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Feigning the Foreign: Articulatory Switch as an Expressions of Local Identity among Anglo-Québec-Bilinguals.

The 2011 Canadian census revealed a surprising statistic: that language shift from French as a mother language towards English had not occurred to the extent that had otherwise been expected by language planners. And though the sheer weight of the francophone community has shrunk since the 1970s, French as a language in the workplace and at home has gained in importance and in frequency (StatCan 2015), suggesting the stability of the French language in Québec.

This presentation investigates the significance of the French language in the expression of **Anglo-Quebecker** identity. According to the 2011 census, the Montréal language community demonstrates the highest level of English-French-bilingualism in the whole country (56%). Examined more closely 61% of all Anglophones in Québec are self-reportedly bilingual (StatCan 2015) and this on instrumental grounds (Poplack, Walker and Malcomson 2006, 205).

To what extent is French bilingualism integral to the identity of the Québec Anglophone community? On the lexical front, French loans into Québec English are a well attested phenomenon (Poplack, Walker and Malcolmson, 2006, 207; Grant-Russell, Beaudet 1999; Boberg 2005), but evidence for further structural changes are lacking.

At the heart of this presentation are a number of observations on a surprising phenomenon among bilingual English-language natives who identify as Anglo-Quebeckers: the suppression, in English, of native articulatory patterns in favour of francophone marked features on the phonological level. These traits include:

1. The stopping of English fricatives /θ/and / ð / to stereotypical Québécois [t] and [d].

2. The dropping of initial /h/

3. The transfer of word stress to a consistent word-final position, and this accompanied by phrase final rise— nothing less than the adoption of a "foreign" L2 accent!

Through a survey of Québec Anglophones, the present study seeks to clarify the contexts in which such an *articulatory switch* can occur as well as its frequency and triggers. I hypothesise that such shifts are used to mark belonging to the larger community which surpasses the French/English language divide. If this is true, Identity in Québec can be analysed not only as "belonging to a linguistic community" but more importantly as "belonging to a linguistic community defined by its intimate coexistence with another".

In the question period, It's my aim to open the discussion to similar phenomena elsewhere in the Romance sphere as well as the Celtic, etc. to contribute to our understanding of articulatory switch and imitation in the construction of identity. Finally we'll discuss the possibility for articulatory switch to play into language internal change as well as language shift on the societal level.

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