

***Strathy Undergraduate Working Papers
on
Canadian English***

The electronic series

Volume 7, 2009

***Strathy Language Unit
Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario***

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CANADIAN ENGLISH

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface.....	iii
The Impact of Anti-American Sentiment on Canadian English.....	1
Alison Borden, Alexandra Erath, and Julie Yang	
Under-Reporting of Canadianism in Surveys	9
Ryan Heffernan and Janet Kelly	
It's Different Back Home, eh? Differences in Rural and Urban Use of Canadian 'eh'.....	21
Emma Lackey	
A Way with Words: The Influence of Language Use on National Perceptions	29
RevaMarine Robinson and Sandra Zimmermann	
Prestige: A Study of British English Usage in High Schools in Ontario	37
Osie Ukwuoma and Caitlin Willis	
Learning to Talk Canadian: Insights into First-Generation Asian Immigrants' Linguistic Experiences in Canada	53
Michael Zhang	

Preface

This is the first volume in a new series of *Strathy Undergraduate Working Papers on Canadian English*. The first series ran from 2000 through 2007, and contained undergraduate papers written for the *Linguistics 202* (Canadian English) class at Queen's University. The increasing costs of printing a paper copies has, sadly to say, made such a project no longer feasible, and the series was ended in 2007. This series picks up where that series left off, with the only difference being that the volumes are now published electronically only. Such an approach not only reduces costs, but furthermore dramatically increases the accessibility of papers to future students and researchers of Canadian English. Thus we are, needless to say, very excited about this switch.

The papers presented in this volume are a selection of the student papers written for the fall 2008 class of Canadian English. These papers were selected based on two criteria. First, the papers were limited to those with a research topic that was specific to Canadian English. There were several excellent student papers that were omitted on these grounds because their research project was replicable in any English-speaking country, and therefore not directly related to Canadian English. Such topics included the carryover of instant messaging abbreviations and acronyms, such as *b.f.* and *fav*, into conversational speech and the acquisition of paralanguage, in this case, hand gestures, by speakers of English as second language. Second, the papers were selected based on the strength of their research topics. All of the papers in this volume are based on outstanding ideas. In many cases, the authors succeeded in demonstrating their hypotheses; in other cases, the authors were not successful. Nevertheless, the papers were founded on solid hypotheses.

It is hoped that this volume, like the first six printed volumes, will be an inspiration for future students of Canadian English.

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