

CONSONANTAL VARIATION IN UTAH ENGLISH

WHAT EL[t]SE IS HAPPENING[k]

Joseph A. Stanley

University of Georgia
@joey_stan

joeystanley.com

Kyle Vanderniet

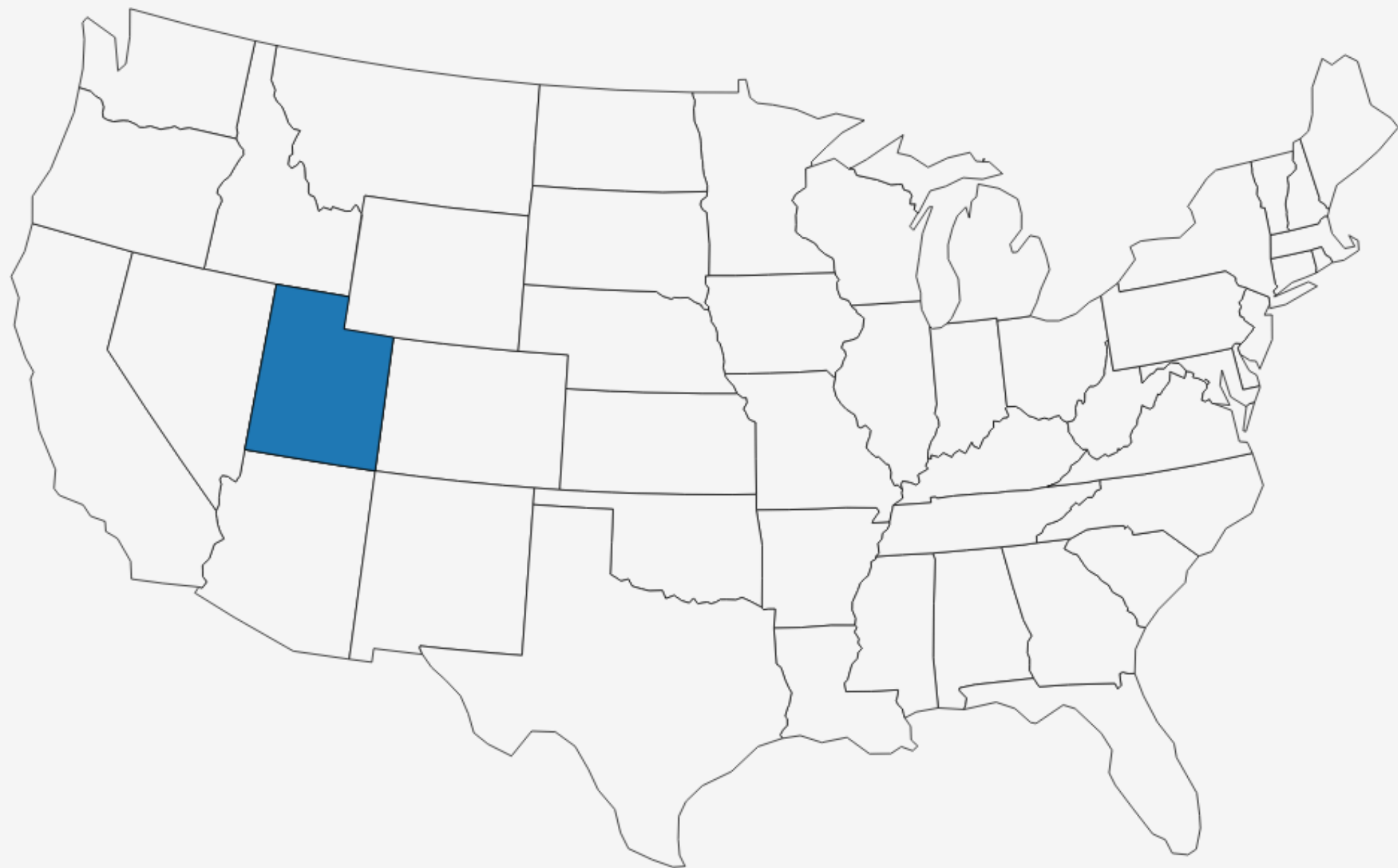
University of Georgia

kylevanderniet.com

American Dialect Society Annual Meeting

January 7, 2018

Salt Lake City, Utah



UTAH ENGLISH

Most research on Utah English phonology has concentrated on vowels

COT-CAUGHT merger, CORD-CARD merger, pre-lateral mergers (Baker & Bowie 2010, Baker, Eddington, & Nay 2009; Bowie 2003, 2008, 2012; Di Paolo 1992, Faber & Di Paolo 1990, Helquist 1970; Labov, Yeager, & Steiner 1972, Lillie 1998, Petersen 1988, Reeves 2009; Sarver 2004, Stanley & Renwick 2016, Bowie 2018)

/aɪ/ monophthongization (Morkel 2003, Skyes 2010)

PIN-PEN merger (Lillie 1998)

THIS STUDY

We focus on three consonantal variables.

1. Realization of unstressed /tən/ as [ʔɪn] in words like *mountain, cotton, Latin*, etc.
(Baker, Eddington & Nay 2009, Savage 2014, and especially Eddington & Savage 2012)
2. [t]-epenthesis in /ls/ sequences as in *false, Olsen, salsa, else, also*, etc.
(Baker, Eddington & Nay 2009, Javkin 1978, Savage 2014)
3. [k]-epenthesis after /ŋ/: *talking, thing, morning*
(Alzoubi, Borders, & Di Paolo 2013; Di Paolo & Johnson, this conference)

DATA COLLECTION

Audio collected via Amazon Mechanical Turk (Kim *et al.* 2016; Kim *et al.* ms, Stanley ms)

Target words embedded in 186 sentences from COCA.

Also 87 items in a wordlist

| Dataset | | [k]-insertion | MOUNTAIN | FALSE | total |
|----------------|-----------|---------------|----------|-------|-------|
| 14 Utahns | sentences | 1,534 | 198 | 163 | 1,895 |
| Ages 20–44 | wordlist | 129 | 499 | 272 | 900 |
| 6 women, 8 men | total | 1,663 | 697 | 435 | 2,795 |

5.5 hours of audio
2,795 observations

We're in the middle of fieldwork right now, so expect some more in the future.

MOUNTAIN

MOUNTAIN

mountain, cotton, button, Latin, mutant, kitten, Clinton, Manhattan, gluten, certain...

Henceforth the MOUNTAIN lexical set

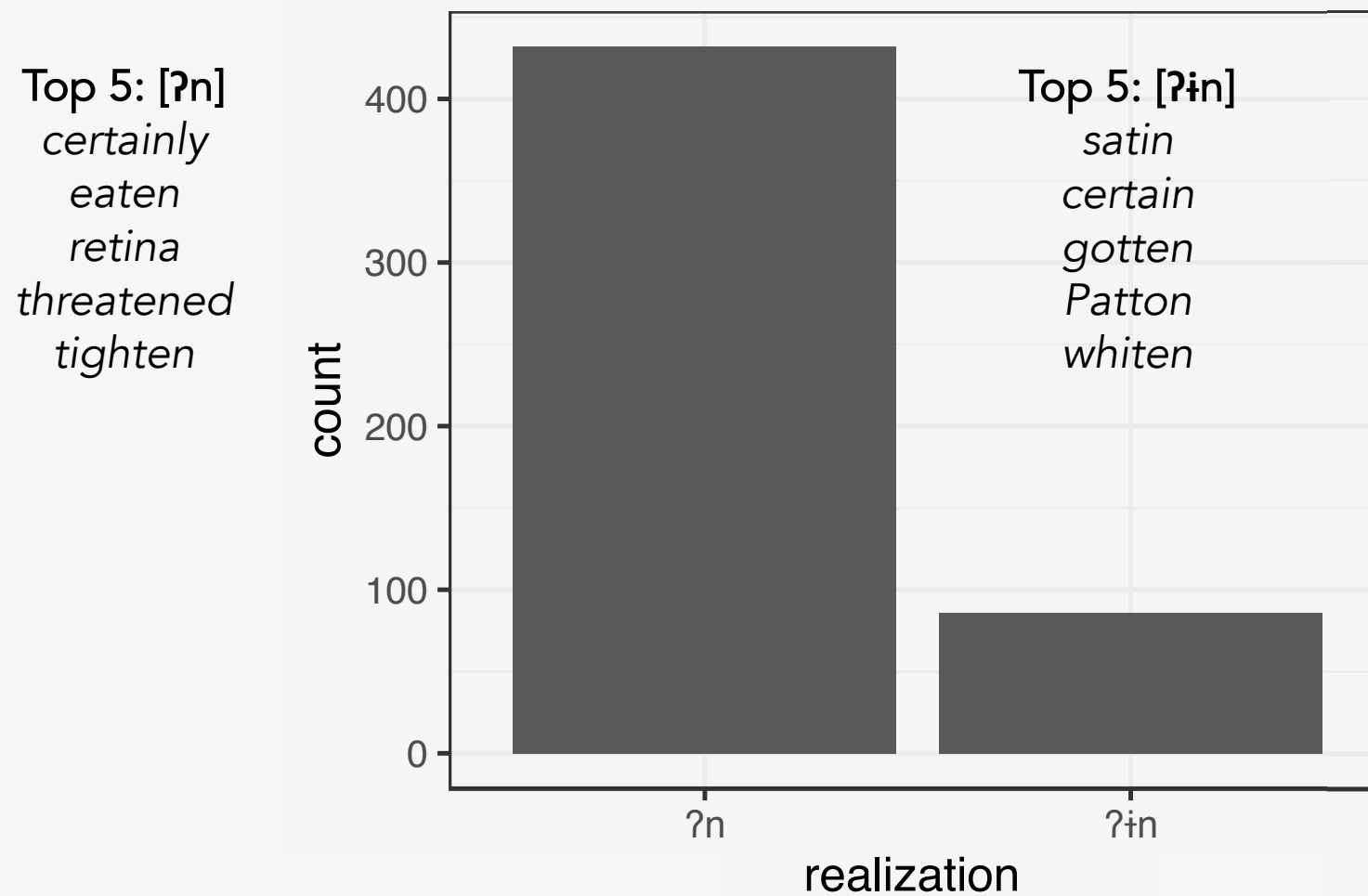
Baker, Eddington & Nay 2009, Savage 2014, and especially Eddington & Savage 2012

Mainstream pronunciation: [ʔŋ]

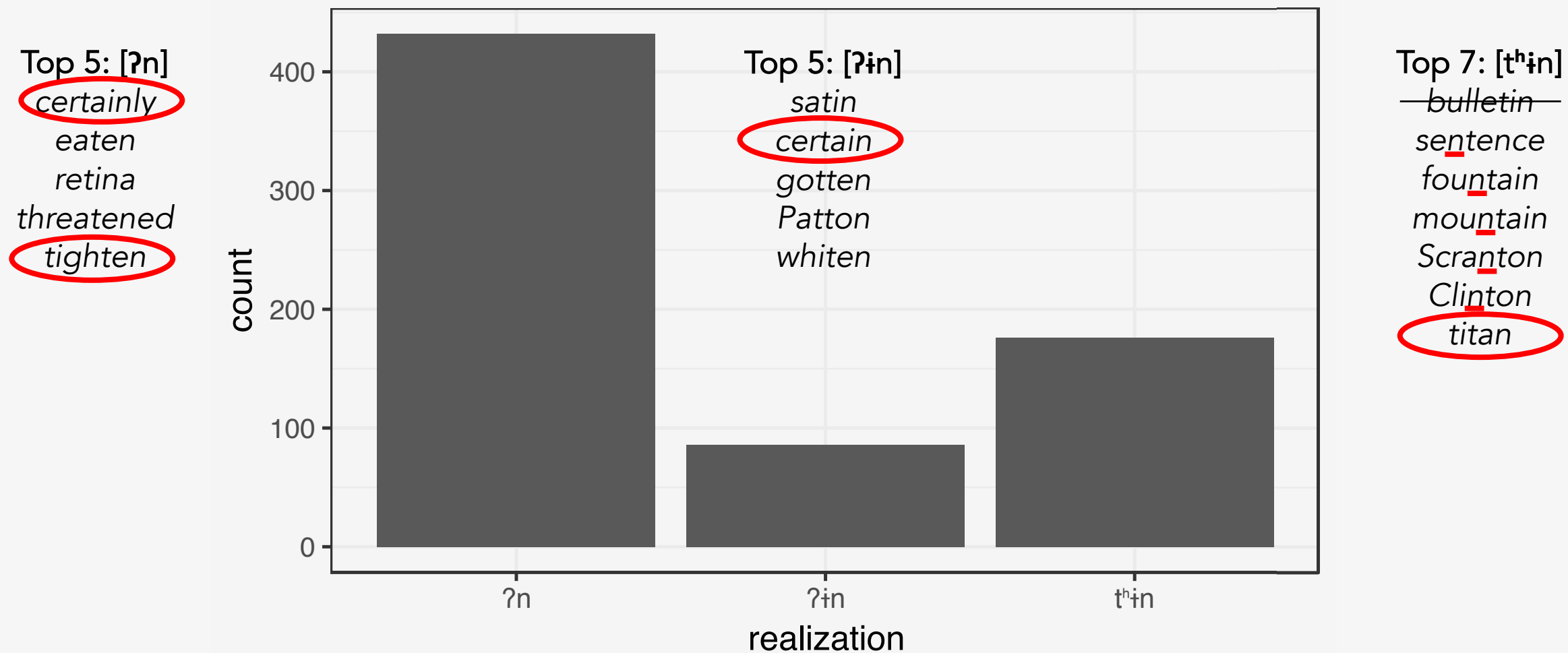
Stereotypical Utah pronunciation: [ʔɪn]

Hyperarticulated pronunciation: [t^hɪn]

MOUNTAIN DISTRIBUTION



MOUNTAIN DISTRIBUTION



MOUNTAIN COMMENTARY

[ʔɪn] has shibboleth-level saliency (Savage 2014)

“Mou'uns” is a dead giveaway you're talking to a Utahn.

–u/BizarroBednar on r/exmormon. Mar. 2012

Mountain= Mown'un: How could this NOT be the number one Utah-ism? The dropped T is infamous. But it doesn't just drop, it almost makes a staccato sound where the T should be when pronounced.

–Daily Herald. Dec. 2012

The glottal stop carries stigma, not the vowel insertion:

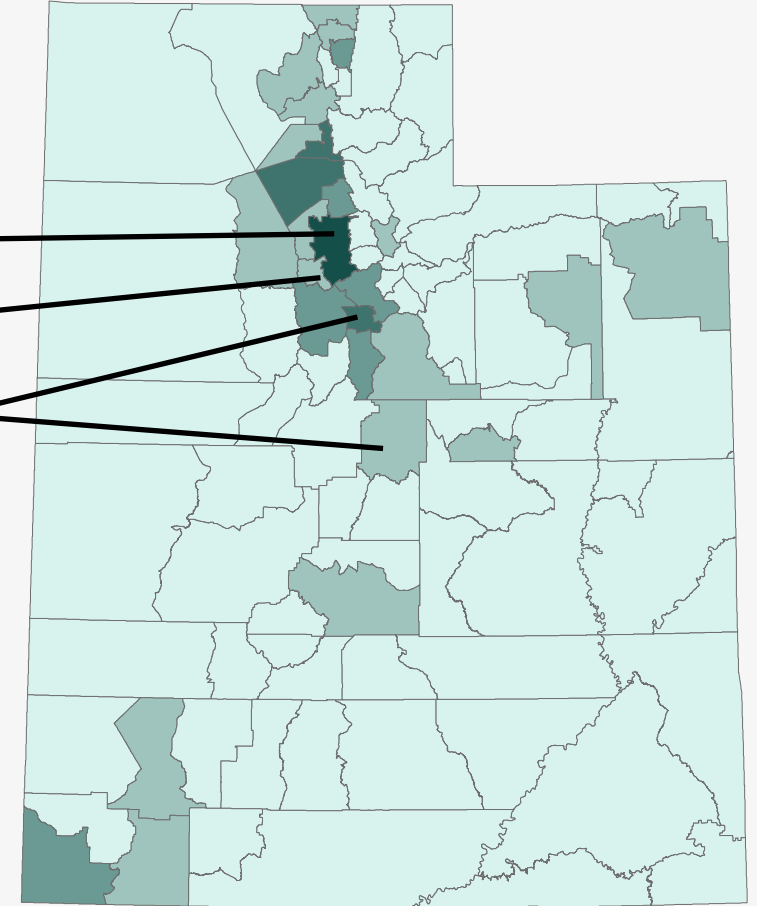
The Impor-an Mow-un in Lay-un accent. Pure laziness. People slopping through words [...] Notice that these all substitute a glottal stop (that horrible nasal pause that comes from the back of your mouth [...]) for the actual T sound.

–Russanne's Utah Accent Post. Oct. 2012

STEREOTYPICAL UTAH MOUN[ʔɪn]

moun[ʔɪn] exclusive to women in our sample.

| pseudonym | [ʔɪn] | age | city |
|-----------|---------------|-----|----------------|
| Heather | 3/68 = 4.4% | 34 | Salt Lake City |
| Maddy | 8/27 = 29.6% | 24 | South Jordan |
| Mandy | 18/38 = 47.4% | 40 | Ephraim |
| Chelsea | 57/68 = 83.8% | 25 | Provo |



Demographically relatively diverse, other than gender.

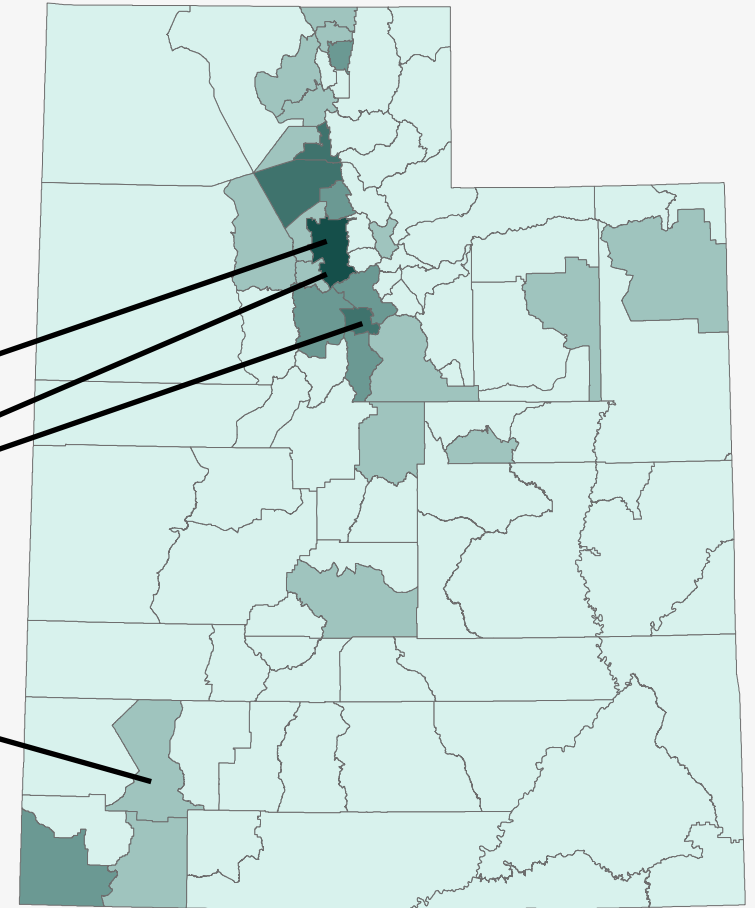
This generally supports Eddington & Savage (2012).

HYPERARTICULATED MOUN[t^hin]

moun[t^hin] twice as common as *moun*[ʔin].

All participants used this variant at least once.

| pseudonym | [t ^h in] | age | city |
|-----------|---------------------|-----|----------------|
| Heather | 25/68 = 36.8% | 34 | Salt Lake City |
| Maddy | 17/27 = 63.0% | 24 | South Jordan |
| Zach | 26/77 = 96.3% | 24 | Provo |
| Jared | 66/68 = 97.1% | 26 | Cedar City |



MOUNTAIN MODELING

We ran a mixed-effects multinomial logistic regression model using Rbrul (Johnson 2009) age, education, religion, and style as fixed effects speaker and word as random effects.
(Sex was excluded because only women used moun[ʔɪn], but we can interpret that as significant.)

Only age was significant in the model.

Younger people use hyperarticulated moun[tʰɪn] more.

MOUNTAIN DISCUSSION

Mainstream *moun*[ʔn] is the most common form overall.

It was the preferred variant for 10 of our 14 Utahns.

Chelsea was majority user of *moun*[ʔin]

Zach, Jared, and Maddy were majority users of *moun*[t^hin]

This explains why *moun*[t^hin] was so common

This is a reaction against the stigmatized glottal stop in *moun*[ʔin].

FALSE

FALSE

false, Olsen, salsa, else, also, balsamic, Chelsea, Wilson, Nelson, pulse, allspice...

Henceforth, the FALSE lexical set

Nonmainstream pronunciation: [ɫts]

Only /ls/ clusters and not /lz/ (**fall*[d]s) (Javkin 1978)

Previous work

"less friendly" sounding (Savage 2014)

Considered stereotypically Utahn by non-Utahns (Baker, Eddington & Nay 2009)

COMMENTARY ON "FALSE"

Relatively little overt commentary, but negative.

Live Coug My least favorite Utah accent is the adding of a T to certain words/names. We all know about the dropping of the T, but they add too.

FN Phat My wife hates when her family in Utah pronounces her name Chelt-see.

LiveCoug Yup. Our daughter's name is the same way. I just want to scream "there is no T in her name!!!!!"

Comments in a thread on cougarstadium.com. January 13, 2013.

DISTRIBUTION OF "FALSE" VARIANTS

Top 5: [s]

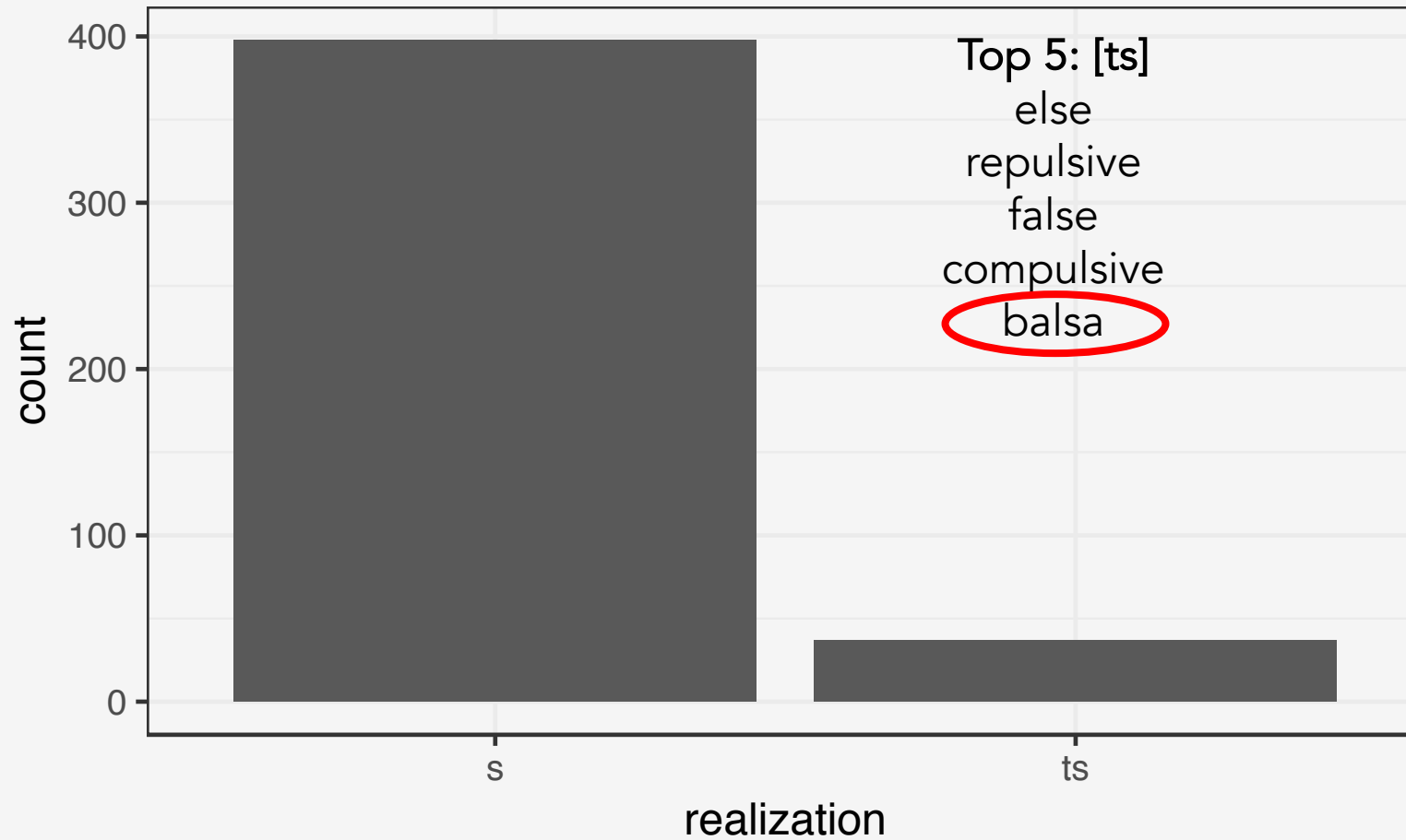
upholster

holster

dulcimer

bolster

balsamic

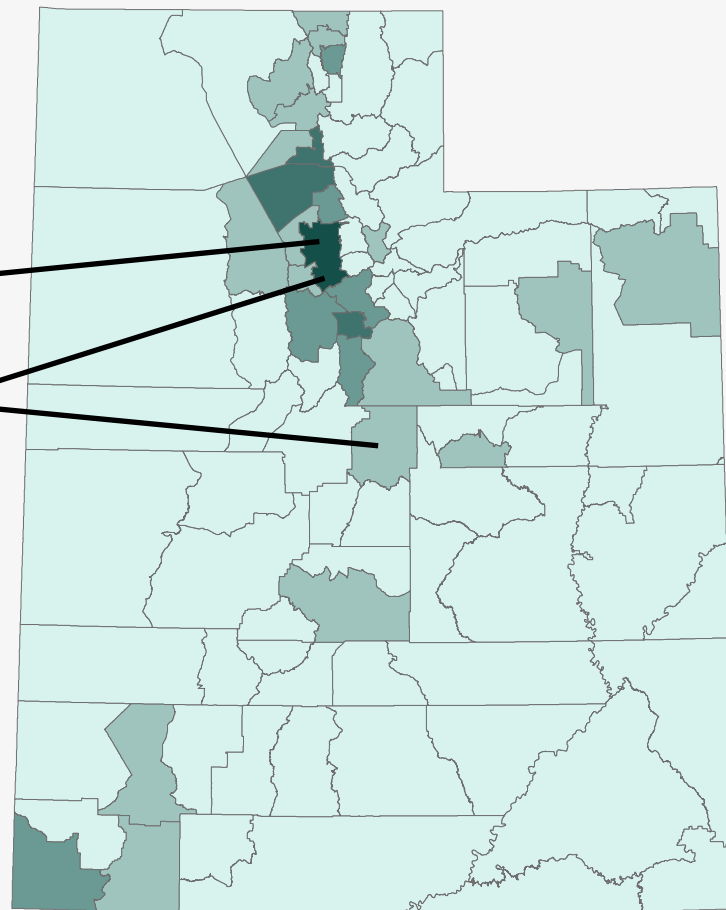


FAL[t]SE

Only 6 of 14 Utahns had the non-standard form.

3 of these were just once

| pseudonym | [ɫs] | age | city |
|-----------|---------------|-----|----------------|
| Heather | 16/44 = 36.4% | 34 | Salt Lake City |
| Mandy | 4/30 = 13.3% | 40 | Ephraim |
| Maddy | 2/13 = 15.4% | 24 | South Jordan |



Only Heather had it to any significant degree.

She also used *moun*[ʔin] the most and *moun*[tʰin]

[k]-EPENTHESIS

[k]-EPENTHESIS

Epenthesized [k] after /ŋ/ (Alzoubi, Borders, & Di Paolo 2013 & Di Paolo & Johnson this conference)

Mainstream pronunciation: [ɪŋ] or [ɪn]

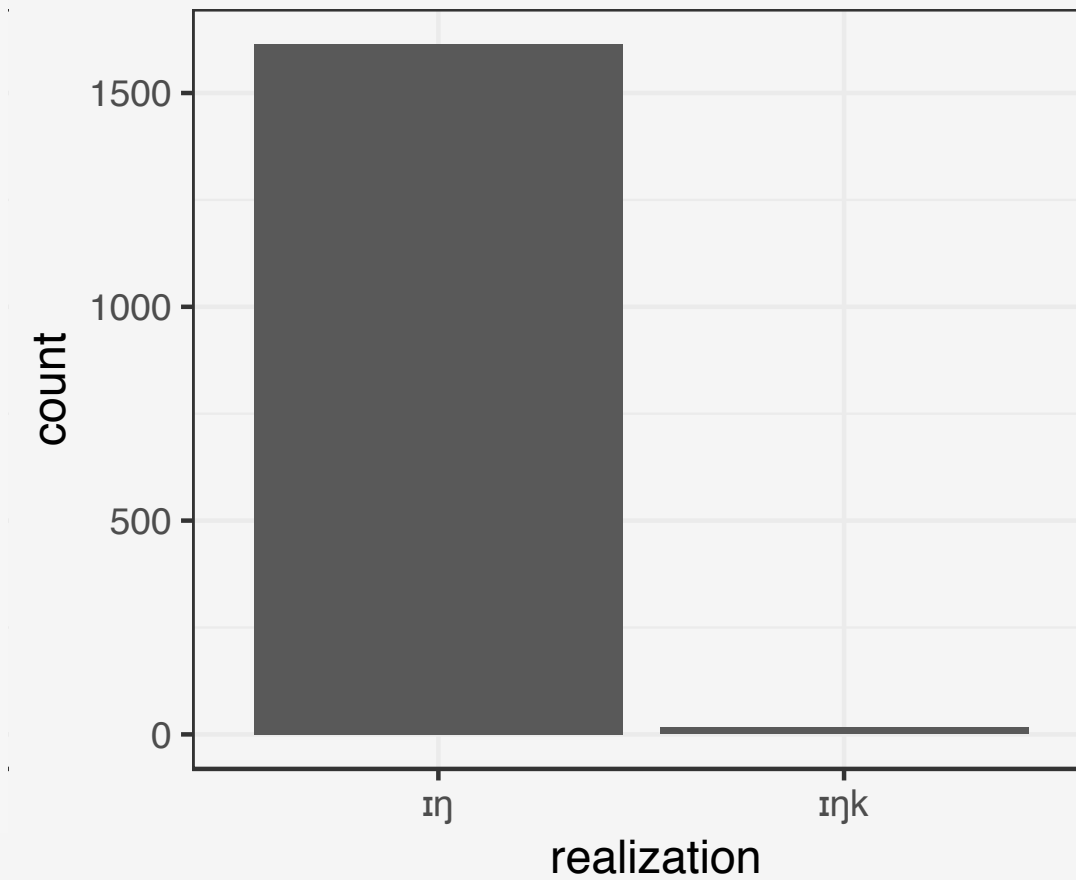
Utah pronunciation: [ɪŋk] or [ɪŋg]

Little overt commentary. Mostly neutral in tone.

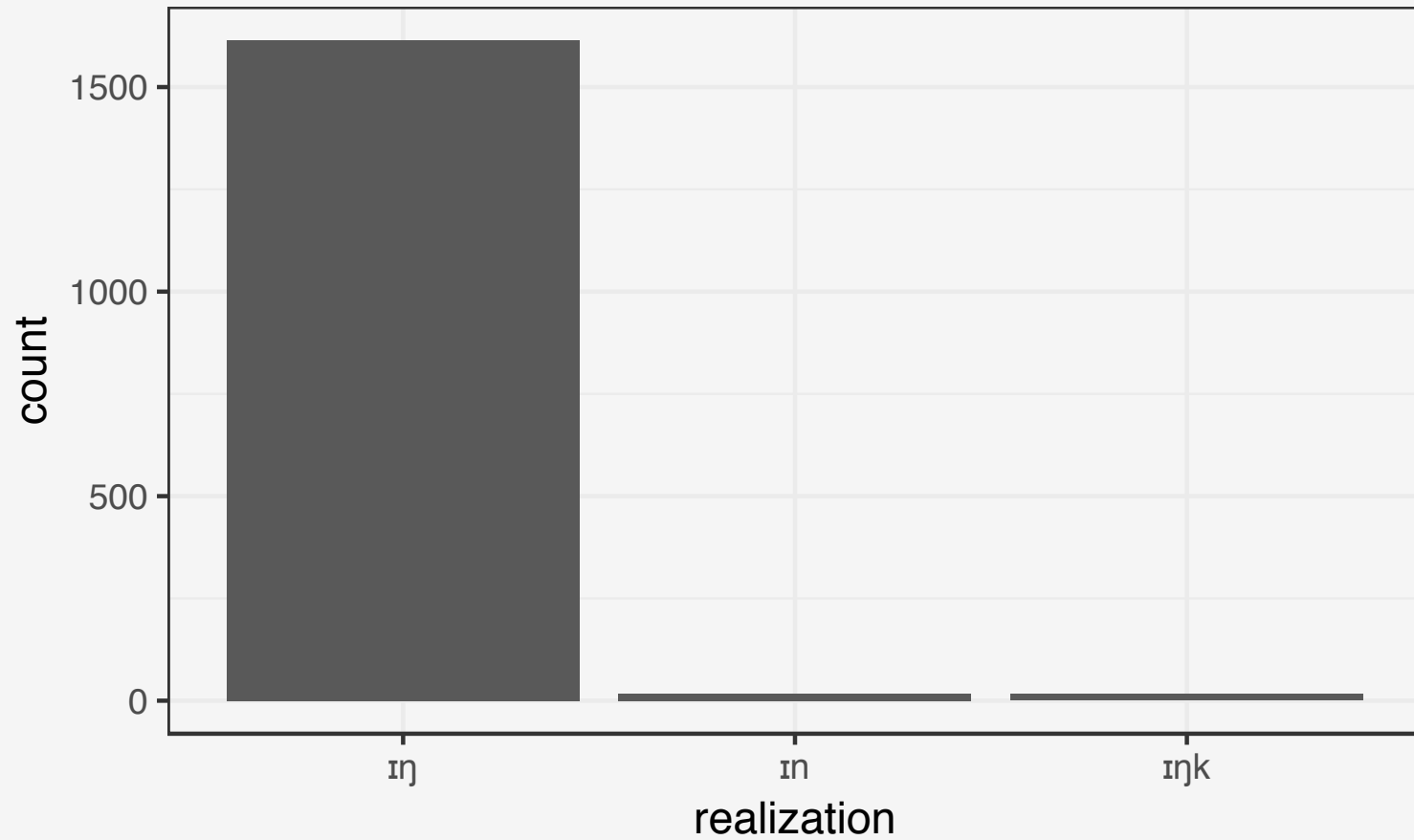
The thing I noticed when I moved to Utah was the "k" sound at the end of "ing" (like "sing-ink").

–Christiane Rampato, comment on HJnews.com. Aug. 2016

[K]-EPENTHESIS DISTRIBUTION



[K]-EPENTHESIS DISTRIBUTION



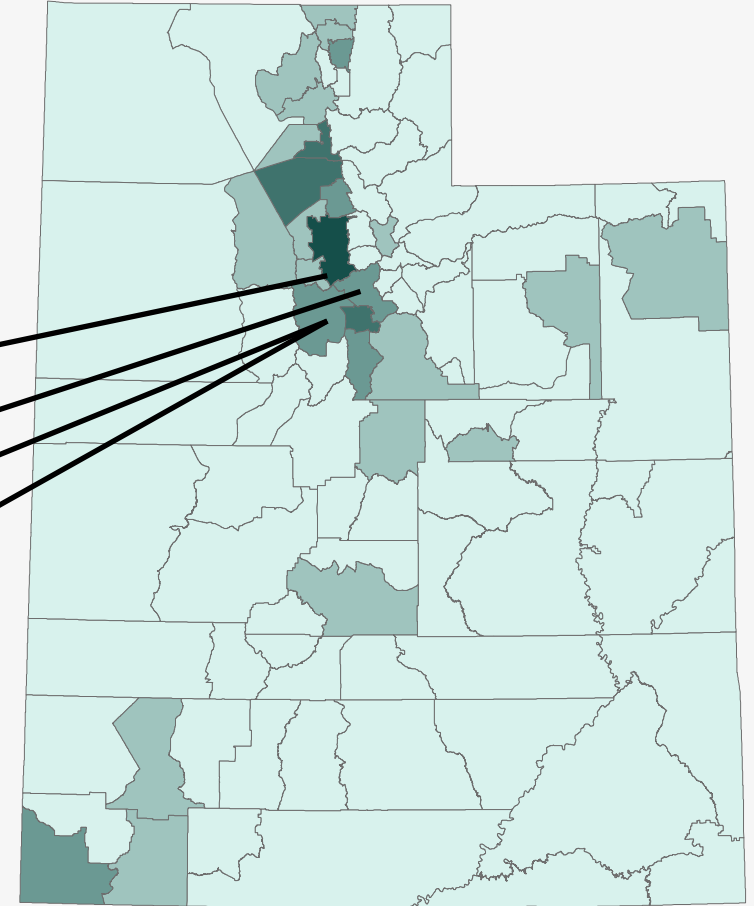
[K]-EPENTHESIS

Who used this form?

6 of 14 people used [ɪŋk] at least once.

None with any degree of significance.

| pseudonym | [ɪŋk] | age | city |
|-----------|--------------|-----|---------------|
| Maddy | 3/81 = 3.7% | 24 | South Jordan |
| Jamie | 2/74 = 2.7% | 33 | American Fork |
| Tim | 5/82 = 6.1% | 39 | Cedar Valley |
| Sam | 4/160 = 2.5% | 22 | Cedar Valley |



CONCLUSIONS

SUMMARY

MOUNTAIN

standard *moun*[ʔŋ] was the most common

hyperarticulated *moun*[t^hɪn] twice as common as *moun*[ʔɪn]

more common in younger speakers

possibly as reaction to stigmatized variant

FALSE

no clear pattern, but possibly women use it more

[k]-epenthesis

not enough data

CONCLUSION

Nonmainstream forms can be found in Utah English.

These are not captured by the demographic variables we gathered.

We encourage more research on consonantal variation and Utah English generally.

REFERENCES

- Alzoubi, A., D. Borders & Marianna Di Paolo. 2013. (NG) in Utah English. Paper presented at the New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAV) 42, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Baker, Wendy & David Bowie. 2010. Religious affiliation as a correlate of linguistic behavior. *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics* 15(2). 2.
- Baker, Wendy, David Eddington & Lyndsey Nay. 2009. Dialect Identification: The Effects of Region of Origin and Amount of Experience. *American Speech* 84(1). 48–71. doi:10.1215/00031283-2009-004.
- Bowie, David. 2003. Early development of the card-cord merger in Utah. *American speech* 78(1). 31–51.
- Bowie, David. 2008. Acoustic characteristics of Utah's CARD-CORD merger. *American Speech* 83(1). 35–61. doi:10.1215/00031283-2008-002.
- Bowie, David. 2012. Early Trends in a Newly Developing Variety of English. *Dialectologia* 8. 27–47.
- Di Paolo, Marianna. 1992. Hypercorrection in response to the apparent merger of (ɔ) and (ɑ) in Utah English. *Language & Communication* 12(3). 267–292. doi:10.1016/0271-5309(92)90017-4.
- Di Paolo, Mariann & Lisa Johnson. 2018. Revisiting (NG) in Utah English. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Dialect Society, Salt Lake City.
- Eddington, David & Matthew Savage. 2012. Where Are the Moun[ʔə]ns in Utah? *American Speech* 87(3). 336–349. doi:10.1215/00031283-1958345.
- Faber, Alice & Marianna Di Paolo. 1990. Phonation differences and the phonetic content of the tense-lax contrast in Utah English. *Language Variation and Change* 2(02). 155–204. doi:10.1017/S0954394500000326.
- Helquist, Val J. 1970. A study of one phonological variable in urban and rural Utah. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Unpublished Master's Thesis.
- Javkin, Hector. 1978. Phonetic and grammatical explanations for an epenthesis and a non-epenthesis in English. *Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society*, vol. 4, 330–340.
- Johnson, Daniel Ezra. 2009. Getting off the GoldVarb standard: Introducing Rbrul for mixed-effects variable rule analysis. *Language and linguistics compass* 3(1). 359–383.
- Kim, Chaeyoon, Sravana Reddy, James Stanford, Ezra Wyschogrod & Jack Grieve. ms. Bring on the crowd! Using online audio crowdsourcing for large-scale New England dialectology and acoustic sociophonetics. Unpublished manuscript.
- Kim, Chaeyoon, Sravana Reddy, Ezra Wyschogrod & James Stanford. 2016. A large-scale online study of dialect variation in the US Northeast: Crowdsourcing with Amazon Mechanical Turk. Paper presented at the New Ways of Analyzing Variation 45, Victoria, BC.
- Labov, William, Malcah Yaeger & Richard Steiner. 1972. *A quantitative study of sound change in progress: Volume 1*. Philadelphia, PA: US Regional Survey.
- Lillie, Diane DeFord. 1998. The Utah dialect survey. Provo: Brigham Young University Master's Thesis.
- Morkel, Wendy McCollum. 2003. Tracing a sound pattern: /ay/-monophthongization in Utah English. Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University Unpublished Master's Thesis.
- Petersen, Michèle. 1988. Phonetic Variation and Change: An Analysis of steel and still. *Deseret Language and Linguistic Society Symposium* 14(1). <http://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/dlls/vol14/iss1/6>.
- Reeves, Larkin Hopkins. 2009. Patterns of vowel production in speakers of American English from the state of Utah. Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University Master's Thesis.
- Sarver, Daniel A. 2004. The transferability of Utah English characteristics: Second dialect (D2) acquisition in Utah. Honors Thesis.
- Savage, David. 2014. How We Feel About How We Talk: A Language Attitude Survey of Utah English. Master's Thesis. <http://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/etd/5578>.
- Skyes, Robert D. 2010. A Sociophonetic Study of (aɪ) in Utah English. University of Utah Master's Thesis.
- Stanley, Joseph A. & Margaret E. L. Renwick. 2016. Phonetic shift /ɔr/ phonemic change? American English mergers over 40 years. Poster presented at LabPhon15, Ithaca, New York.
- Stanley, Joseph A. Data Collection in Dialectology using Amazon Mechanical Turk. Unpublished manuscript.

Joseph A. Stanley

University of Georgia

@joey_stan

joeystanley.com

Kyle Vanderniet

University of Georgia

kylevanderniet.com

Special thanks University of Georgia Graduate School Innovative and Interdisciplinary Research Grant for funding the data collection.

This slideshow available at
joeystanley.com/ads2018