

Canadian language attitudes from “coast to coast to coast”: on the pluricentricity of English in North America

This paper reports on survey results from over 3000 participants in Canada in order to “assess the belief of Canadians in the linguistic autonomy of their own standard, Standard Canadian English”. Many sociolinguists have argued for the value of obtaining attitudinal and ideological information from language users so this is welcome research. The project is an ambitious one given the number of participants and the breadth and depth of the 25 questions in the survey. As such, reporting all the results of the survey in one paper while attending to the nuances of the analysis of the data is very difficult to achieve. The results from the research might have more impact if a few categories of questions/themes were reported and analyzed. In this way, results can be presented with the methods, background and context that each theme needs in order for the importance of the results to be understood.

As pluricentric theory is a key point for analysis, more explication of this concept should be presented in order for the reader to assess its application to the data and north American context. The current status of Englishes in north America should also be described and supported with current research. The author should explain what they mean by ‘dominant’ as this can mean many things in the context of attitudes to language variation and language planning.

A few other small notes:

- The author should consider consulting Freake (2023), a national study of the perceptions of Canadians of Canadian English.
- The questionnaire should be included as an appendix rather than a link to a site.
- The paper should be edited for clarity and typos.