

Vowel Analysis in New Zealand English: New Ways and Old Ways

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This talk presents the results of two separate studies. The first study is an acoustic analysis looking at phonetic diversity in Auckland, New Zealand largest city. In the last 10 years there has been a large amount of migration into New Zealand, Auckland specifically. In 35% of Auckland's suburbs, no ethnic group is more than 50% of the population; many speakers were born elsewhere and many more have grown up using different varieties of English as the spoken norm. I will present some preliminary findings on what is happening to the New Zealand English vowels in this environment, and a new method of speaker normalisation in Formant analysis. In the second study I revisit the findings of sound change in the New Zealand Broadcast corpus. This corpus contains 5 New Zealand English speaking men, recorded over a period of 25-30 years. In this study I will present how the data preparation can impact on the findings of sound change: this includes investigating the differences in Formant trackers. These findings have implications when researchers try to quantitatively compare sound change results from different studies.