

### Fading In and Out of the Inland North

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*ANAE* (Labov et al. 2006) defines dialect regions in terms of major cities. Dialect-region boundaries in less densely populated areas are not examined.

New York State sits at the boundary between several *ANAE* dialect regions, particularly **Inland North** and **Western New England**.

**Western New England:**

- Includes Albany as well as cities in western New England proper
- Subdivided by Boberg (2001) into NWNE and SWNE

**Inland North:**

- Home of the Northern Cities Vowel Shift (NCS)
- Includes Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo, and points west

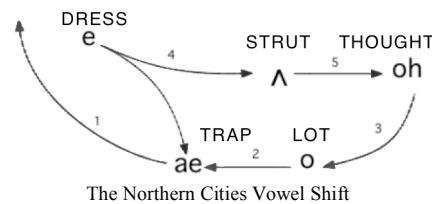
**Disagreement on Nature of Inland North–WNE Boundary**

- *ANAE*: Inland North has a distinctive phonological system because of its particular settlement history; predicts sharp boundary
- Boberg (2001): SWNE and Inland North differ only in “the relative advancement of the Northern Cities Shift”; predicts fading boundary

**This study:** data from Utica (7 speakers), Gloversville (9), Amsterdam (6), Oneonta (9), Watertown (10), Glens Falls (7), Poughkeepsie (7), Plattsburgh (7)

**Methodology:**

Short Sociolinguistic Encounters (cf. Ash 2002), 10–25 minutes each including formal elicitation methods.<sup>1</sup> Formants measured in Praat, normalized in Plotnik 8 using log-mean normalization parameter from *ANAE*. About 500 stressed vowel tokens measured for most speakers.



<sup>1</sup> Data from Gloversville and Amsterdam include telephone interviews (2 Gloversville, 1 Amsterdam) conducted according to the *ANAE* methodology.

**Labov (2007)’s vowel mean diagnostics for participation in NCS**

- **UD criterion:** /o/ fronter than /ʌ/
- **ED criterion:** /e/ less than 375 Hz fronter than /o/
- **EQ criterion:** /æ/ both fronter and higher than /e/
- **AE1 criterion:** /æ/ higher than 700 Hz (i.e., F1 is less than 700 Hz)
- **O2 criterion:** /o/ fronter than 1500 Hz

(All means are computed disregarding tokens before nasals and liquids.)

	number of NCS features exhibited					
	zero	one	two	three	four	five
<i>ANAE</i> NY Inland North			1		3	4
Utica				1	4	2
Gloversville			3	1	5	
Glens Falls			3	1	3	
Watertown			6	2	2	
Oneonta	1	2	6			
Amsterdam		1	5			
Poughkeepsie	1	2	3	1		
Plattsburgh	2	3	2			
<i>ANAE</i> WNE	2	5	4	1	1	

Table 1: Number of speakers exhibiting NCS features in this study and *ANAE*

**Results:**

- Speakers in Utica mostly meet 4–5 NCS criteria, agreeing with *ANAE* Inland North.
- Speakers in Oneonta, Amsterdam, Poughkeepsie, and Plattsburgh meet 2 or fewer NCS criteria, similar to *ANAE* Western New England.
- Speakers in Gloversville, Watertown, and Glens Falls meet 2–4 NCS criteria, midway between WNE and Inland North speakers.

**/æ/-tensing index:** meanF1(e) – meanF1(æ)

quantitatively measures advancement of the first stage of the NCS.

	min	max	mean		min	max	mean
<i>ANAE</i> Inland North	-26	266	88	Oneonta	-136	-39	-86
Utica	-35	280	73	Amsterdam	-113	-75	-94
Gloversville	-59	96	3	Poughkeepsie	-168	-43	-120
Glens Falls	-46	25	-15	Plattsburgh	-184	-104	-147
Watertown	-90	53	-18	<i>ANAE</i> WNE	-187	15	-87

Table 2: /æ/-tensing index for cities in this study plus *ANAE* WNE and N.Y. Inland North

## Results:

- Utica same as Inland North.
- Oneonta, Amsterdam, Poughkeepsie, Plattsburgh within range covered by WNE
- Gloversville, Glens Falls, Watertown intermediate between Inland North and WNE: all different from WNE and from Inland North at  $p < .02$  or better.
- G'ville, GF, W'town (Inland North "fringe") agree with Inland North in having almost all speakers above  $-58$  Hz; WNE-like cities have almost all below  $-58$ .
- No significant difference among Gloversville, Glens Falls, and Watertown, or between WNE and Oneonta, Amsterdam, or Poughkeepsie.



Map: New York State, showing dialect regions discussed in this paper.

## Settlement history of these communities:

- **New York State** originally Dutch "New Netherland" colony; many settlements founded by Dutch settlers. Came under English control in 1664.
  - **Amsterdam** had leading Dutch families in early 19<sup>th</sup> c. (Donlon 1980); by 1804, "the hamlet had acquired a considerable population, with an almost equal proportion of Dutch and Yankees" (Frothingham 1892b).
  - **Gloversville** area basically depopulated after Revolution; "the immigration was largely of Anglo-Saxon elements." "Among the early settlers the Connecticut influence seems to have been strongest." (Frothingham 1892a).
  - **Glens Falls** first settled by Quakers ultimately from Connecticut. (Hyde 1936). Moreover, in 1784 "joining the Quakers were Yankees, many from Connecticut, in a migration that went on unabated until nearly 1850." (GFHA 1978).
  - **Utica**: by 1800 population mainly from New England (Roberts 1911).
  - **Watertown** founded 1800 (Gould 1969); early landowners mostly from Oneida County, where Utica is located (Hough 1854).
  - **Poughkeepsie** was settled by Dutch families in 1680s, and Dutch was the main language of the city until almost the 1770s (Platt 1905).
  - **Plattsburgh**: prominent settlers apparently mostly from Long Island (Hurd 1880).
  - **Oneonta** had German, New England Yankee, and New York Dutch influences among earliest settlers (Campbell 1906).
- So **Amsterdam, Oneonta, Poughkeepsie, and Plattsburgh** had substantial New York Dutch settlement, and resemble Albany in not showing NCS. **Gloversville, Watertown, and Glens Falls** never had significant Dutch population, and were settled in WNE–Inland North migration pattern, and show NCS sound changes.
- Conclusion:** A city in eastern New York is not subject to NCS if it was settled in significant part from Dutch-origin populations.

This resolves the dispute over the Inland North–WNE boundary:

- **Sharp** boundary, as predicted by ANAE, between Yankee and Dutch cities
  - **Fading** NCS features in easternmost "fringe" of Inland North
- Further subdivide ANAE's** WNE region beyond Boberg's description:
- **Northwestern New England**, exhibiting low back merger
  - **Southwestern New England**, New England–origin settlements without low back merger and open in principle to NCS (but too remote to be affected?)
  - **"New Netherland"**, NY Dutch settlements resistant to NCS

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