

## Canadian Shift among Filipinos in Metro Vancouver

One of the hallmark features of Canadian English is the Canadian Shift (CS): the lowering and retracting of the front lax vowel system in response to the low-back vowel merger (Clarke, Elms & Youssef 1995). There have been many studies exploring this on-going change in Canada (e.g. Boberg 2005, 2008; Labov *et al.* 2006; Pappas & Jeffrey 2013), but many aspects remain unresolved (e.g. Sadlier-Brown & Tamminga 2008), namely, the presence of /ɪ/-shifting, the overall trajectories of the vowels (i.e. diagonal movement versus parallel retractions) and more importantly, the lack of data from other ethnic groups in the community.

This presentation reports on an on-going study of CS within the context of second-generation Filipino-Canadians in Metro Vancouver, a significant group in the region, yet highly underrepresented in variationist studies. We addressed three research questions: (1) do they participate in CS? (2) If so, is gender a significant factor? (3) Finally, how advanced are they compared to their Anglo counterparts?

12 Filipino-Canadians (6 males and 6 females) who are native speakers of English between the ages of 19 and 30 were recruited. All of them have similar socioeconomic and educational backgrounds. The data set was constructed from recordings of Boberg's (2008) word list during sociolinguistic interviews. F1 and F2 values were extracted and normalized for 248 tokens of /ɪ/ /ɛ/ /æ/ /o/ and /oh/. Results revealed that at least for this particular age group, CS is active in Vancouver, with evidence of diagonal movement: lowering and retracting of /ɪ/ /ɛ/ and /æ/. Furthermore, we found that women tend to lead the change in some properties of the shift. Finally, results suggested that Filipino-Canadians are advanced speakers – demonstrating more lowered and retracted variants.

The present study provides evidence to support Hall-Lew's (2009) Emergent Market Model, and shows that Filipino-Canadians are by and large integrated into the Vancouver speech community.

### References

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