

# coding for social situation

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# accommodation

- context of dialects in contact -well established that speakers may adapt speech in response to varieties spoken by interlocutors
- widely believed that accommodation processes are (or should be) central in explanation of language variation and change (Niedzielski & Giles, 1996)
- how do we know when accommodation has taken place? (especially in one-shot interviews)

# 'vernacular' speech

- suggestions of phonological convergence or divergence in interaction carry with them assumption that speaker is moving away from set of default production patterns – ascertaining what these are is neither a self-evident nor a trivial task
- is the 'vernacular' an abstraction?
- given the amount of intra-speaker variation we know speakers to exhibit, is there an envelope of variation we can allow for?

# the context

four Border communities:

- Gretna (2,700)
- Carlisle (101,000)
- Eyemouth (3,400)
- Berwick (26,000)

• two studies:

1. effect of interviewer on interviewee  
(Llamas, Watt & Johnson 2009)
2. effect of interviewee on interviewer  
(Watt, Llamas & Johnson 2010)

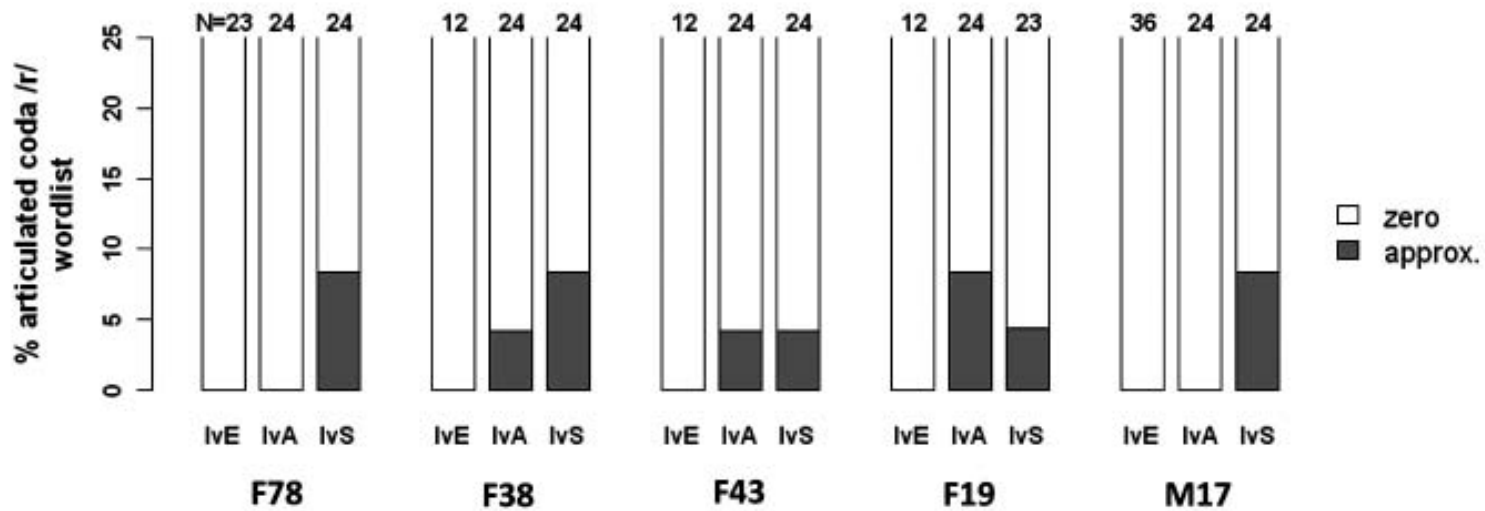
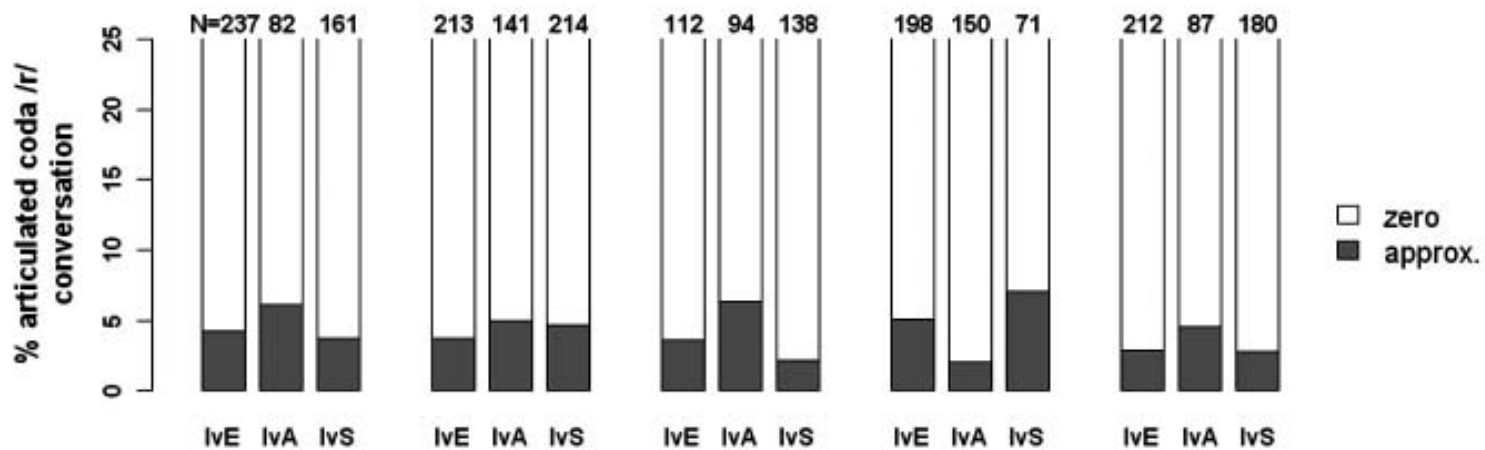


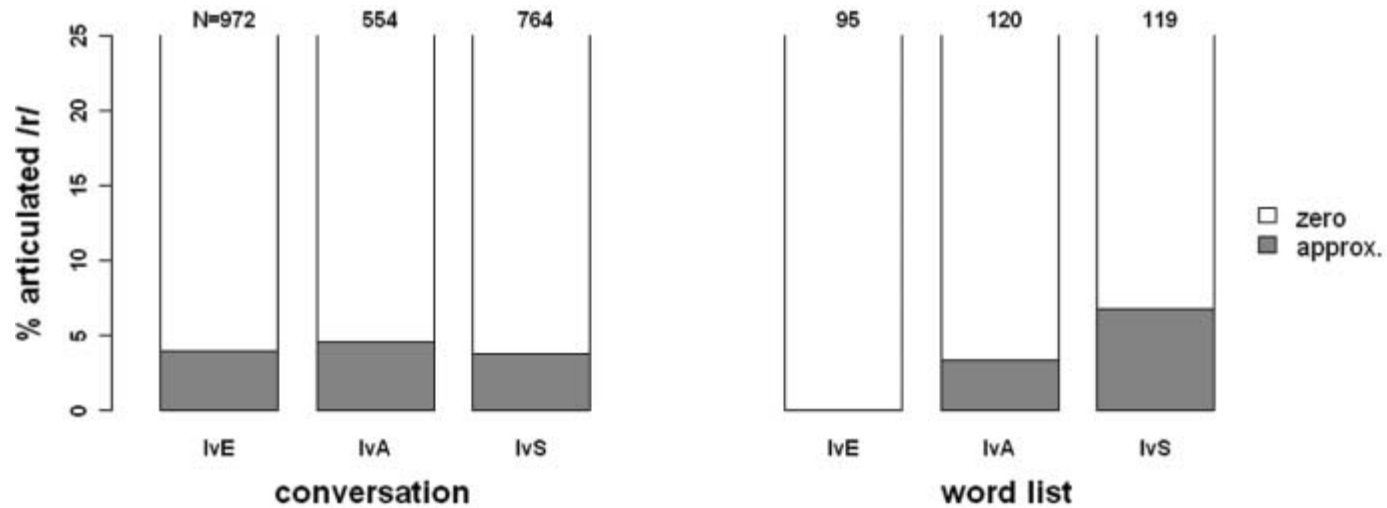
# the interviewer effect

- ‘the idea that the *researcher’s identity and ideological positioning vis-a-vis the interviewee* crucially contribute to the patterning of data deserves more systematic exploration’ (Mendoza-Denton, 2002: 479)

# the interviewer effect

- 5 speakers in 3 separate interview contexts
- all participants native speakers of BwE
- 4 female (19, 38, 43, and 78), 1 male (17)
- all interviewers female (20s or 30s)
- IvS (South East of Scotland), IvE (North East of England), IvA non-native (Austrian)
- IvA - neither of relevant ingroup/out-group associations that varieties of other two interviewers might evoke. Also paired interviews with IvA – constitutes a ‘control’ (closer to default production patterns)
- interviews highlighted intergroup dimension where possible in order to influence informants’ definitions of situation as high in intergroup prominence

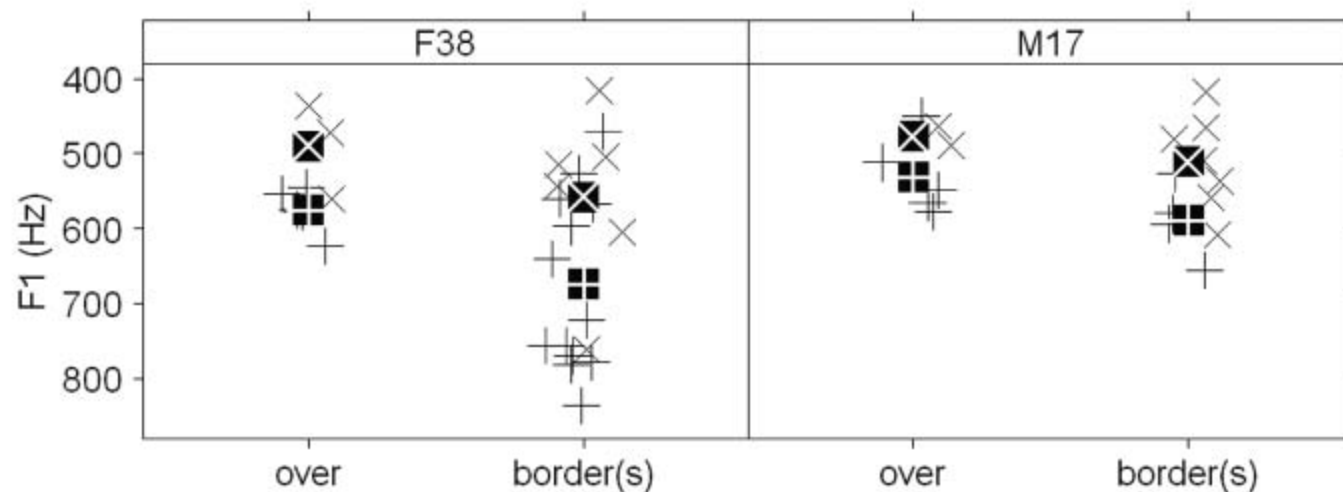




clear interviewer effect in read speech – monitoring of speech prompts convergence (attention to speech and audience design)



lettER - two of the five interviewees showed clear interviewer effect



F1 of the lettER-class words *over* and *border(s)*, in conversation with IvE (+) or IvS (x) for interviewees F38 and M17 (black markers indicate mean scores)

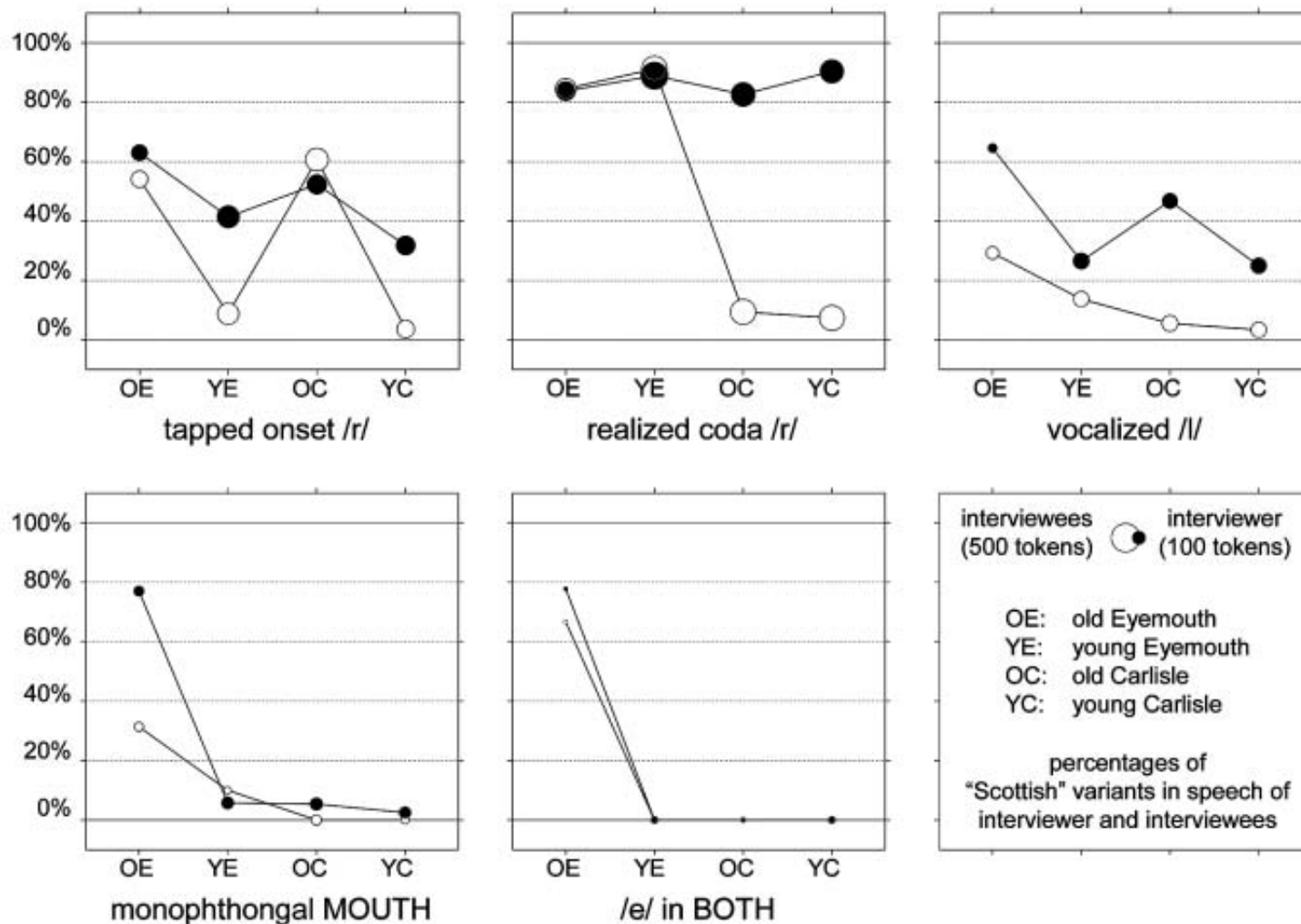
reaction to the perceived identity/variety of the interviewer – not her actual linguistic behaviour

# the interviewer effect

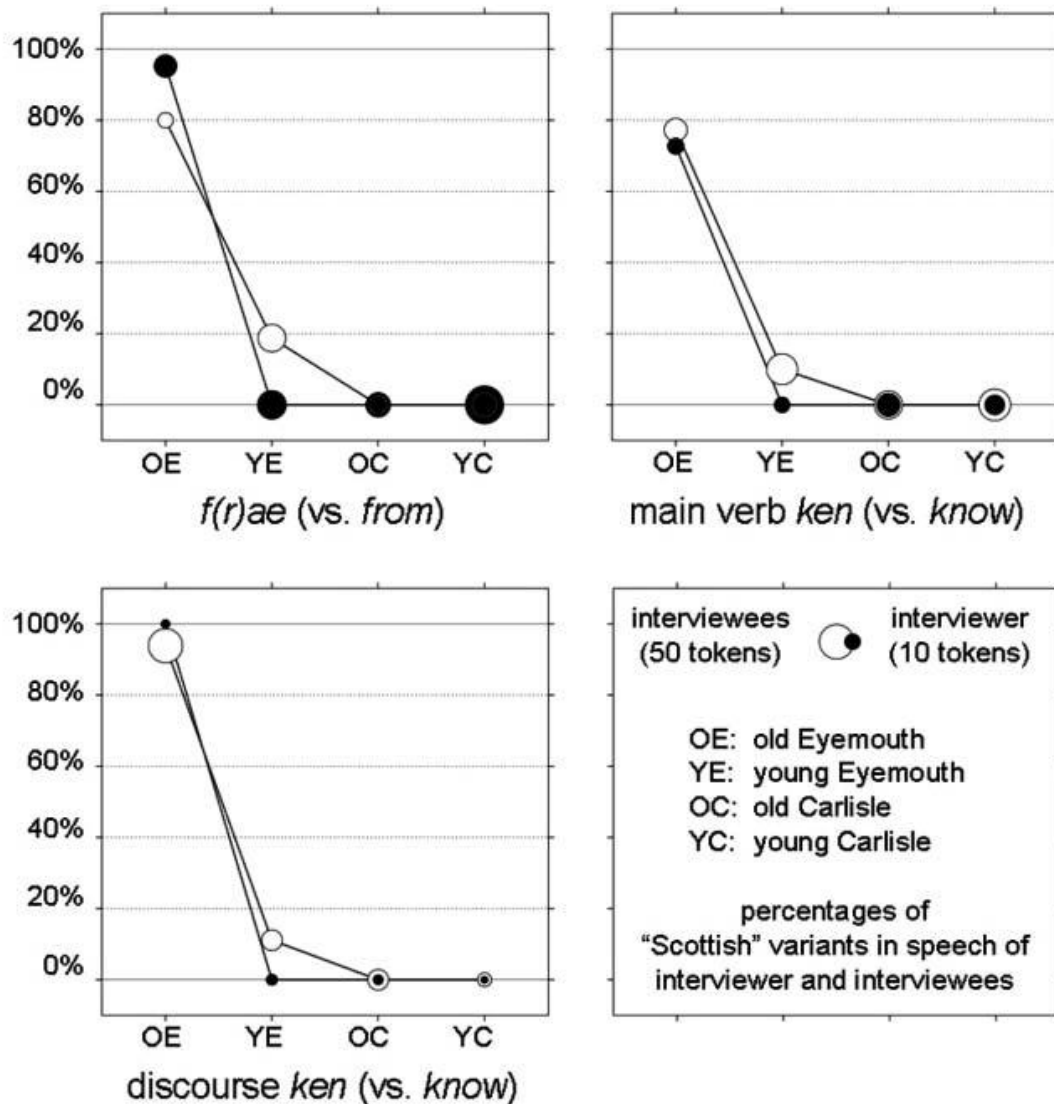
- all speakers aware of upward convergence in certain situations
- 3 speakers claimed would speak in a more 'Scottish' way to speakers of Scottish English (F38, F78, and M17)
- only F38 and M17 (speakers who appeared to accommodate toward IvE) stated might alter speech with interlocutor NE of England

# the interviewee effect

- accommodatory strategies of female Scottish English-speaking fieldworker (25) in interactions with younger and older male speakers from localities on either side of the border
- phonological, discoursal and lexical levels
- Eyemouth ivees (2 older, 4 younger – all male)
- Carlisle ivees (2 older, 4 younger – all male)



Frequencies (%) of tapped onset /r/, coda /r/, vocalized /l/, mouth monophthonging, and [e] in both-class words in the speech of the Scottish English-speaking interviewer and four informant groups in Eyemouth and Carlisle  
 The size of data points represents sample size.



Frequencies (%) of *f(r)ae* 'from,' *ken* as a main verb, and *ken* in discourse marker constructions in the speech of the Scottish English-speaking interviewer and four informant groups in Eyemouth and Carlisle  
 The size of data points represents sample size.

# the interviewee effect

- evidence for 'overshoot', maintenance and convergence
- if forms stable and near categorical, then accommodation is unlikely
- if forms unstable in community, then accommodation appears likely

# additional factors to code for?

- should (could) the interviewer record his/her conscious awareness of convergence toward the interviewee? (after listening back to recordings?)
- should (could) the interviewee indicate what accent s/he perceives the interviewer to have?
- should we indicate whether we think the interviewee was using the 'vernacular'? How would we decide?