

Second dialect acquisition: The case of French immigrants in Montréal

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Due to increasing transnational migration in recent decades (Ericksen, 2007), different geographical varieties of a given language are brought together in the same territory. A bilateral influence often results from this contact: not only do newcomers contribute new elements to the linguistic norm of their host society, but their speech is also enriched with local features. Thus, lasting changes can occur in the language practices of individuals exposed to a new variety of their native language (Chambers, 1992; Siegel, 2010; Nycz, 2015). The latter process is referred to as second dialect acquisition (SDA).

SDA is an underexplored field (Siegel, 2010). Little research has been conducted on French varieties or on speakers whose first dialect is more prestigious than the second one. To fill these gaps, we developed a project, which focuses on the case of Montrealers of French origin. Over the past decade, this population has grown significantly in the Québec's francophone metropolis. Despite the high prestige associated with their first dialect (Moreau et al., 2008), French from France, some of these migrants adopt forms of Québec French (Le Corre, D., 2018).

To explore this phenomenon, we adopt complementary approaches. We conduct variationist studies (Labov, 1972) to analyse spontaneous speech of French adults settled in Montréal. Moreover, we adapt two instruments recently developed in the emerging field of cognitive sociolinguistics (Buson et al., 2018 ; Montgomery & Moore, 2018) in order to observe how these subjects perceive and produce linguistic features of their first and their second dialect of French.

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