

This paper aims to lend more substance to two related concepts, ‘angloversals’ and ‘vernacular universals’. According to Mair (2003), ‘angloversals’ are universals of New Englishes – joint tendencies observable in the course of the standardization of postcolonial varieties of English which can not be sufficiently explained either historically or genetically. Angloversals may be the result of learning strategies of non-native speakers, in other words, properties typical of L2 varieties. The paper seeks to identify the top candidates for such universals in the domain of morphosyntax and, among other things, compares these to the notion of ‘vernacular universals’: a handful of phonological and grammatical features that are thought to occur in vernaculars, child language, pidgins, creoles and interlanguage varieties alike (Chambers 2001, 2003, 2004).

The discussion of potential candidates for angloversals and vernacular universals is based on the largest comparative study (Kortmann and Szendrői 2004) to date of entire grammatical subsystems of varieties of English worldwide. A catalogue of 76 morphosyntactic features taken from 11 areas of morphosyntax (pronouns, pronoun exchange, and grammatical gender; noun phrase phenomena; tense and aspect; modality; verb morphology; adverb phenomena; negation; agreement; relativization; complementation; and discourse organization and word order) has been investigated for 46 (groups of) non-standard varieties of English around the world, including

- 20 L1 varieties: Orkney and Shetland, Scottish E, Irish E, Welsh E, East Anglia, North, Southwest and Southeast of England (British Isles); Colloquial AmE, Southeast AmE, Appalachian E, Ozarks E, Newfoundland E, Urban AAVE, Earlier AAVE (America); Colloquial Australian E, Australian Vernacular E (Australia); Norfolk, New Zealand E (Pacific); White South African E (Africa);

- 11 L2 varieties: Chicano E (America); Fiji English (Pacific); Standard Ghanaian E, Cameroon E, East African E, Indian South African E, Black South African E (Africa); Butler E, Pakistani E, Singapore E, Malaysian E (Asia);

- 15 Pidgins and Creoles: Gullah (America); Suriname Creole, Belizean Creole, Tobagonian/Trinidadian Creole, Bahamian E, Jamaican Creole (Caribbean); Bislama, Solomon Islands Pidgin, Tok Pisin, Hawaii Creole (Pacific); Aboriginal E, Australian Creoles (Australia); Ghanaian Pidgin, Nigerian Pidgin, Cameroon Pidgin (Africa).

Results show that the main linguistic divisions observable among varieties of English worldwide do not so much run along geographical and/or areal lines – what is crucial, rather, is the type of variety in question (L1, L2, or Pidgin/Creole). Accordingly, there is a major divide between world regions with exclusively or predominantly L1 varieties (British Isles, America) and world regions with exclusively or predominantly L2 varieties and/or Pidgins and Creoles (Caribbean, Pacific, Africa, Asia), with Australia exhibiting equal proportions of L1 varieties and Creoles. Arguing that any approach to angloversals and vernacular universals needs to take this split into account, the paper presents an in-depth analysis of exactly which (bundles) of the 76 features characterize these three types of varieties. Moreover, the analysis identifies the (region-independent) properties of these three types of varieties, i.e. those properties which are not specific regional developments, and which are thus not possibly due to L1 or substrate influence on L2 varieties and Pidgins/Creoles.

#### References:

Chambers, J.K. 2001. Vernacular universals. In: Josep M. Fontana, Louise McNally, M. Teresa Turell and Enric Vallduví (eds.), *ICLaVE 1: Proceedings of the First International Conference on Language Variation in Europe*, 52–60. Barcelona: Universitat Pompeu Fabra.

Chambers, J.K. 2003. *Sociolinguistic Theory: Linguistic Variation and Its Social Implications*. Oxford, UK/Malden, US: Blackwell.

Chambers, J.K. 2004. Dynamic typology and vernacular universals. In: Bernd Kortmann (ed.), *Dialectology meets Typology*. 127–145. Berlin/New York: Mouton de Gruyter.

Kortmann, B./B. Szmrecsanyi. 2004. "Global Synopsis: Morphological and Syntactic Variation in English". In: B. Kortmann/E. Schneider with K. Burrige/R. Mesthrie/C. Upton, eds. *A Handbook of Varieties of English*. Vol. 2: Morphology, Syntax, 1142-1202. Berlin/New York: Mouton de Gruyter.

Mair, C. 2003 Kreolismen und verbales Identitätsmanagement im geschriebenen jamaikanischen Englisch. In: E. Vogel/A. Napp and W. Lutterer (eds.), *Zwischen Ausgrenzung und Hybridisierung*, 79–96. Würzburg: Ergon.