

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	2
1 Introduction	5
2 New York City, NY	7
2.1 The Big Apple – An Ethnical Melting Pot.....	7
2.2 A homogenous speech community?.....	9
3 The Northern Cities Chain Shift	12
3.1 Understanding Language Change	12
3.1.1 The Study of Linguistic Change in Progress.....	12
3.1.2 Sociolinguistic Variables.....	14
3.1.2.1 Social Status	15
3.1.2.2 Gender	17
3.1.2.3 Age	19
3.1.2.4 Ethnicity	20
3.1.3 Chain Shifts	22
3.2 The Northern Cities Shift	23
3.3 Origin and Occurrence at Present.....	27
3.3.1 The Origin and Historical Spread of the NCS.....	27
3.3.2 Present Geographical Spread	29
3.3.3 General Sociolinguistic Aspects of the NCS.....	31
3.4 Previous Research	32
3.4.1 The Quantitative Study of Sound Change in Progress and other work by Labov ..	32
3.4.2 Other Studies	34
3.5 New York City and the NCS.....	35
4 Research Design and Techniques	40
4.1 Interview Methodology	40
4.2 Data Analysis with <i>Praat</i>	42
4.3 Organization and Visualization with Microsoft® Office Excel.....	44
4.4 Vowel Charts.....	47

5. Speaker Analysis	52
5.1 Annette, 87f.....	53
5.2 Merryl, 61f	58
5.3 Tim, 48m	62
5.4 Philipp, 48m	67
5.5 Jake, 24m.....	72
5.6 Patrick, 18m	78
5.7 Samantha, 17f.....	82
5.8 Allie, 17f.....	89
6 Vowel Analysis.....	97
6.1 The TRAP-Vowel	97
6.1.1 The TRAP-Vowel Preceding a Non-Nasal	97
6.1.2 The TRAP-Vowel Preceding a Nasal.....	101
6.2. The LOT-Vowel.....	106
6.3 The CLOTH-Vowel	110
6.4 The KIT-Vowel	112
6.5 The DRESS-Vowel	115
6.6 The STRUT-Vowel.....	118
6.7 Vowel Systems.....	121
7 Conclusion.....	125
8 Bibliography	127
9 Appendices	143
Appendix A	143
Appendix B: F1/F2 Collection	148
Appendix C: Distribution of Each Vowel's Phonetic Environment	192
Appendix D: Diphthongization of /æ/+N.....	220