West divide. Finally, e-mails written by the employees of the Italian branch of an international company are studied.

Costanza Cucchi


In 1939 Kurath’s Linguistic Atlas of New England reported a significant east-west dialect contrast along the Green Mountains of Vermont which was confirmed in 1987, a generation later, by Carver’s data from 1960s fieldwork for the Dictionary of American Regional English. Such results, which reflect the “founder effect” (i.e. the enduring influence of eighteenth-century settlers, known as the Principle of First Effective Settlement) are not confirmed any longer by the present study which concludes that major dialect changes are occurring in Northern New England. To determine the current status of the east-west dialect contrast and whether the founder effect is still present, the authors examined 62 speakers along the border. Their findings show that, among older speakers, Kurath’s east-west line of traditional New England features has moved eastward to the state border of New Hampshire and that many traditional eastern variants are receding among younger speakers.

Pierfranca Forchini


Newfoundland English has been described as self-sufficient in North America. Sociolinguistic studies suggest cross-generational change in the use of some phonetic features under the influence of Canadian English. The article investigates six changes which occurred over the past thirty years and the social contexts associated with declining regional features along with those displayed by recent vowel innovations. Such features are typically associated with formal speech styles, providing conscious, careful style options for those segments of the population sensitive to mainstream norms. While many traditional local features (monophthongal /e/ and palatal postvocalic /l/) exhibit decline, others (TH-stopping) remain quite vigorous as markers of local identity, thereby reinforcing the autonomy of NE within the Canadian context.

Silvia Pireddu


English in Quebec is a minority language in intensive contact with French. This situation has produced a unique variety which displays many instances of French influence that distinguish it from other types of Canadian or World English. The paper focuses on the lexicon. The survey
L'ANALISI
LINGUISTICA E LETTERARIA

FACOLTÀ DI SCIENZE LINGUISTICHE
E LETTERATURE STRANIERE

UNIVERSITÀ CATTOLICA DEL SACRO CUORE

ANNO XX 2012

 PUBBLICAZIONE SEMESTRALE