English in the Southern United States

The English of the southern United States is possibly the most studied regional variety of any language because of its rich internal diversity, its distinctiveness among regional varieties in the United States, its significance as a marker of regional identity, and the general folkloric appeal of southern culture. However, most if not all books about Southern American English have been directed almost exclusively toward scholars already working in the field. This volume, written by a team of experts many of whom are internationally known, provides a broad overview of the foundations of, and current research on, language variation in the southern United States designed to invite new inquiry and inquirers. It explores historical and cultural elements, iconic contemporary features, and current changes in progress. Central themes, issues, and topics of scholarly investigation and debate figure prominently throughout the volume. The extensive bibliography at the end of the book will facilitate continued research.

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English in the Southern United States
The aim of this series is to provide a framework for original work on the English language. All are based securely on empirical research, and represent theoretical and descriptive contributions to our knowledge of national varieties of English, both written and spoken. The series will cover a broad range of topics in English grammar, vocabulary, discourse, and pragmatics, and is aimed at an international readership.

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English in the Southern United States

Edited by

STEPHEN J. NAGLE
Coastal Carolina University

and

SARA L. SANDERS
Coastal Carolina University
This book is dedicated to
Michael Montgomery,
a linguist’s linguist and a true southern gentleman,
whose work continues to shape the course of the study of Southern English
Contents

Notes on the contributors xi
Acknowledgments xiv

Introduction 1
1 The origins of Southern American English 6
   JOHN ALGEO
2 Shakespeare in the coves and hollows? Toward a history of Southern English 17
   EDGAR SCHNEIDER
3 Eight grammatical features of southern United States speech present in early modern London prison narratives 36
   LAURA WRIGHT
4 The shared ancestry of African-American and American-White Southern Englishes: some speculations dictated by history 64
   SALIKOKO MUFWENE
5 The complex grammatical history of African-American and white vernaculars in the South 82
   PATRICIA CUKOR-AVILA
6 Grammatical features of southern speech: y'all, might could, and fixin to 106
   CYNTHIA BERNSTEIN
7 Sounding southern: a look at the phonology of English in the South 119
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Vowel shifting in the southern states</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Crawford Feagin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Enclave dialect communities in the South</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Walt Wolfram</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Urbanization and the evolution of Southern American</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan Tillery and Guy Bailey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>The Englishes of southern Louisiana</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Connie Eble</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Features and uses of southern style</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Barbara Johnstone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>References</strong></td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Index</strong></td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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xii Notes on the contributors

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Acknowledgments

The editors gratefully acknowledge Coastal Carolina University’s support of this project through the Thomas W. and Robin W. Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts, especially the encouragement and resources of Charles Joyner, director of the Waccamaw Center for Cultural and Historical Studies. We also appreciate the able and willing assistance of Geoffrey Parsons, Patricia Bennett, and Lori Ard in the University’s Office of International Programs, whose friendship, expertise, and technology eased our way in producing a final, edited version of this manuscript.

We are indebted to the Southeastern Conference on Linguistics (SECOL), which has provided and continues to provide a fertile ground for the exploration of all aspects of Southern English. The idea for this volume emerged during discussions at a SECOL conference; all of the people involved in the writing and editing of this book have contributed significantly to that organization and have gained much from its conferences and publications. Special thanks to SECOL members Thomas Nunnally, Greta Little, and Connie Eble who provided advice in the early stages of this project.

It has been a pleasure to work with Katharina Brett, Senior Commissioning Editor in Language and Linguistics at Cambridge University Press. She is remarkably effective and efficient, and this volume has profited from her suggestions and keen insights.

Above all, we’d like to thank the authors for their enthusiastic response to the invitation to write a chapter for this book, for their carefully considered contributions, and for their invaluable and timely editorial advice at each stage of the process. It has truly been a privilege to be in partnership with this fine group of linguists, scholars, and writers.

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xiv