

Federal Education Agency  
State Education Institution  
Of Higher Professional Education  
«Moscow Pedagogical State University»  
Faculty of Foreign Languages  
Chair of English Phonetics

Lavrentyeva I.S.

**Sociophonological Aspects of the Canadian Variant of the  
English Language**

[Graduation Project]

Scientific Supervisor:  
Associate Professor  
Seyranyan M. Yu.

Reviewer:  
Doctor of Philology  
Professor E.L. Freidina

The Graduation Project  
is submitted for Public Defence  
Head of Chair of English Phonetics  
E.L. Freidina

Moscow 2008

### **CHAPTER 3. Phonetic Research and its Results**

This phonetic research represents an attempt to remedy the lack of the attention to sociophonological aspects (precisely geographical modifications) of the Canadian Variant.

#### *Aim of the experiment*

Our aim was, firstly, to observe if the information on Canadian accents available at the present days satisfies the actual state of things. Secondly, we have attempted to give some additional information, if possible, on the Canadian accents. Thirdly, we have managed to observe the realization of Canadian Raising, its distinction degree depending on a Canadian region and its deviation in accordance with this or that sex of the speaker and his or her age. Needless to say, this is not yet complete and not all the accents of Canada have yet been investigated due to the lack of the recordings needed; however, this paper reports the findings to date.

#### *Methods of conducting the phonetic research.*

Our research consisted of the following procedure:

1. Search for Canadian accents recordings.

The latter have been found in the mp3 format on the following website <http://web.ku.edu/idea/index.htm> which provides recordings not only of Canadian accents but also of various accents of the English language.

Thus, we have managed to listen to all the recordings available that are thirty of them covering the following regions: Alberta, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan.

2. Auditory analysis of the recordings provided.

In the process of our analysis we have managed to listen to the recordings given, single out and mark audible phonetic peculiarities referring to this or that accent.

### 3. The procedure of the investigation of the phonetic corpus collected

- a) Listening to the passages read by the representatives of given accents and marking all the possible phonetic features that can be heard by an untrained phonetician
- b) Grouping them according to the region they belong to
- c) Structuring the findings by pointing out common features referring to one and the same region and mentioning some individual or other phonetic characteristics that have been audible to single out
- d) Marking the common phonetic features found on the regional political map of Canada, in order to observe if there are any tendencies of accent distribution across the country
- e) Summarising by highlighting the common phonetic features of the regions given and mentioning the observed tendencies if any.
- f) Observing the degree of prominence of Canadian Raising realisation in different Canadian regions and the deviation if any of its production by different representatives of different sex and age.
- g) Pointing out the found facts, marking the degree of Canadian Raising distinction on the regional map of Canada and concluding a tendency of the phenomenon.

### 4. The material of the experimental phonetic research

The data for our research have been thirty mp3 recordings of accents of the speakers from the following regions: Alberta, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan. Besides, text files with some biographical details (the sex, the age of the speaker and his or her origin) were given too. Moreover, the recordings altogether are sixty minute long (each making two minutes in length) feature the reading of one of the two standard passages, *Comma Gets a Cure*, and *The Rainbow Passage* which are given in the Appendixes.

## 5. The results of the experimental phonetic research

In the course of our phonetic research we have managed to reveal the following characteristics. Firstly, there are phonetic characteristics on Central, Western, Maritimes and Newfoundland accents presented. Secondly, we have singled out the findings of the common phonetic features on the territory of Canada by depicting them on the regional map of Canada. And thirdly, we have presented the findings on such a typical Canadian phonetic phenomenon as Canadian Raising; providing some information on its prominence depending on the region in question and on social categories such as age and sex of the speaker.

### 3.1. Central accents

#### Ontario

##### Common Features

We have listened to seven recordings with Ontarian accent and managed to single out the following features pertaining to the accent in Ontario region. Thus, we may conclude that there are common phonetic features as such:

1. Firstly, one of the typical Canadian features, that is Canadian Shift, is quite audible in this accent. In the given recordings we were able to make out /e/ changing to /æ/ in the following cases:

- “*There is, according to legend, a boiling pot of gold at one end”*
- “*Sarah Perry was a veterinary nurse who had been working daily at an old zoo in a deserted district of the territory”*
- “*Her efforts were not futile”*

Besides that we could trace the sound /æ/ approaching the pronunciation of the sound [a] in the following sentence, “*Then she put on a plain yellow dress and a fleece jacket, picked up her kit and headed for work”*

Finally, from the theory given above we know that there are two different points of view given by two different scholars on this phenomenon, and if we look closely to the sound change we have observed, we definitely may conclude that in our case we support the Clarke’s theory. In accordance with our data and Clarke’s hypothesis Canadian Shift happens in the direction from /e/ changing to /æ/ and from /æ/ to [a].

2. Secondly, another typical Canadian feature, which is Canadian Raising, is also to be observed. The phenomenon is realized by all the speakers recorded in the following sentence, “*...she remembered an effective treatment that required her to measure out a lot of medicine”*. Besides, it may be pointed out that this feature is quite distinct in this accent.

3. Thirdly, the change of the vowel sound [o] to [ah] has a place to be in the words underlined observed in the following sentences:

*“Well, here’s a story for you...”*

*“...so she was very happy to start a new job at a superb private practice in North square...”*

*“When she got there, there was a woman with a goose waiting for her.”*

*“...you would only expect to see it in a dog or a goat”*

*“Sarah warned that this course of treatment might be expensive-either five or six times the cost of penicillin.”*

*“...but Mrs. Harrison- a millionaire lawyer-thought it was a fair price...”*

4. Fourthly, the flapping of intervocalic /t/ and /d/ to alveolar tap [ɾ] is observed as well in the following cases:

- *“Sarah Perry was a veterinary nurse...”*
- *“... there was a woman with a goose waiting for her...”*
- *“The letter implied that the animal could be suffering from a rare form of foot and mouth disease...”*
- *“... so this made her feel sorry for the beautiful bird”*
- *“Sarah Perry was a veterinary nurse who had been working daily at an old zoo in a deserted district of the territory”*
- *“That area was much nearer for her and more to her liking”*
- *“...because normally you would only expect to see it in a dog or a goat.”*
- *“Before long, that itchy goose began to strut around the office...”*

5. Besides that, the terminal sounds, precisely /t/, /d/ and /s/, are found to be missing in the pronunciation in the following sentences:

- “ Sarah Perry was a veterinary nurse who had been working daily at an old zoo in a deserted district of the territory”
- “Even so, on her first morning she felt stressed”
- “ She ate a bowl of porridge, checked herself in the mirror and washed her face in a hurry”
- “ The goose’s owner, Mary Harrison, kept calling “Comma, Comma”
- “ ...because normally you would only expect to see it in a dog or a goat”
- “...so it would take some force to trap her, but Sarah had a different idea”
- “Her efforts were not futile.”
- “ Then Sarah confirmed the vet’s diagnosis”
- “Sarah warned that this course of treatment might be expensive- either five or six times the cost of penicillin.”

6. The sound [z] is found to be devoiced to [s] in the following cases:

- “The letter implied that the animal could be suffering from a rare form of foot and mouth disease, which was surprising...”
- “ The goose’s owner, Mary Harrison, kept calling “Comma, Comma”

7. And finally there is to mention that a strong /r/-coloration is to be observed.

### Other Features

Besides the common characteristics mentioned above there have heard some features that are either distinguishable in several recordings or only in one. We may point out the following phenomena:

1. /tr-/ clusters appear to have affricate qualities [ tʃ] in the words “treatment”, “strong”, “street” and “stroking” found in the following cases:

- “...she remembered that this course of treatment might expensive...”
- “Comma was strong and huge...”

- “ *So she was very happy to start a new job at a superb private practice in North Square near the Duke Street Tower*”
- “*First, she tried gently stroking the goose’s lower back with her palm*”

2. Dropping of [j] after alveolar consonants is heard in the sentences:

- “ *So she was very happy to start a new job at a superb private practice in North Square near the Duke Street Tower*”
- “*First she tried gently stroking the goose’s lower back with her palm, then singing a tune to her*”

3. The words “porridge” and “sorry” are realised as are other Canadian -orr- words, as [-ɔr-] [-ɑr-] in "tomorrow, borrow" rather than with the sound [-ɑr-]. This phenomenon is found in the sentences:

- “*She ate a bowl of porridge...*”
- “*Sarah was sentimental, so this made her feel sorry for the beautiful bird*”

4. The word “hurry” is pronounced with the sound [ ɜ: ] as laxing of [ ʌ ] before /ɹ/ is to be observed in the sentence, “ *She ate a bowl of porridge, checked herself in the mirror and washed her face in a hurry*”

5. Interestingly enough, a light “g” is extremely audible in the word with the ending [ing] pronounced by only one speaker, “*That area was much nearer for her and more to her liking*”.

6. In some cases we have managed to observe that the consonants “n” and “t” are found to be omitted when preceded by the consonant “r”. This could be heard in the sentences given below :

- “*Sarah Perry was a veterinary nurse who had been working daily at an old zoo in a deserted district of the territory...*”
- “*Even so, on her first morning, she felt stressed.*”

7. Also interesting pronunciation modifications are happening with the word “huge. Firstly, the omission of the consonant “h” is audible and secondly, the final sound [ dʒ ] is realized as [ tʃ ] more like. These modifications are found in the sentence, “*Comma was strong and huge...*”

8. Surprisingly enough, the word “palm” is pronounced with the letter “r” right after the vowel sound /a/, observed in the sentence, “*First she tried gently stroking the goose’s lower back with her palm...*”

9. Unlikely Canadian Shift, in some cases /æ/-tensing has a place to be before the nasals. The idea of the phenomenon is that it makes the sound /æ/ sound like /e/. This feature is found in the following sentences:

- “*The letter implied that the animal could be suffering from a rare form of foot and mouth disease.*”
- “*Before long, that itchy goose began to strut around like a lunatic, which made an unsanitary mess*”
- “*Once Sarah had managed to bathe the goose...*”

10. Only in two case we have managed to notice that the loss of dental fricatives (voiced and voiceless *th* sounds) has a place to be. They are usually replaced with the closest voiced or voiceless alveolar stop (*t* or *d*). This phenomenon is found in the words “thought” (/t/), “then” (/t/) and “bath” (/d/) in the sentences given below:

- “*Sarah thought it was an odd choice for a name*”
- “*...then singing a tune to her...*”
- “*...so Sarah was able to hold onto Comma and give her a relaxing bath”*

## Quebec

### Common Features

Having listened to three of recordings of the people coming from Quebec we may single out the following common features pertaining to the accent, they are:

1. Terminal hard consonants are observed to be either dropped or softened .The sound /d/ is dropped altogether in the following cases:

- “*These take the shape of a long round arch...*”
- “*There is according to legend, a boiling pot of gold at one end*”
- “*Throughout the centuries people have explained the rainbow in various ways*”

While the sound /d/ is softened to /t/ in the sentence, “*There is according to legend, a boiling pot of gold at one end.*”

2. The sound /z/ is realized as /s/ in the following cases:

- “*When the sunlight strikes raindrops in the air, they act as a prism and form a rainbow*”
- “*Sarah Perry was a veterinary nurse who had been working daily at an old zoo*”
- “*The letter implied that the animal could be suffering from a rare form of foot and mouth disease, which was very surprising*”
- “*The letter implied that the animal could be suffering from a rare form of foot and mouth disease*”
- “*Then Sarah confirmed the vet’s diagnosis*”

3. The pronunciation of the vowels in the following words does resemble neither American nor British, but French-“nurse”, job, “official”, “before” and “lot”. This happens due to the fact that the woman retains a pronunciation close to the French sound[œ]. This is found in the following sentences:

- “Sarah Perry was a veterinary nurse who had been working...”
- “...so she was very happy to start a new job...”
- “The woman gave Sarah an official letter from the vet”
- “Before long that itchy goose began to strut around the office”
- “She remembered an effective treatment that required her to measure out a lot of medicine”

4. Another distinct feature here happens to be the ending /ɪŋ/ realization as [ɪn] in the following cases:

- “There is according to legend, a boiling pot of gold at one end.”
- “ When a man looks for something beyond his reach, his friends say he is looking for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow”

5. Besides, due to the fact that in the French Language the initial letter “h” is not pronounced in most cases, the sound /h/ is omitted in the words “horizon” and “heavy” found in the sentences:

“... and its two ends apparently beyond the horizon”

“The Greeks used to imagine that it was a sign from the gods to foretell war or heavy rain”

6. The letter “r” is not always realized in the speech, besides the quality of /r/ differs strongly from the one realized by an English Canadian hence no rhoticism is to be observed. This could be illustrated by the example of the missing of the terminal sound /r/ in the word “air” found in the sentence, “When the sunlight strikes raindrops in the air...”

### Other features

1. The loss of dental fricatives (voiced and voiceless “*th*” sounds are getting substitute by the sound /t/) is not permanent in the accent. However, it has a place to be in the following cases:

- “ *Throughout the centuries people have explained the rainbow in various ways*”
- “ *Some have accepted as a miracle **without** physical explanation*”

2. Canadian Raising, with the following diphthong [ɔɪ] replaced by [aɪ], has been observed only in the sentence, “*The rainbow is a division of white light into many beautiful colors...*”

3. Interestingly enough, there are some cases of using the sound [ɪ] in the words “ever” and “miracle” found in the sentences:

- “ *People look but no one **ever** finds it*”
- “ *Some have accepted it as a **miracle** without physical explanation*”

4. The initial sound of the word “unsanitary” is pronounced with the French nasalized sound as in the French indefinite article “un”, “...*which made an unsanitary mess*”

5. The sound [dʒ ] is realized by the speaker as [tʃ ] in the words “huge”, “gently” and “managed” found in the sentences:

- “ *Comma was strong and huge...*”
- “ *First she tried gently stroking the goose’s lower back...*”
- “ *Once Sarah had managed to bathe the goose...*”

### 3.2. *Western Accents*

#### Saskatchewan

##### Common features

Having listened to five recordings with the Saskatchewan accent we may make the following observations concerning Saskatchewan accent. To the common phonetic characteristics refer:

1. Canadian Raising is found. The diphthong [ʌy] replaces [ɛy] in the sentence, “*The rainbow is a division of white light into many beautiful colors...*”, and [ʌw] replaces [ɛw] in the sentences:

- “*Throughout the centuries people have explained the rainbow in various ways.*”
- “*Some have accepted it as a miracle without physical explanation.*”

2. The change of the vowel sound [o] to [ah] is to be seen in the words underlined:

- “*When the sunlight strikes raindrops in the air...*”
- “*... he is looking for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow*”
- “*...it was a sign from the gods to foretell war or heavy rain*”

3. The ending /ɪŋ/ is realized as [ɪn] in the following cases:

- “*There is according to legend...*”
- “*When a man looks for something beyond his reach...*”
- “*...his friends say he is looking for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow*”

4. The terminal consonants are found to be missing in the pronunciation in the following cases:

- “*The rainbow is a division of white light into many beautiful colors*”

- “... and its two ends apparently beyond the horizon”
- “...a boiling pot of gold at one end.”
- “These take the shape of a long round arch, with its path high above...”
- “To the Hebrews it was a token””
- “Throughout the centuries people have explained...”
- “The gods passed from earth to their home in the sky””
- “Some have accepted it as a miracle without physical explanation”

5. Besides that, some medial consonants are found to be dropped as well. This happens in the combinations such as /nt/ and /rd/ in the following cases:

- “...and its two ends apparently beyond the horizon”
- “There is, according to legend...”

6. The accent can also be characterized as possessing a soft /r/ sound, realized in all possible positions.

### Other feature

A very strong throat tension is observed in one recording, which brought about the following features:

1. /æ/-tensing sounding as /e/ the following case, “When a man looks for something...”
2. The sound /e/ sounds more like a diphthong [eɪ] in such case as, “... and its two ends apparently...”

### Alberta

#### Common features

In order to single out some phonetic characteristics we have listened to three recordings with the accent of Alberta. We managed to make out the further phonetic characteristics:

1. Canadian Raising is identified. It is realized in the diphthong [ʌʷ] which replaces the diphthong [aʷ]. As an example the following sentences can be given, “*She remembered an effective treatment that required her to measure out a lot of medicine*”

2. The words in bold are illustrating Canadian shift (the change of the vowel /e/ into /æ/) in the sentences:

- “*Sarah Perry was a veterinary nurse who had been working daily at an old zoo in a deserted district of the territory*”
- “*So she was very happy to start a new job at a superb private practice in North Square near the Duke Street Tower*”
- “*The woman gave Sarah an official letter from the vet.*”
- “*First she tried gently stroking the goose's lower back with her palm, then singing a tune to her.*”
- “*Sarah warned that this course of treatment might be expensive-either five or six times the cost of penicillin*”
- “*...so Sarah was able to hold onto Comma and give her a relaxing bath.*”

3. Dropping of [j] after alveolar consonants can be made out in the sentences:

- “*So she was very happy to start a new job at a superb private practice in North Square near the Duke Street Tower...*”
- “*Comma was strong and huge*”
- “*First she tried gently stroking the goose's lower back with her palm, then singing a tune to her*”

4. The change of the vowel sound [o] to [ah] is observed in the following sentences:

- “*When she got there, there was a woman with a goose waiting for her.*”
- “*...so she was very happy to start a new job at a superb private practice in North Square...*”

- “ Sarah warned that this course of treatment might be expensive-either five or six times the cost of penicillin”
- “...because normally you would only expect to see it in a dog or a goat”

5. The flapping of intervocalic /t/ and /d/ to alveolar tap [ɾ] before reduced vowels is also observed in the sentences or the flapping of /t/ to /d/ which are believed to be of the same nature:

- “... there was a woman with a goose waiting for her...”
- “The letter implied that the animal could be suffering from a rare form of foot and mouth disease...”
- “... so this made her feel sorry for the beautiful bird”

6. The terminal sound /t/ seems to be dropped altogether. It could be found in the following sentences:

- “Mary Harrison kept calling “Comma, Comma”...”
- “Even so, on her first morning, she felt stressed”
- “ She wiped her off with a cloth and laid her on her right side”
- “ Even so, on her first morning, she felt stressed”

#### Other feature

The only feature that seems to stand out in one recording of this accent happens to be the phenomenon when /tr-/ clusters appear to have affricate qualities [ tʃ]. It can be illustrated with the help of the underlined words found in the following sentences:

- “...she remembered that this course of treatment might expensive...”
- “Comma was strong and huge...”
- “ So she was very happy to start a new job at a superb private practice in North Square near the Duke Street Tower”
- “First, she tried gently stroking the goose’s lower back with her palm”

### 3.3. *Maritimes*

#### *New Brunswick*

#### *Common features*

Having listened to three recordings of New Brunswick dialect we may single out the following phonetic characteristics:

1. The accent contains Canadian Raising which could be traced in the following sentence, “*The rainbow is a division of white light into many beautiful colors.*”

2. Besides, the medial /t/ is changed to a tapped /d/ (‘beautiful’ to ‘beaudiful’) in the sentence, “*The rainbow is a division of white light into many beautiful colors.*”

3. Interestingly enough, the speech sounds soft if one may say so, as medial and terminal consonants such as /t/ and /d/ do seem to be dropped from pronunciation when found in the sentences:

- “*... and its two ends apparently beyond the horizon*”
- “*There is , according to legend, a boiling pot of gold at one end.*
- “*The rainbow is a division of white light into many beautiful colors.*”

4. More than that, the sound /z/ is changed into /s/, for example in the following sentence:

- “*These take the shape of a long round arch*”
- “*...and its two ends apparently beyond the horizon*”

5. /w/ and /ʍ/ are not merged; that is, the beginning sound of, “*of white light into many beautiful colors*”

6. Of great interest is the strong outstanding feature as the change of the vowel sound [o] to [ah] which could be illustrated by the words from the following sentences:

- “When the sunlight strikes raindrops in the air”
- “These take the shape of a long round arch...its two ends apparently beyond the horizon...”
- “There is according to legend a boiling pot of gold...”
- “The Greeks used to imagine that it was a sign from the gods...”

7. Some medial consonants are found to be dropped as well. This happens in the combinations such as /nt/ and /rd/ in the following cases:

- “...and its two ends apparently beyond the horizon”
- “There is, according to legend...”

### Nova Scotia

#### Common features

With the help of four recordings of Nova Scotia dialect we managed to single out the following phonetic features:

1. Canadian Raising is as usual found in the most common word combination of this passage that is in the sentences:

- “When the sunlight strikes raindrops in the air...”
- “The rainbow is a division of white light into many beautiful colors...”
- “Throughout the centuries people have explained the rainbow in various ways”

2. Besides, the change of the vowel sound [o] to [ah] has also a place to be. The feature is comparatively distinct, especially in the word 'pot' so that the word

sounds even more like “part”. However, the feature has been also identified in other words; it can be illustrated with the following sentences:

- *“When the sunlight strikes raindrops in the air”*
- *“There is according to legend a boiling pot of gold...”*
- *“The Norseman considered the rainbow as a bridge over which the gods passed from earth to their home in the sky”*

3. The omission of the medial sounds /t/ and /d/ is observed when it appears to be in the sonorant combinations /nt/, /nd/ or /rd/ in the words “apparently”, “finds” and “according”. This interesting phenomenon can be illustrated in the following sentences:

- *“And its two ends apparently beyond the horizon”*
- *“There is, according to legend...”*
- *“People look, but no one ever finds it”*

4. What is of great interest is that the words “many” and “man” instead of the sound /æ/ are pronounced with the sound /e/. Hence this /æ/-tensing feature is found in the following sentences:

- *“The rainbow is a division of white light into many beautiful colors...”*
- *“When a man looks for something beyond his reach...”*
- *“ These take the shape of a long round arch, with its path high above, and its two ends apparently beyond the horizon”*
- *“ Throughout the centuries people have explained the rainbow in various ways”*

5. Apart from “medial sound” omission terminal sounds are observed to be dropped as well. Thus we found words pronounced without the final consonant sounds underlined in the following sentences:

- “ *The rainbow is a division of white light into many beautiful colours* ”
- “ *The Greeks used to imagine that it was a sign...*  ”
- “ *And its two ends beyond the horizon* ”
- “ *There is, according to legend, a boiling pot of gold at one end* ”
- “ *... he is looking for the pot of gold at one end of the rainbow* ”
- “ *To the Hebrews it was a token that there would be no more universal floods or heavy rain* ”

6. In addition, the sound /z/ is heard to be substituted for the sound /s/ in the following cases:

- “ *These take the shape of a long round arch* ”
- “ *Through out the centuries people have explained the rainbow in various ways* ”

7. And finally, there is to mention that the accent is colored by a strong /r/-sound which distinctly stands out.

#### Other features

Interestingly enough at the end of the word “arch” instead of the sound /ch/ we may make out the sound /k/. This phenomenon is displayed by one representative of the accent only, “*These take the shape of a long round arch...*”

### Prince Edward Island

#### Common features

In the case with the Prince Edward Island accent we may point out the following phonetic characteristics:

1. Canadian Raising, with the following diphthongs, [ʌʏ] replaces [aɪ] and the diphthong [ʌʊ] replaces [aʊ], has a place to be in the sentences given below:

- “*The rainbow is a division of white light into many beautiful colors...*”
- “*Throughout the centuries people have explained the rainbow in various ways*”
- “*Some have accepted it as a miracle without physical explanation.*”

2. The /ɪŋ/ ending in the words “according” and “something” is realized as [ɪn] in the following sentences:

- “*There is **according** to legend, a boiling part of gold at one end*”
- “*When a man looks for **something** beyond his reach*”
- “*...his friends say he is **looking** for the pot of gold...*”

3. Terminal hard consonants sounds are to be dropped from pronunciation altogether. The phenomenon is illustrated by the underlined words found in the following sentences:

- “*These take the shape of a long round arch...*”
- “*There is, according to legend, a boiling pot of gold at one end*”
- “*Throughout the centuries people have explained the rainbow in various ways*”
- “*To the Hebrews it was a token that there would be no more universal floods.*”
- “*The Greeks used to imagine that it was a sign from the gods to foretell war or heavy rain*”
- “*The Norsemen considered the rainbow as a bridge over which the gods passed from earth to their home in the sky*”

4. The omission of the sound /d/ or /t/ in sonorant sound combinations are found in the words “apparently”, “end” and “according” is observed in the sentences:

- “*...and it is two ends apparently beyond the horizon*”
- “*There is, according to legend, a boiling pot of gold at one end*”

5. Besides, the omission of medial sounds /d/, /t/ and /k/ is found in the following cases:

- “ *When the sunlight strikes raindrops in the air, they act as a prism and form a rainbow*”
- “*The Norsemen considered the rainbow as a bridge...*”

6. The sound /z/ is substituted for /s/ pronounced softly. The phenomenon is found in the following cases:

- “ *They act as a prism and form a rainbow*”
- “ *Throughout the centuries people have explained the rainbow in various ways*”

7. The change of the vowel sound [o] to [ah] has a place to be in the words underlined found in the following sentences:

- “*There is according to legend, a boiling pot of gold at one end.*
- “*The Greeks used to imagine that it was a sign from the gods...*”
- “*When the sunlight strikes raindrops in the air...*”

8. The sound /r/ is quite strong in Prince Edward Island accent

#### Other features

Such feature as /æ/-tensing is also found. It is realized in the words “many” and “man” pronounced with the sound /e/ in the following sentences:

- “*The rainbow is a division of white light into many beautiful colors...*”
- “*When a man looks for something beyond his reach...*”

### 3.4. Newfoundland

#### Common features

We managed to listen to three recordings of the Newfoundland accent. Although, as mentioned in the theoretical part, the accent is supposed to stand out from all the Canadian regional accents, we haven't heard any distinctive differences, except perhaps a very strong Canadian Raising. Here are the features which we have managed to make out:

1. As a matter of fact, Canadian Raising is extremely distinct here. Firstly it concerns the diphthong [ɔɪ] that replaces [aɪ] in the sentence, *“The rainbow is a division of white light into many beautiful colors...”*

And secondly, the diphthong [ɔʊ] which replaces the diphthong [aʊ] in such sentences as:

- *“Throughout the centuries people have explained the rainbow in various ways.”*
- *“Some have accepted it as a miracle without physical explanation.”*

2. The medial sound /t/ is changed to a tapped /d/ in the word “beautiful” making it sound /beaudiful/ in the sentence, *“The rainbow is a division of white light into many beautiful colours.”*

3. Besides that, such feature is observed as the changing of the sound /z/ to the sound /s/ in the following sentences:

- *“...and its two ends apparently beyond the horizon...”*
- *“When a man looks for something beyond his reach...”*
- *“To the Hebrews it was a token...”*

4. The change of the vowel sound [o] to [ah] has also a place in this accent. The phenomenon is found in the words “long”, “beyond”, “gods”, “pot” in the sentences like:

- “*When the sunlight strikes raindrops in the air...*”
- “*These take the shape of a long round arch...its two ends apparently beyond the horizon...*”
- “*There is according to legend a boiling pot of gold...*”
- “*The Greeks used to imagine that it was a sign from the gods...*”

5. Noticeable is that [f] is dropped from “of” and the /o/ becomes /a/ - “pot a gold”, “*There is, according to legend, a boiling pot of gold at one end.*”

6. The omission of the sound /d/ or /t/ in sonorant sound combinations are found in the words “apparently”, “end” and “according” is observed in the sentences:

- “*...and it is two ends apparently beyond the horizon*”
- “*There is, according to legend, a boiling pot of gold at one end*”

7. Terminal consonants sounds are found to be dropped from pronunciation altogether. The phenomenon is illustrated by the underlined words found in the following sentences:

- “*These take the shape of a long round arch...*”
- “*There is, according to legend, a boiling pot of gold at one end*”
- “*Throughout the centuries people have explained the rainbow in various ways*”
- “*To the Hebrews it was a token that there would be no more universal floods.*”
- “*The Greeks used to imagine that it was a sign from the gods to foretell war or heavy rain*”

- “ *The Norsemen considered the rainbow as a bridge over which the gods passed from earth to their home in the sky*”

8. Apart from the characteristics mentioned above, we should point out that Newfoundland speech is characterized by nasalization which is rather audible in all the recordings.

### Other Features

1. The initial sound /h/ seems to be missing in the following cases:

- “ *...and its two ends apparently beyond the **h**orizon*”
- “*These take the shape of a long round arch, with its path **h**igh above...*”
- “*To the **H**ebrews it was a token...*”

2. Interestingly enough, the words “arch” and “above” are pronounced with the sound /ə/ in the sentence: “*These take the shape of a long round arch, with its path high above...*”

3. We have also come across the /æ/-tensing. It is realized in the words “and”, “many” and “man” in the following sentences:

- “*The rainbow is a division of white light into many beautiful colors...*”
- “*When a man looks for something beyond his reach...*”
- “*...and its two ends apparently beyond the horizon...*”

4. The pronunciation of the words “miracle” and “beautiful” looks more like /mairicle/ and /beeuudeeful/, which appears to be of a particular interest and is found in the sentences:

- “*The rainbow is a division of white light into many beautiful colours...*”
- “*Some have accepted it as a miracle without physical explanation*”

### ***3.5. The General Findings on Phonetic Features of the Canadian Accents***

In order to trace the features of the different accents of Canada and the way they spread across the country, we have thought it would be more appropriate to present the findings of the regions the way they would be located on the map of Canada. With the help of such a visual as a map we managed to do the following observations.

1. Firstly, Canadian Raising is found in all the regions of the country, except Quebec, as it has been already mentioned. This characteristic is however represented in different degree in different accents. More information about Canadian Raising and its spreading is given in the next chapter.

2. Secondly, such feature as the change of the vowel sound [o] to the vowel sound [ah] has turned out to be a typical Canadian phonetic feature as it is represented in all the regional accents we have managed to listen to.

3. Thirdly, another common feature concerning the sounds /t/ and /d/ can be singled out, which is intervocalic /t/ and /d/ change into alveolar tap [ɾ] and the terminal /t/ or /d/ dropping.

4. Besides that, another interesting observation can be made. The sound /z/ is changed into the sound /s/ in the following regions: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Quebec. At first we may conclude that this change might be the characteristics of the East of Canada, which is true. However, if we look closer and try to find some explanation to this phenomenon, we will notice that these are the very regions that surround Quebec. Finally we are to conclude, that this feature of the eastern territories is an effect of neighbouring with Quebec province, the area where French predominates and where this /z/-/s/ substitution is a typical feature of the French people speaking English.

### ***3.6. Canadian Raising***

As it has been mentioned in the theoretical part, Canadian speech is becoming to sound more and more like American. Being curious, we have asked an American if one can tell American speech from the Canadian, to which he answered affirmatively and added: “It is in the way they pronounce words like “**about**”, “**house**”...which is the influence of the French language”. The man was right about the differentiation but wrong about the origin of the phenomenon (the explanation is given in the paragraph concerning Quebec region). Going back to the words mentioned by the American, we are to state that these are exactly the cases where Canadian Raising is likely to be heard, that is mostly with the diphthong [ɔ̃w]. Hence this phenomenon appears to be the most prominent among others. Due to this, we have decided to pay our attention to this very characteristic and observe its functioning across Canada using the same recordings. Thus, we have observed Canadian Raising in the following provinces which would be given in the alphabetical order: Alberta, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan.

#### **Alberta**

Having listened to the recordings given we may conclude that this feature is not very prominent in this region, we would even say that this feature is hardly audible as a matter of fact. However, it has a place to be and the most of it comes upon the diphthong [ɔ̃w] which replaces the diphthong [aɔ̃w]. The feature can be heard in the following sentence, “*She remembered an effective treatment that required her to measure out a lot of medicine*”

Besides that, we may also point out that this feature is more preserved in the speech of elderly people of this region, as it is more audible in the speech of the seventy year old female. While younger generation, of about forty years old, already loses this feature and hence is hardly audible. In addition, we may

conclude that such state of things may be because of widely spreading American mass media, which are bombarded on the younger generation.

### *New Brunswick*

As a matter of fact, Canadian Raising is quite audible in the speech of New Brunswick. It has been found in the following case, “*The rainbow is a division of white light into many beautiful colors.*” Besides that, we may also point out the phenomenon could fairly be referred to both the older and younger generation, that is the age of about seventy and thirty, and more than that, to both male and female.

### *Newfoundland*

Canadian Raising appears to be quite strong in the region of Newfoundland. It has been identified in the speech of both female and male speaker of about from twenty six to forty one years of age. It is illustrated by the following sentences: firstly, it deals with the diphthong [ɔ̟y] that replaces [ɔy] in the sentence, “*The rainbow is a division of white light into many beautiful colors...*”

And secondly, it has to do with the diphthong [ɔ̟w] which replaces the diphthong [ɔw] in such sentences as:

- “*Throughout the centuries people have explained the rainbow in various ways.*”
- “*Some have accepted it as a miracle without physical explanation.*”

In addition, we may also mention that, judging by the recordings; males are more likely to retain a strong Canadian Raising pronunciation, especially when taking the diphthong [ɔ̟y] into consideration.

### *Nova Scotia*

In Nova Scotia region we also hear Canadian Raising. It is found in the following sentences:

- “When the sunlight strikes raindrops in the air...”
- “The rainbow is a division of white light into many beautiful colors...”
- “Throughout the centuries people have explained the rainbow in various ways”

However, in different age groups it is manifested with different strength. Interestingly enough, the older a person is the weaker the feature is illustrated. For example, in cases of young generation that is the age twenty three (the recorded person is a female) and twelve (the speaker is a male) the phenomenon is distinctly audible and appears to be much stronger than in the case with the age thirty eight (female) and fifty five (male). Hence we may make a conclusion that the distinction of the phenomenon doesn't depend on the sex of the speakers in the region of Nova Scotia but, surprisingly enough, on their age.

### Ontario

As a matter of fact, this phenomenon is not a typical feature of this region, as it is realized not distinctly in the pronunciation. However, it is still audible in some cases:

- “...she remembered an effective treatment that required her to measure out a lot of medicine”
- “She wiped her off and laid her on her right side”

The degree of the strength of the realisation of Canadian Raising can be identified as below the medium level. Besides that, we may also point out that this feature appears to be stronger in the speech of the older generation; while in the case of younger generation it is either very weak or not manifested at all. And finally, there is also to state that no sex criterion plays any role, as it is equally demonstrated by males and females.

### Prince Edward Island

Judging by the recordings, we may conclude that the feature has medium strength in the speech production of the people coming from Prince Edward Island. In the case of the diphthong [ɔɪ] replacing [əɪ] and the diphthong [ɔʊ] replacing [əʊ] we find sentences:

- “*The rainbow is a division of white light into many beautiful colors...*”
- “*Throughout the centuries people have explained the rainbow in various ways*”
- “*Some have accepted it as a miracle without physical explanation.*”

No further influences are found concerning social criteria, that is no sex and age criteria play any role on the prominence of the phenomenon.

### Quebec

As a matter of fact, hardly any trace of the phenomenon is being observed among the representatives of this region. The statement seems quite obvious; because the feature, as it has been mentioned in the theoretical part represents a relic of the English language of the times when the Great Vowel Shift took place, but not the influence of the French language, as the early mentioned American mistakenly thought.

### Saskatchewan

Having listened to a number of recordings concerning Saskatchewan accent we may conclude that the feature has a place to be, but it is represented on a weak level, as the supposed pronunciation of the vowel sound [ɔ] is shifting to the pronunciation of the sound [a]. However, the phenomenon is still audible. Hence the diphthong [ɔɪ] replaces [əɪ] in the sentence, “*The rainbow is a division of white light into many beautiful colors....*, and [ɔʊ] replaces [əʊ] in the sentences:

- “Throughout the centuries people have explained the rainbow in various ways.”
- “Some have accepted it as a miracle without physical explanation.”

### **3.7. Findings on Canadian Raising**

As seen from above, Canadian Raising is represented in different degree of distinction throughout different regions. In order to see the fluctuations of the phenomenon geographically and therefore perhaps observe some regularity of the feature concerning some bigger region, we have decided to mark the phenomenon in every region by different numerals. Number Three means that Canadian Raising is at its most strength. Number Two means its medium distinction, and Number One means that the phenomenon is quite weak in this or that accent.

Thus, generally we may conclude that the purest Canadian Raising is preserved in Newfoundland, where it appears to be distinctly audible. Secondly, we argue that all the other Eastern provinces also possess this feature distinctly enough, more than that in the East the feature appears to be much stronger than on the West of the country. This state of things can be explained through the fact that the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland are the regions where the Irish and British roots are still preserved and one of this evidence could be the very Canadian Raising which, as stated in the theoretical part, represents a relic of the Old English language.