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 globally. In collaboration with my seminar students at Kobe Gakuin University, Japan, I am gathering English pronunciation data from around the world.

For example, How do you pronounce the word "garage"? For some people, it's GARage, and for others, it can be gaRAGE. Also, the word-final consonant may be pronounced as those in "bridge" or "rouge", depending on the speaker. Longman Pronunciation Dictionary (2008) shows interesting results of their survey conducted back in the 1990's. According to their preference polls, GARage was preferred in British English, and gaRAGE in American English. Moreover, younger British English speakers were more likely to pronounce the final consonant as in “bridge”, where the older generation preferred the ending sound of “rouge”.

However, the “younger” generation back then is older now. Moreover, English users are not limited to British and American English speakers in this globalized world. Thus, I am trying to see if the trend has changed over the years, as well as how people in different parts of the world pronounce the same words.

Directions: Could you please visit one of the three websites below and provide us with your pronunciation?


- I prepared three sites to avoid the possible overflow of the data, and also to counterbalance the order effect: i.e., participants’ articulation gets better/worse as they get used to/get tired of the recording.
- 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 go on 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.


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 cooperation in the recording, also if you could forward this message to your friends. **Anybody who can read English words is welcome.** Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
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