

This paper expands on previous findings on variable tendencies in the realization of laterals among New York Latinos. Analysis of data from ethnographic interviews with twelve male Latino students at a multi-ethnic New York City high school showed variation in the frequency of light (l) syllable onsets, as in Spanish, and variation in the frequency of vocalized (l)s in codas, as in AAVE. This variation corresponded with the association of research participants with one of four youth peer cultural categories (hip-hop, family-oriented, skater, and geek), each representing a different construction of ethnic identity. The simultaneous occurrence of light (l) onsets and vocalized codas, the most frequent pattern, was found most robustly in hip-hoppers and family-oriented youths. Both groups represented differing emphases on urban Latino identity, the hip-hoppers more closely associated with African Americans, and the family-oriented youths emphasizing their Latin American background.

Based on new data, the sample has been expanded to include additional respondents implicating new peer cultures and a new variable.

The new peer cultures include hip-hop and school-oriented "smart kid" girls and gay male culture-oriented "diva" boys. Culturally, the smart girl and diva boy groups diverge from mainstream urban gender roles. They vary widely in the use of light (l) onsets and show wide divergence in the use of vocalized codas. The diva group shows the least use of such codas.

The new variable involves the quality of high and mid-front vowels in stressed pre-lateral contexts, for which we have found frequent laxing. The frequency of laxing correlates with AAVE-oriented peer cultural affiliation. While laxing was found to occur in closed syllables as well as in open syllables, what is most intriguing about our results is that pre-lateral laxing, an AAVE contact feature, frequently co-occurs with the light articulation of intervocalic laterals, which is a Spanish contact feature.

The pronunciation of lexical items such as *feeling*, *dealing*, *paler*, and *available* with both pre-lateral laxing and light (l) onsets is, like the use of both light (l) onsets and vocalized (l) codas, emblematic of a specific urban Latino youth identity that is influenced both by contact with Spanish and with AAVE. Groups diverging from this identity have a strong tendency to omit one or more contact variants in tokens of the relevant lexical items.