

Traditional dialects, global trends and stuff: General extenders in St. John's

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General Extenders (GEs) such as *and stuff* or *or something* are set marking constructions that anaphorically refer to a wider category stated in the referent. Recent research on English GEs has noted the increasing frequency of *and stuff* (like that). Although many findings refer to North American dialects (Tagliamonte & Denis 2010; Denis 2015), a gradual increase of *and stuff* has also been reported for English varieties (e.g. Cheshire 2007; Palacios Martínez 2011). In the specific case of Canada, only research on the variety of Toronto is currently published, raising the question whether traditional or peripheral varieties follow the trends of General Canadian English. Here I study the use of GEs in St. John's, Newfoundland, a region that is rooted in some of the most traditional varieties of English and has remained isolated, to assess whether the GE system in St. John's English (SJE) resembles that of Toronto (and North America), or whether it follows a diverging trend akin to what has been reported for Ireland.

The data come from the speech of 16 adolescent and pre-adolescent women, divided into groups of local and non-local parents, to account for the effects of age and parental origin on the development of youth speech (Labov 1998; Eckert 1980) and regional varieties (D'Arcy 2005). A total of 172 tokens are analyzed.

The main results align with previous research: *and stuff* is the up-coming form. However, the co-occurrence of *and stuff* with the traditional variant *and that*, also present in Irish English, seems to place SJE in a somewhat conservative position. The use of *and stuff* both by local and non-local parent speakers of both age groups raises the possibility that *and stuff* is part of a wider universal change, rather than the effect of diffusion from mainland English.