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[highlighted section headings did not appear in print but are pointed out in the "Introduction"]

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Focus on Canadian English

Introduction (Matthias L.G. Meyer, focus editor)

Despite numerous individual studies and research projects on Canadian English, booksize publications that give a survey of the current state of affairs of research in various areas such as lexis, morphology, phonetics, syntax and usage are rare. Thus Sandra Clarke's *Focus on Canada*, published in 1993, was most welcome because it filled a real gap. Canadian English has seen a wealth of research since then and a complementary update seemed in order. I am therefore more than grateful to all the specialists, mostly from Canada and from Germany, for their readiness to make a contribution to this volume that reflected recent or ongoing work from their own field.

The two opening articles deal with the nature and evolution of Canadian English. J.K. CHAMBERS (Toronto) provides new insight into three 'accidents of history' that have helped shape Canada: the Loyalists' Yankee pronunciation of *tomato* as [tə¹meɪrou], the Counter-Loyalists' use of British *tap* instead of *faucet*, and the fate of positive *anymore* in CanE. He also discusses historical details of the low back merger, brought to Canada by these two groups. – BRIGITTE HALFORD (Freiburg) examines the question as to whether Canadian English is heading linguistically towards Americanisation, globalisation or vernacularisation, i.e. she investigates just how linguistically independent Canadian English is on various counts such as spelling, vocabulary, morpho-syntax and pronunciation. In her 'Canadian Pilot Study' she tests Canadian speakers' reaction to Canadianisms such as *reserve*, to Americanisms such as *candy bar*, to quotative *like* and other grammatical structures and also explores their pronunciation of lexical items such as *missile*.

Three articles explore Canadian vocabulary and lexicography. STEFAN DOLLINGER (Vancouver) and LAUREL BRINTON (Vancouver) give a historical survey of Canadian lexicology and lexicography, provide quantitative details about the morphological structure of borrowings as well as about the donor languages and the periods of borrowing behind them. As members of the editorial board of the 2nd edition of Avis' *Dictionary of Canadianisms on Historical Principles* (DCHP-2, in preparation), they also provide insight into the guiding principles behind improvements and extensions made to DCHP-2 and how it will redefine the notion of 'Canadianism'. – CHARLES BOBERG's (Montreal) article on Canadian English vocabulary provides recent results from the author's 'North American Regional Vocabulary Survey' that utilizes responses from 3000 Canadians and 600 Americans to shed light on their attitude towards many words and on regional preferences for individual lexemes. – JOHN CONSIDINE (Alberta) makes John de Soyres's "Brief Glossary of Canadian Expressions", the first wordlist of general Canadian English (1889) available to the general public for the first time. Considine provides the full text in alphabetized form and has added critical notes based on the OED and other dictionaries to each of de Soyres's entries.

Canadian phonetics and phonology is covered by two contributions. SANDRA CLARKE (St. John's, Newfoundland) provides an up-to-date account of Newfoundland phonology and its internal variability. The article also contains a section on pronunciation changes for younger speakers and on prosodic features. – MATTHIAS L.G. MEYER's (Kiel) description of the phonology of General Canadian compares the Canadian vowel system to General American and RP. Care has been taken to apply a uniform IPA transcription system that allows an establishing of real differences between the three accents and an avoidance of the pitfalls of different transcription conventions. Recent research on the Canadian Shift, the Northern Cities Shift and on Canadian Raising is also taken into account.

Three articles analyse Canadian discourse and usage. ALEXANDRA D'ARCY (Christchurch, New Zealand) examines the genesis of discourse *like* (as opposed to quotative *be like* and *like* meaning 'about') on the basis of the 'Toronto English Archive'. She argues that discourse *like* has long been rooted in Canadian vernacular speech and only gradually (over the 20th century) developed its present-day manifestation. – A second discourse marker, Canadian *eh*, is investigated by ELAINE GOLD (Toronto). She tries to answer a number of questions raised by this symbol of Canadian national identity such as what its meanings are, whether it really is a Canadianism and how it differs from other dialects, who uses it and what its future might be. – CHRISTOPH SCHUBERT (Würzburg) introduces the reader to current issues of Canadian usage, taking revisions made for the second edition of Fee & McAlpine's *Guide to Canadian English Usage* (2007) as his point of departure. In his discussion of problems of spelling, pronunciation, morphology, grammar and meaning he also draws on competing usage guides and a variety of other sources.

The last four essays all deal with foreign influences on Canadian English, albeit in very different ways. MARGERY FEE (Vancouver) investigates the English spoken in Quebec (QE) where it competes against French, the only official language of the province. She focuses on lexical borrowings into QE, i.e. on recent loans and on integrated loanwords that have French cognates but whose use in QE deviates from the corresponding word in French. She also explains the distinctions between QE and *Franglais* and between borrowing and code-switching. – SHANA POPLACK (Ottawa) examines non-lexical aspects of QE such as overt versus zero pronoun in relative clauses, the expression of deontic modality, verbal agreement in *there*-clauses and quotative *be like* on the basis of a large representative corpus of spontaneous QE speech. She concludes that QE follows mainstream tendencies in virtually all of these areas and that the minor deviations from the mainstream pattern that were found cannot be attributed to French influence. – PETER SIEMUND (Hamburg) and ALEXANDER HASELOW (Hamburg) look at universal aspects and trends in the highly distinctive morpho-syntax of Newfoundland English which shows non-mainstream uses of pronominal gender (borrowed from the southwest of England) as well as specific types of clefting and medial object perfect constructions. They explain why cleft constructions replicated from Irish could be lost in Newfoundland whereas medial object perfects taken from the same source still thrive. – THORSTEN PISKE (Schwäbisch-Gmünd) concludes the focus section with his review of studies on Italian-English bilinguals who learnt English (L2) after their immigration to Canada. He shows that age, while taken to be a very decisive factor for L2 performance, is not the only relevant factor here. Rather, the degree of perfection reached in English by immigrants from Italy is also dependent on the amount of their use of Italian (L1).