



Multilingual Children's Speech Development

ENGLISH (Appalachian)

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English (Appalachian) Author

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English (Appalachian)

■ Commonly spoken in

- United States of America in all of the state of West Virginia along with parts of adjoining states including eastern Kentucky, southwest Virginia, western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee

■ Dialects and variants

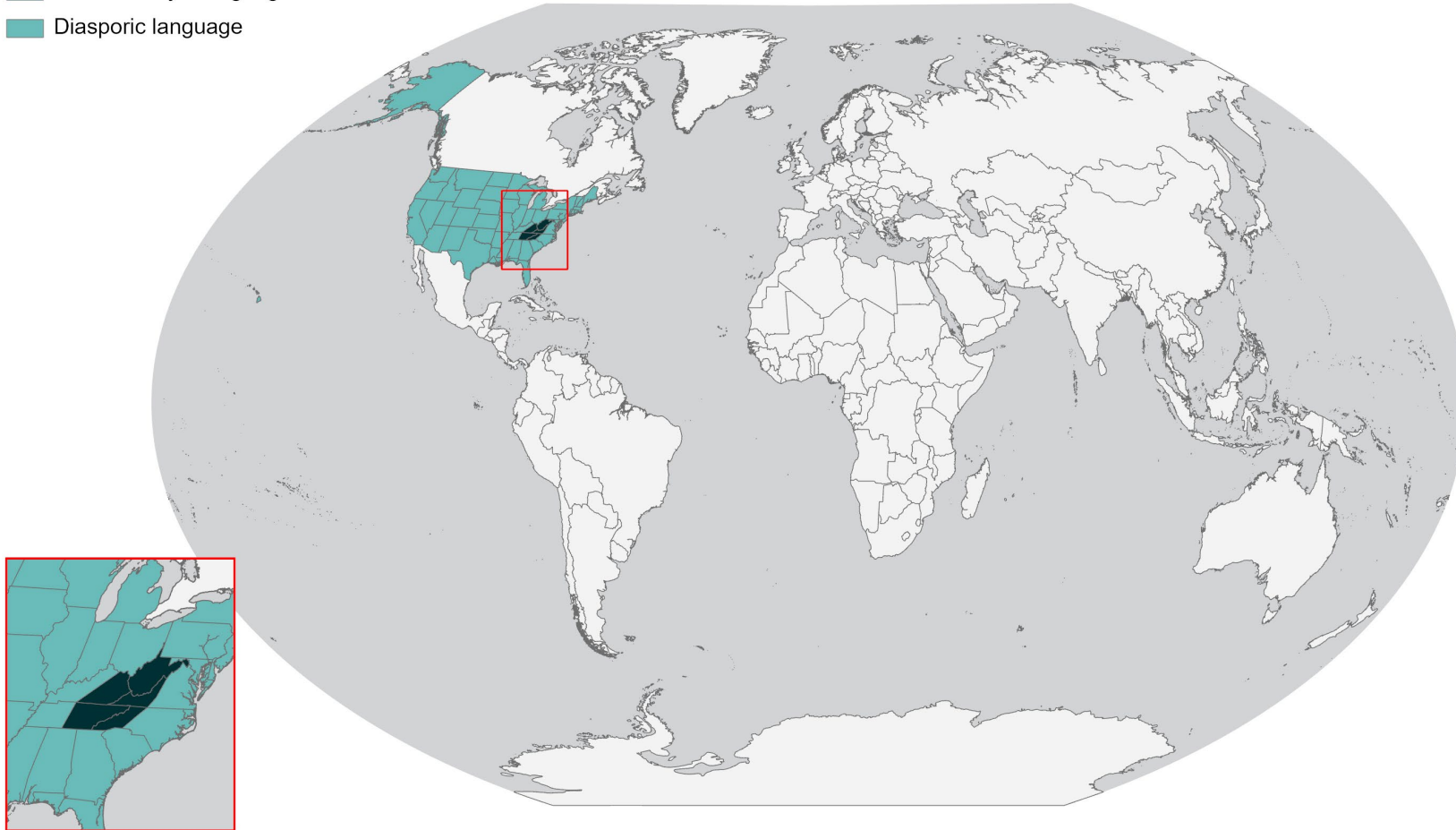
- Also known as mountain speech, mountain talk, Appalachian drawl, AppE
- The notion of a single variety of AppE has been the subject of debate

■ Writing

- Left to right. Latin alphabet (Roman script).
- AppE spelling is generally the same as is used in General American English

English (Appalachian) Map

- Official / major language
- Diasporic language



The authors acknowledge assistance provided by the Spatial Data Analysis Network (SPAN) at Charles Sturt University, and in particular Craig Poynter, for his work creating this map. Figures/maps/imagery created using ESRI ArcGIS Pro 3.1 software and data contained within ESRI's Living Atlas.

English (Appalachian) Speech Components

- **Consonants (24):** /p, b, t, d, k, g, f, v, θ, ð, s, z, ʃ, ʒ, h, tʃ, dʒ, m, n, ŋ, ɹ, l, w, j/
- **Consonant clusters (many):** AppE allows the same consonant cluster combinations as General American English
- **Vowels (20):** /i, ɪ, e, ε, æ, a, ə, ɜ, ɚ, u, ʊ, ʌ, o, ɔ, ɑ, aɪ, aʊ, ɔɪ, eɪ, oʊ/
- **Tones (0):** None
- **Phonotactic restrictions:** $C_{(0-3)}VC_{(0-4)}$ same as General American English
- **Prosody:** Stress-timed and has variable stress, occasional tendency to shift syllable stress in some words, with monopitch, relatively level loudness, and slow, deliberate rate

English (Appalachian) Speech – Unique Aspects

- **Examples of context specific consonant variations from General American English include:**
 - fronting of the velar nasal /ŋ/ in unstressed –ing contexts (e.g., running /ʌŋŋə/ → [ʌŋən]).
 - substitution of /t, d/ for the dental fricatives /θ, ð/ in word-initial position (e.g., thick /θɪk/ → [tɪk]).
 - overgeneralization of the /əz/ allomorph to words ending in /sp, st, sk/ (e.g., ghosts /gosts/ → [gostəz]).
 - intrusive /t/ at the end of a small set of words ending in fricatives (e.g., across /əkɹɔs/ → [əkɹɔst], cliff /klɪf/ → [klɪft], once /wʌns/ → [wʌnst], twice /twas/ → [twast]).
- **Examples of context specific vowel variations from General American English include:**
 - monophthongization of the diphthongs that include /ɪ/ (e.g., ride /ɹaɪd/ → [ɹad], boil /bɔɪl/ → [bɔl]).
 - /ɛ/ changed to /a/ before /ɹ/ (e.g., bear /bɛɹ/ → [baɹ]).
 - word-final ow sequences produced as /ə/ (e.g., hollow /hɔlo/ → [hɔlə], window /wɪndo/ → [wɪndə]).
 - word-final unstressed schwa often changed to /i/ (e.g., soda /sodə/ → [sodi]).

English (Appalachian) Age of Acquisition

■ Consonants

- Insufficient data are available to provide age of acquisition data for any of the consonant phonemes of AppE

■ Consonant clusters

- Insufficient data are available to provide age of acquisition data for any of the consonant clusters of AppE

■ Vowels

- Insufficient data are available to provide age of acquisition data for any of the vowel phonemes of AppE

■ Tones

- AppE does not use tones to differentiate meaning

English (Appalachian) Speech Development

- **Percentage correct**
 - Insufficient data are available
- **Intelligibility**
 - To date there is no study of AppE-speaking children's intelligibility
- **Common phonological patterns**
 - No specific data on the elimination of phonological patterns are available for this dialect
 - Nine different phonological features are thought to be specific to AppE, e.g., consonant cluster reduction, deletion of initial /w/, unstressed syllable deletion

English (Appalachian) Children with Speech Sound Disorders

- **Also called**
 - Not applicable
- **Research has focused on**
 - Not applicable
- **Studies**
 - To date there is no study of AppE-speaking children with speech sound disorders

English (Appalachian) Speech Assessment and Intervention

- **There are no available studies that have evaluated particular assessment techniques for the speech of children speaking AppE**
- **There are no available studies that have evaluated particular treatment approaches for the speech of children speaking AppE**

References

Book chapter

- Flipsen, P. Jr. (forthcoming). English (Appalachian) speech development. In S. McLeod (Ed.). *The Oxford handbook of speech development in languages of the world*. Oxford University Press.

Presentation

- Flipsen, P. Jr. (2023). *English (Appalachian): Multilingual children's speech development*. Charles Sturt University, Australia.
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