

Survey on Phonetic Trends in Global Accents of English

Dear friends and colleagues,

My doctoral research is in the area of phonetics, and I am looking at how language trends change across the globe. In collaboration with my seminar students at Kobe Gakuin University, Japan, I am gathering English pronunciation data from around the world.

An example of regional variation can be found in the placement of the stress in the word “garage”. The Longman Pronunciation Dictionary (2008) shows interesting results in their survey conducted in the 1990s, showing that some people place the stress on the first syllable, “GAR-age”, preferred by British English speakers, while others say “ga-RAGE”, preferred by American English speakers according to their preference polls. Also, the final “ge” consonant may be pronounced like in “bridge”, as preferred by younger British English speakers, or “rouge”, preferred by older British English speakers.

However, the “younger” generation from that survey has since grown up. Moreover, varieties of English are not limited to British and American in this globalized world. Thus, I am trying to investigate whether the trend has changed over the years, as well as how people in different parts of the world pronounce the same words.

Directions: Please visit one of the three websites below and provide us with your pronunciation:

1. https://noriko-nakanishi.com/survey/index.php?gakuseki_no=B0001
2. https://noriko-nakanishi.com/survey/index.php?gakuseki_no=B0002
3. https://noriko-nakanishi.com/survey/index.php?gakuseki_no=B0003

- I prepared three sites to avoid possible overflow of the data, and to counterbalance the order effect, i.e., participants’ articulation gets better/worse as they get used to/get tired of recording themselves.
- The only difference between these three sites is the order of word sets that appear in each section, **so please choose any one of the three.**

There will be 358 words and sentences divided into three sections, and it will take 10-15 minutes to finish each section. At the beginning of the survey, you will be directed to the following pages:

1. Description of the survey
2. PC settings
3. Consent form
4. Introduction
5. Recording instruction

At the end of each section, you will be asked if you would like to continue to the next section. The sound data collected from the project will be downloadable from our website, "Sounds of Englishes", <https://noriko-nakanishi.com/sounds/>, accompanied by information including your language background, gender, and the year you were born. **All the other personal information regarding your identity will be kept confidential.** We will make every effort to maintain the privacy of your data. Prof. Noriko Nakanishi will maintain the privacy of the data collected, monitor data entry, and conduct analyses.

Regarding the details of my research, a pdf document is downloadable at https://nakanishi.kobegakuin-gc.jp/uploads/nakanishi/files/nakanishi/190706-12_Camb_ridge.pdf.

It is a slide show that was presented at LINGUASCAPE 2019 at Cambridge University Press. This research is supported by JSPS KAKENHI Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C) 17K02914.

I would appreciate your participation. Also, please forward this message to your friends. **Anybody who can read English words is welcome.** Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

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