for 439 speakers; the Plotnik program for mapping each of the individual vowel systems; extended sound samples of all North American dialects; interactive applications to enhance classroom presentations.

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#### **Review**

"'Y...'" William Labov is to American dialect what Lewis and Clark are to American geography. He's the pathfinder. Labov's new work "'Y...'" constitutes the first coast-to-coast charting of all the major dialects spoken in the continental United States and Canada." -- John Seabrook

"ANAE is very much a standalone piece. [...] But such splendid isolation is the privilege of the giants of a discipline, and giants in the world of scholarship is definitely what the authors of this volume are. This is a landmark study, a unique reference point of dialectological scholarship for decades to come and an inspiration for generations of linguistics."Edgar W. Schneider in: English World-Wide 1/2008 "The ANAE is a massive collection of dialect data and an unprecedented accomplishment in North American English dialectology."Joshua Wilbur in: English Language and Linguistics 1/2007 "ANAE is a landmark study that will shape research trends for years to come."Matthew J. Gordon in: Linguist List 17.2299 Coverage in the press: Talking the Tawk The New Yorker Sound Decision: New Atlas Divides the US by Dialect The Chicago Tribune and CubaNow.net Continental Drift The Pennsylvania Gazette Is there a Rocky Mountain Accent? New West North American Dialects National Geographic Mayor's Accent Deserts Boston for New York New York Times It's not the Sights, it's the Sounds New York Times Mapping North American English Associated Press"

#### **About the Author**

William Labov and Sharon Ash, University of Pennsylvania, USA; Charles Boberg, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.."

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#### **Daphne Shew:**

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