3. Results and Analysis

In this section we present the results of our study and examine their significance.

3.1 Canadian Raising

In the first question of the survey, respondents were given a list of words and asked to indicate whether they felt that they pronounced each word the same as a typical American would. The words given were mostly words that would feature the phenomenon of Canadian Raising (Chambers, 1973), where the onset of diphthongs /aw/ and /ai/ are raised. The results are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Results from Survey Question 1

The blue bars o0 1 339.5 558.65 Tm56(e)44ryTBo7/F4 .9 48.984 Tm7>5 Tm4B3 Tl

about demonstrated the highest rate of Canadian Raising. The words mouse and light showed less Canadian Raising, but in both cases there was still some under-reporting.

It should be noted that the concept of Canadian Raising was not explained to respondents, so their answers reflect their personal ideas of Canadian/American pronunciation differences. We decided that explaining this to respondents would potentially affect their pronunciations when we recorded their voices and skew our results. It is likely that some respondents, who were not linguists or linguistic students, were unaware of Canadian Raising. In this case, it may seem slightly inappropriate to accuse them of under-reporting their Canadian Raising since they were not even aware of the phenomenon in the first place. In order to get some idea of the confidence level we can have in these results, we asked two "control" questions.



Overall from this survey question, we have two significant examples of respondents inaccuracy, one of under-reporting (the *latter/ladder* pair) and one of over-reporting (the *mouse/houses* pair).

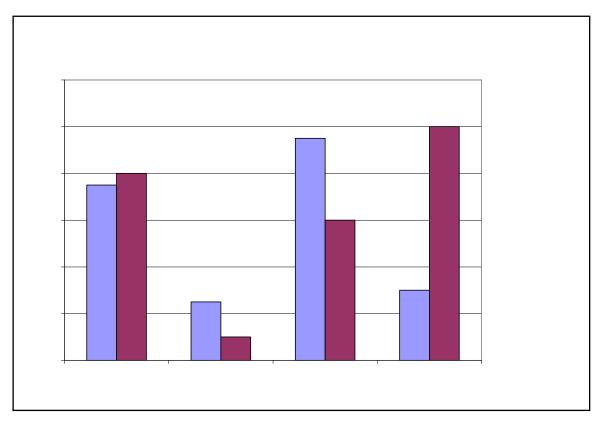


Figure 4: Survey Question 2

3.4 Cot/Caught, And/End

Question 3 in our survey asked respondents whether they pronounced the word pairs of *cot/caught* and *end/and* the same. The "Canadian shift" is a linguistic change occurring in Canadians vowel systems and one feature of this shift is that the initial vowel of *end* and *and* sound the same (Clarke, Elms, & Youssef 1995). The *cot/caught* pair is another example of the low-back vowel merger examined (with *thaw* and *thought*) in the previous section. Results from this question are shown in Figure 5.

Figure 5 shows a stark contrast between the two word pairs. A full 100% of respondents indicated that they thought they pronounced *and* differently from *end* (indicated by the nonexistent blue bar for the *and/end* pair); from the voice recordings, however, we identified that 80% of the respondents did indeed pronounce these words the same. The remaining 20% of respondents did not clearly pronounce the word *and*, and we could not make an accurate judgment for them, so it is possible that these people were also under-reporting for the first word pair.

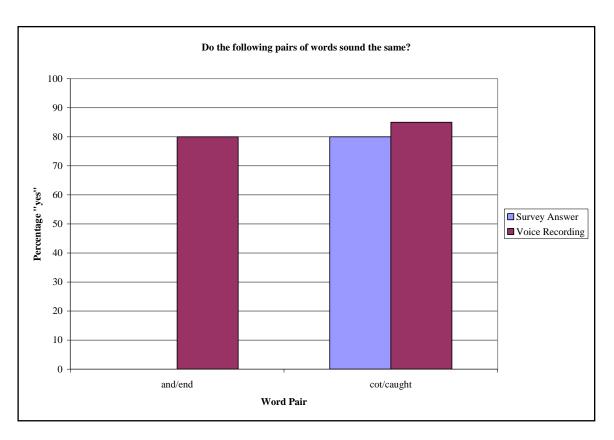


Figure 5: Survey Question 3

It is interesting that the respondents *were* generally aware of the merge in the second word pair, with only one respondent speaking differently than he or she indicated in the survey. This finding is consistent with Figure 4, which showed most respondents aware of the low-back merger in the *thaw/thought* word pair.

The next survey question, Question 4, asked respondents if they thought that *any* English speakers would pronounce the word pairs from Figure 5 differently. The results are shown in Figure 6.

The point of interest in Figure 6 is that while almost every respondent recognized the *cot/caught* merger in their own speech, only 40% of realized that other English speakers might pronounce the two words differently. We can only assume that 60% of respondents don't recognize the *cot/caught* merger as Canadian but think of it as a general feature of English. Since it is a documented fact that many (though not all) Americans make a distinction between the words *cot* and *caught* (Labov, Ash, and Boberg, 2006), Question 4 provides further evidence of the general Canadian lack of awareness of Canada-America dialect differences.

Figure 6: Survey Question 4

3.5 "Sounding Canadian"

Question 8 in our survey asked respondents to indicate their reaction if someone were to tell them that they sounded Canadian. The results are shown in Figure 7.

The purpose of this question was to gain an understanding of the personal politics of the respondents in order to judge whether their survey answers truly reflected their perception of their speech or not. If many respondents had answered that they would be offended at being told they were Canadian, we might consider that their under-

Figure 8: Survey Question 7
While in provious sections we have conjectured that Canadians were largely unaware of
While in previous sections we have conjectured that Canadians were largely unaware of certain Canadian and American speech differences, this question proves that Canadians

show that respondents in general were aware of specific markers of Canadian speech. If a researcher were to conduct a survey-based study and had asked questions similar to ours, the data he or she received would likely not be a true representation of the speech habits of the respondents due to the under-reporting we have discovered through our voice recordings. Although we uncovered some examples of respondents accurately reflecting their speech patterns, these were not particularly common or predictable results. We can conclude that surveys used alone are a flawed tool on which to base Canadian linguistic research due to the likelihood of respondents under-reporting and the general lack of awareness about specific linguistic features that mark Canadian English.

5. Further Work

Owing to obvious time and resource constraints, this study was carried out mainly on and around the Queen's University campus. It would be a good idea to extend the study to incorporate respondents from all across Canada to determine if these underreporting trends apply to all Canadians or just Ontario university students. It would also be interesting to study other varieties of English to determine if the under-reporting of Canadianisms evident in this study is paralleled by under-reporting of markers in other English dialect regions such as Australia and England.

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