

CONSONANTAL VARIATION IN UTAH ENGLISH: WHAT EL[t]SE IS HAPPENING[k]?

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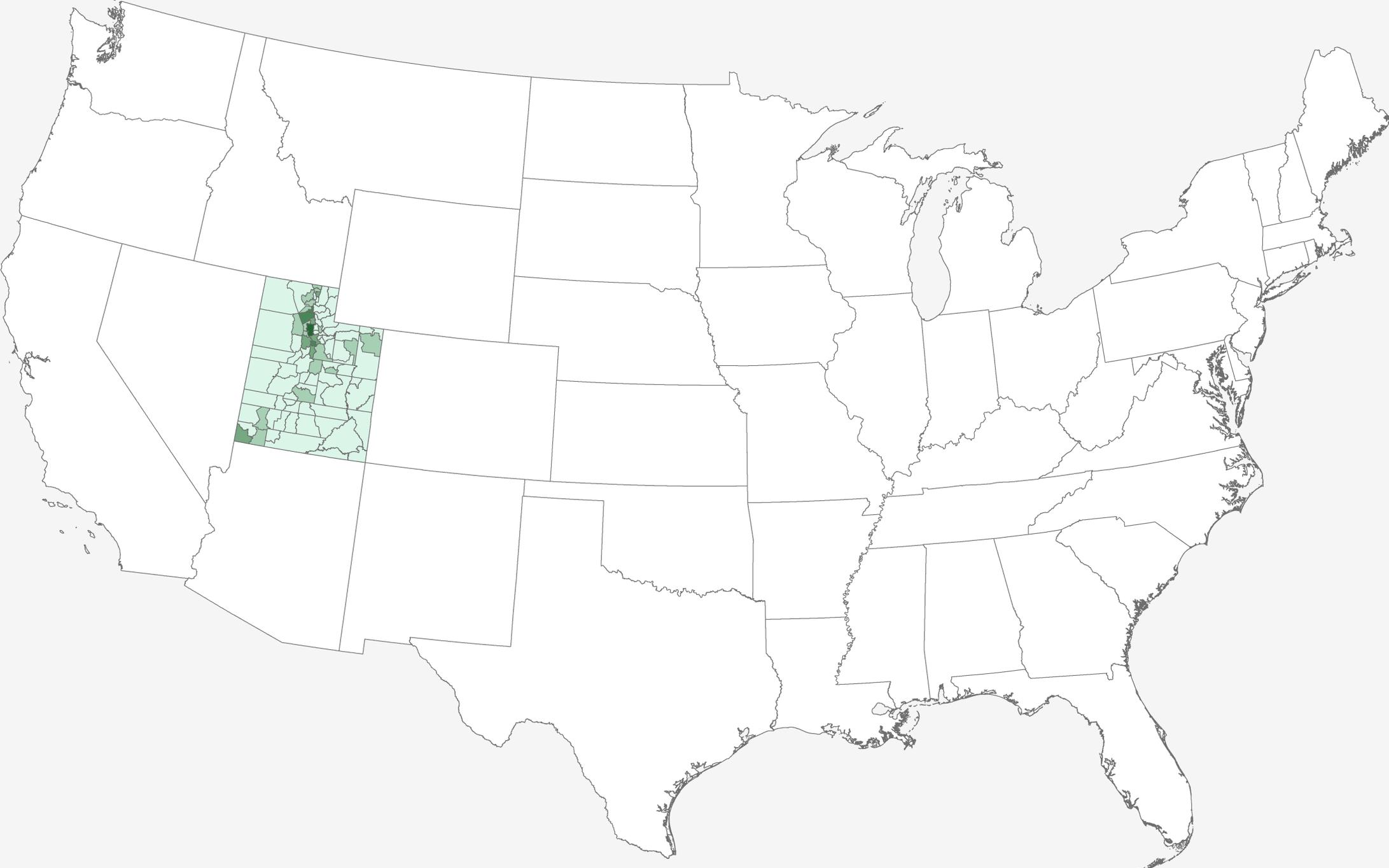
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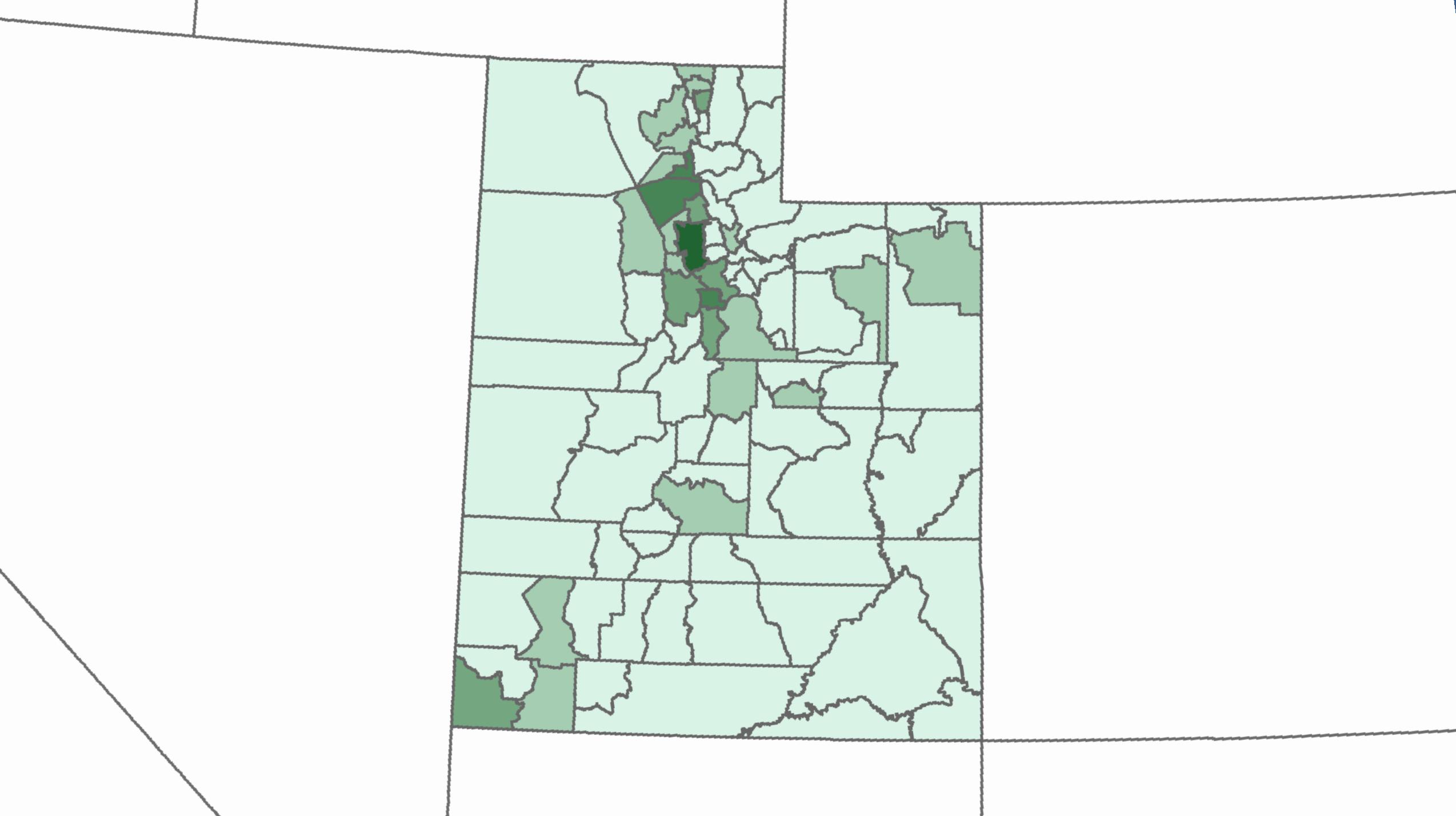
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INTRODUCTION





UTAH ENGLISH

Most of Utah English has concentrated on vowels

COT-CAUGHT merger (Baker & Bowie 2010, Di Paolo 1992, Sarver 2004)

Loss of tense-lax distinction before /l/

FEEL-FILL merger (Di Paolo & Faber 1990, Lillie 1998 Petersen 1988)

FAIL-FELL merger (Baker & Bowie 2010, Di Paolo & Faber 1990, Lillie 1998, Sarver 2004)

POOL-PULL merger (Baker & Bowie 2010, Petersen 1988, Sarver 2004)

CORD-CARD merger (Bowie 2003, 2008, 2012; Helquist 1970; Lillie 1998; Reeves 2009; Sarver 2004; Stanley & Renwick 2016)

/aɪ/-monophthongization (Morkel 2003, Skyes 2010)

PIN-PEN merger (Lillie 1998)

UTAH ENGLISH

ACOUSTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF UTAH'S CARD-CORD MERGER

DAVID BOWIE
University of Central Florida

Phonation differences and the phonetic content of the tense-lax contrast in Utah English

MARIANNA DI PAOLO
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ALICE FABER
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The discriminability of nearly merged sounds

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Religious Affiliation as a Correlate of Linguistic Behavior

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Phonetic Variation and Change: An Analysis of steel and still

Michèle Petersen

A SOCIOPHONETIC STUDY OF (AI) IN UTAH ENGLISH

by

Robert D. Sykes

EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARD-CORD MERGER IN UTAH

DAVID BOWIE
Brigham Young University

Patterns of Vowel Production in Speakers of American English from the State of Utah

Larkin Hopkins Reeves
Brigham Young University - Provo

Sociolinguistic Variation and the Vowel System of Northern Utah: A Preliminary Look

Karl J. Krahnke

Phonetic shift /ɔr/ phonemic change? American English mergers over 40 years

Joseph A. Stanley and Margaret E. L. Renwick
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HYPERCORRECTION IN RESPONSE TO THE APPARENT MERGER OF (ɔ) AND (ɑ) IN UTAH ENGLISH

MARIANNA DI PAOLO

THIS STUDY

We focus on three consonantal variables.

1. Realization of unstressed /tən/ in words like *mountain, cotton, button, Latin, etc.*

See Eddington & Savage (2012)

2. [t]-epenthesis in /ls/ sequences as in *false, Olsen, salsa, else, also, etc.*

3. [k]-epenthesis after /ŋ/: *talking, thing, morning*

Not common (Baker, Eddington & Nay 2009)

DATA COLLECTION

Audio collected via Amazon Mechanical Turk (Kim *et al.* 2016; Stanley 2017)

Target words embedded in 186 sentences from COCA.

Also 87 items in a wordlist

5.5 hours from 14 Utahns

	[k]-insertion	MOUNTAIN	FALSE	total
sentences	1,534	198	163	1,895
wordlist	129	499	272	900
total	1,663	697	435	2,795

CODING

MOUNTAIN: 3 variants

[ʔŋ]: mainstream pronunciation with syllabic nasal

[ʔɪn]: stereotypical Utah pronunciation without syllabic nasal

[t^hɪn]: hyperarticulated with aspirated /t/.

FALSE: 2 variants

presence/absence of [t]

[k]-insertion: 3 variants

[ɪŋ]: mainstream pronunciation

[ɪn]: "g-dropped"

[ɪnk]: epenthesized [k] or [g]

MOUNTAIN

MOUNTAIN

mountain, cotton, button, Latin, mutant, kitten, Clinton, Manhattan, gluten, certain...

Henceforth the MOUNTAIN lexical set

Mainstream pronunciation: [ʔŋ]

Stereotypical Utah pronunciation: [ʔɪn] (Eddington & Savage 2012)

Hyperarticulated pronunciation: [t^hɪn]

MOUNTAIN COMMENTARY

[ʔɪn] has shibboleth-level saliency (Savage 2014)

“Mou'uns” is a dead giveaway you're talking to a Utahn.

–u/BizarroBednar on r/exmormon. Mar. 2012

Mountain= Mown'un: How could this NOT be the number one Utah-ism? **The dropped T is infamous.** But it doesn't just drop, it almost makes a staccato sound where the T should be when pronounced.

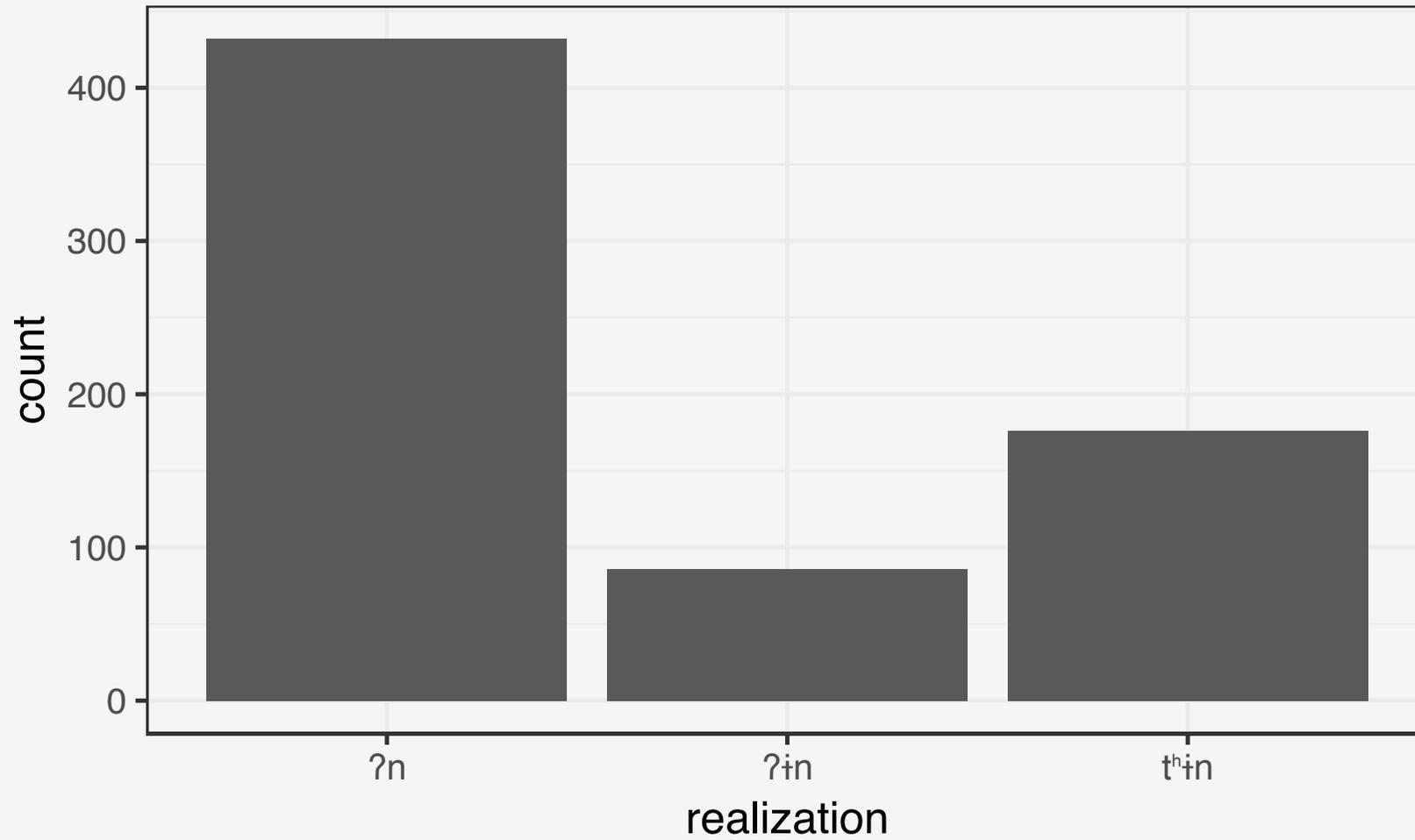
–Daily Herald. Dec. 2012

The glottal stop carries stigma, not the vowel insertion:

The Impor-an Mow-un in Lay-un accent. **Pure laziness. People slopping through words [...]** Notice that these all substitute a glottal stop (**that horrible nasal pause** that comes from the back of your mouth [...]) for the actual T sound.

–Russanne's Utah Accent Post. Oct. 2012

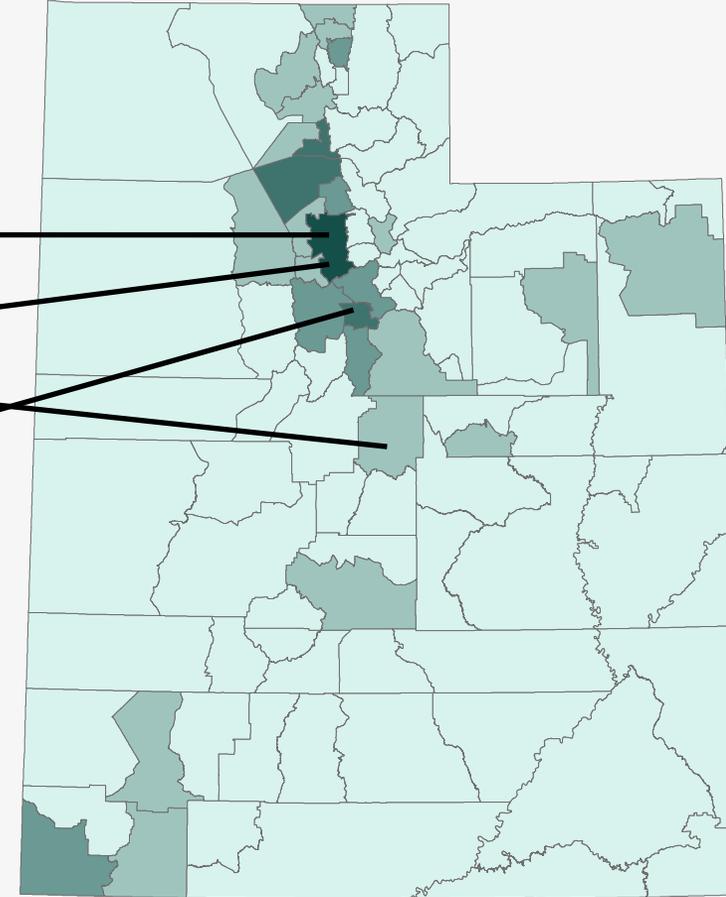
MOUNTAIN DISTRIBUTION



STEREOTYPICAL UTAH MOUN[ʔin]

moun[ʔin] exclusive to women in our sample.

pseudonym	[ʔin]	age	religion	education	city
Heather	3/68 = 4.4%	34	Mormon	BA	Salt Lake City
Maddy	8/27 = 29.6%	24	Mormon	some college	South Jordan
Mandy	18/38 = 47.4%	40	non-Mormon	HS	Ephraim
Chelsea	57/68 = 83.8%	25	Mormon	BA	Provo



Demographically relatively diverse, other than gender.

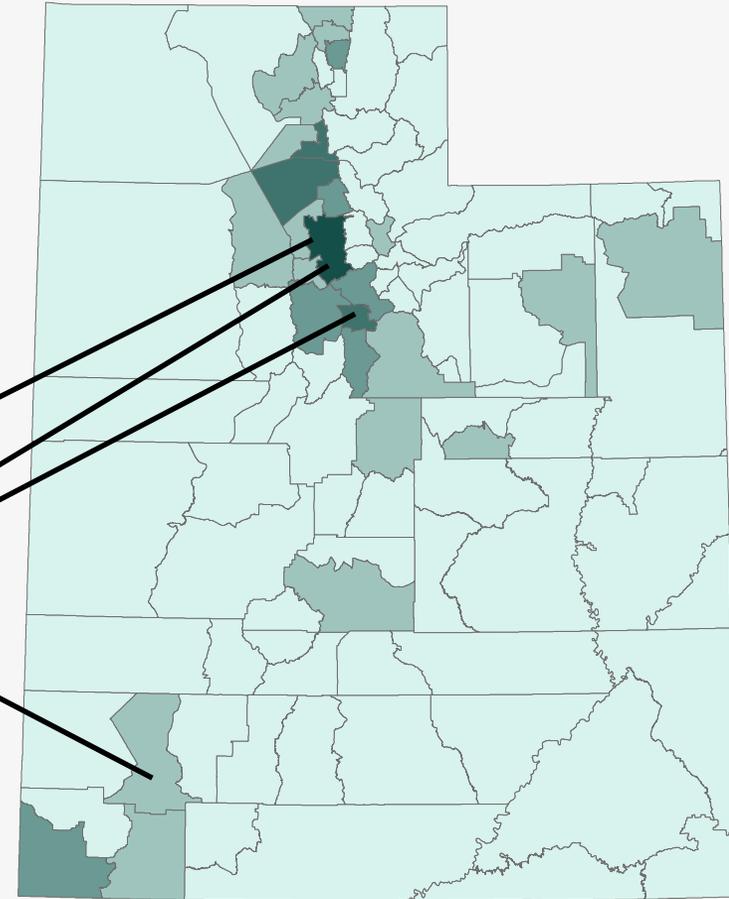
This generally supports Eddington & Savage (2012).

HYPERARTICULATED MOUN[t^hɪn]

moun[t^hɪn] twice as common as *moun*[ʔɪn].

All participants used this variant at least once.

pseudonym	[t ^h ɪn]	age	religion	education	city
Heather	25/68 = 36.8%	34	Mormon	BA	Salt Lake City
Maddy	17/27 = 63.0%	24	Mormon	some college	South Jordan
Zach	26/77 = 96.3%	24	Mormon	BA	Provo
Jared	66/68 = 97.1%	26	non-Mormon	HS	Cedar City



MOUNTAIN MODELING (WOMEN)

We ran a multinomial logistic regression on the women's data

Age and religion were significant! Yay!

But, our speakers have ideosyncratic tendencies.

We should included speaker as a random effect.

But we don't know if a mixed-effects multinomial logistic regression even exists.

(If anyone knows about this, please let us know!)

Instead, we ran two generalized linear mixed-effects models on the women's data.

Nothing was significant (not even close)

General patterns were not discernible from the idiosyncrasies of our speakers.

MOUNTAIN MODELING (MEN)

Only two variants (*moun*[ʔŋ] and *moun*[t^hɪn]) so no multinomial logistic regression

Generalized linear mixed-effects model

fixed effects: age, style (wordlist vs. sentence), religion (Mormon vs. non-Mormon)

random effects: speaker, word

Results

marginal significance for age ($p = 0.051$)

younger men use *moun*[t^hɪn] more

MOUNTAIN DISCUSSION

Mainstream *moun*[ʔŋ] is the most common form overall.

It was the preferred variant for 10 of our 14 Utahns.

Chelsea was majority user of *moun*[ʔɪn]

Zach, Jared, and Maddy were majority users of *moun*[tʰɪn]

This explains why *moun*[tʰɪn] was so common

This is a reaction against the stigmatized glottal stop in *moun*[ʔɪn].



FALSE

false, Olsen, salsa, else, also, balsamic, Chelsea, Wilson, Nelson, pulse, allspice...

Henceforth, the FALSE lexical set

Utah pronunciation: [ɫts]

Baker, Eddington & Nay (2009)

Pooled with [t]-intrusion in /ns/ clusters (*prince = prints, presence = presents*).

Considered stereotypically Utahn by non-Utahns.

Here, we just focus on [t]-intrusion in /ls/ clusters, because perhaps more Utahn.

COMMENTARY ON "FALSE"

Relatively little overt commentary, but negative.

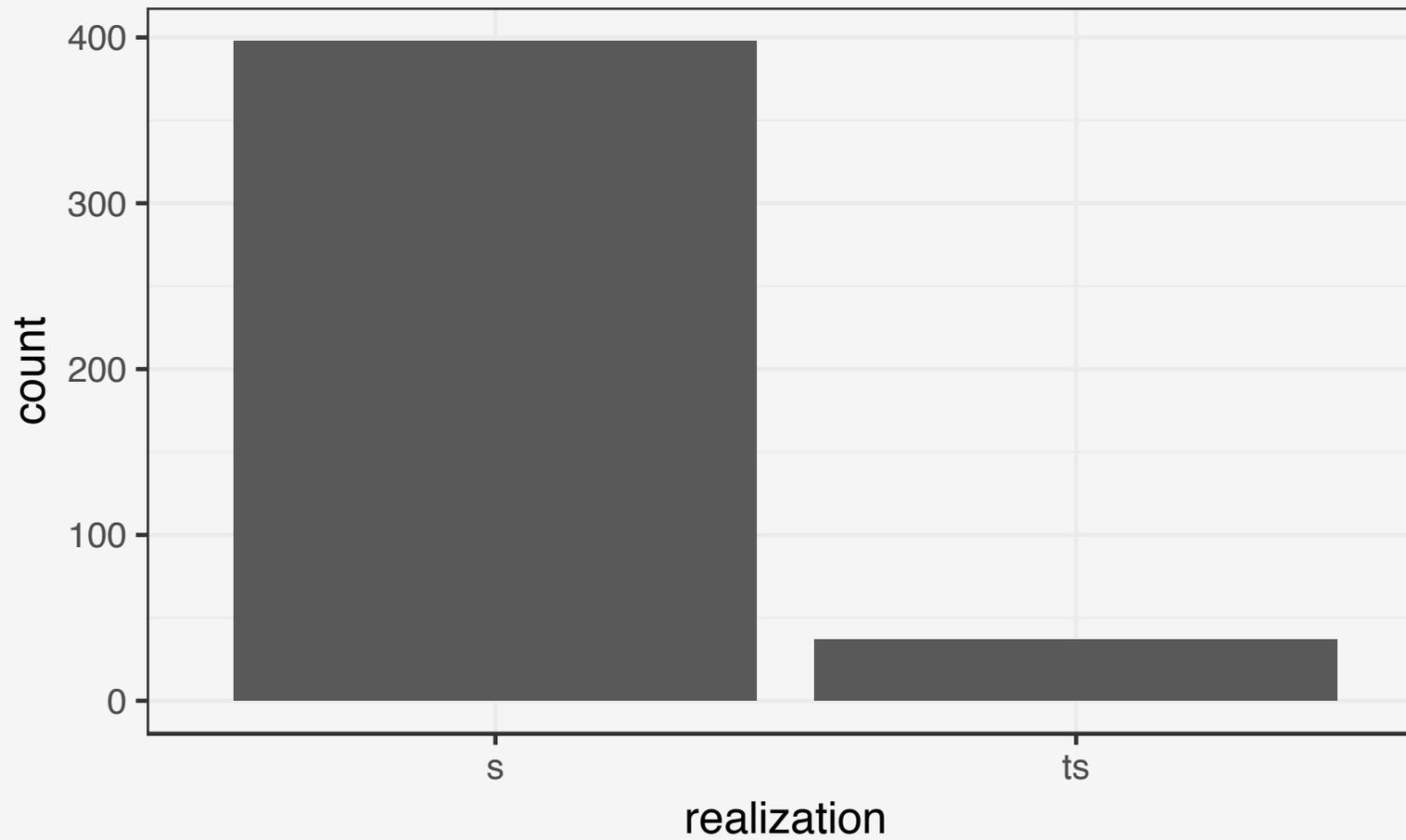
Live Coug My least favorite Utah accent is the adding of a T to certain words/names. We all know about the dropping of the T, but they add too.

FN Phat My wife hates when her family in Utah pronounces her name Chelt-see.

LiveCoug Yup. Our daughter's name is the same way. I just want to scream "there is no T in her name!!!!!"

Comments in a thread on cougarstadium.com. January 13, 2013.

DISTRIBUTION OF "FALSE" VARIANTS

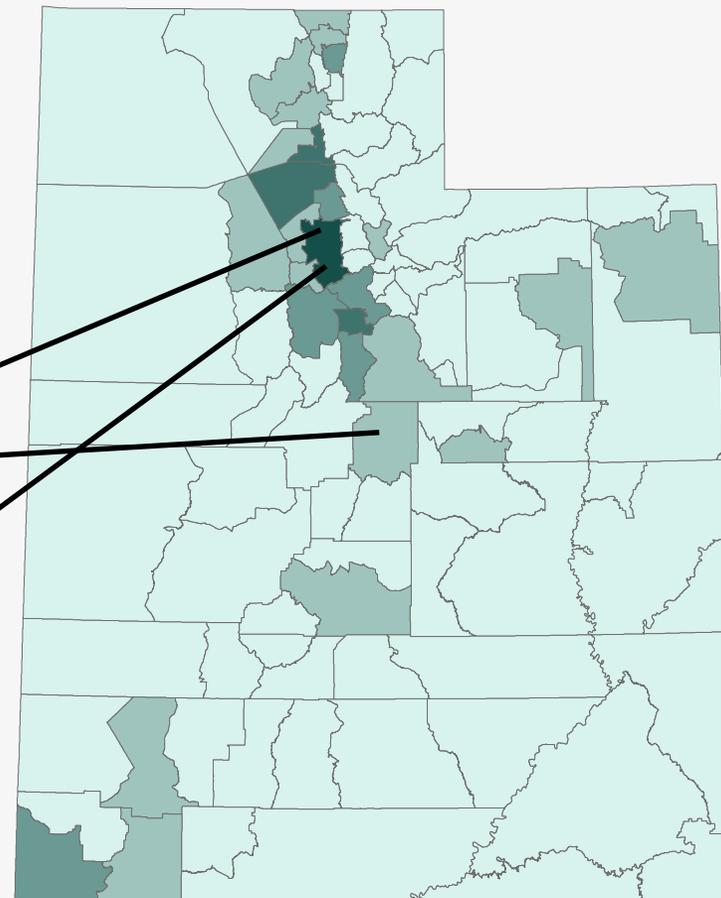


FAL[t]SE

Only 6 of 14 Utahns had the non-standard form.

3 of these were just once

pseudonym	[tʰs]	age	religion	education	city
Heather	16/44 = 36.4%	34	Mormon	BA	Salt Lake City
Mandy	4/30 = 13.3%	40	non-Mormon	HS	Ephraim
Maddy	2/13 = 15.4%	24	Mormon	some college	South Jordan



Only Heather had it to any significant degree.

She also used *moun*[ʔin] the most and *moun*[tʰin]

[k]-EPENTHESIS

Epenthésized [k] after /ŋ/

Mainstream pronunciation: [ɪŋ] or [ɪn]

Utah pronunciation: [ɪŋk] or [ɪŋg]

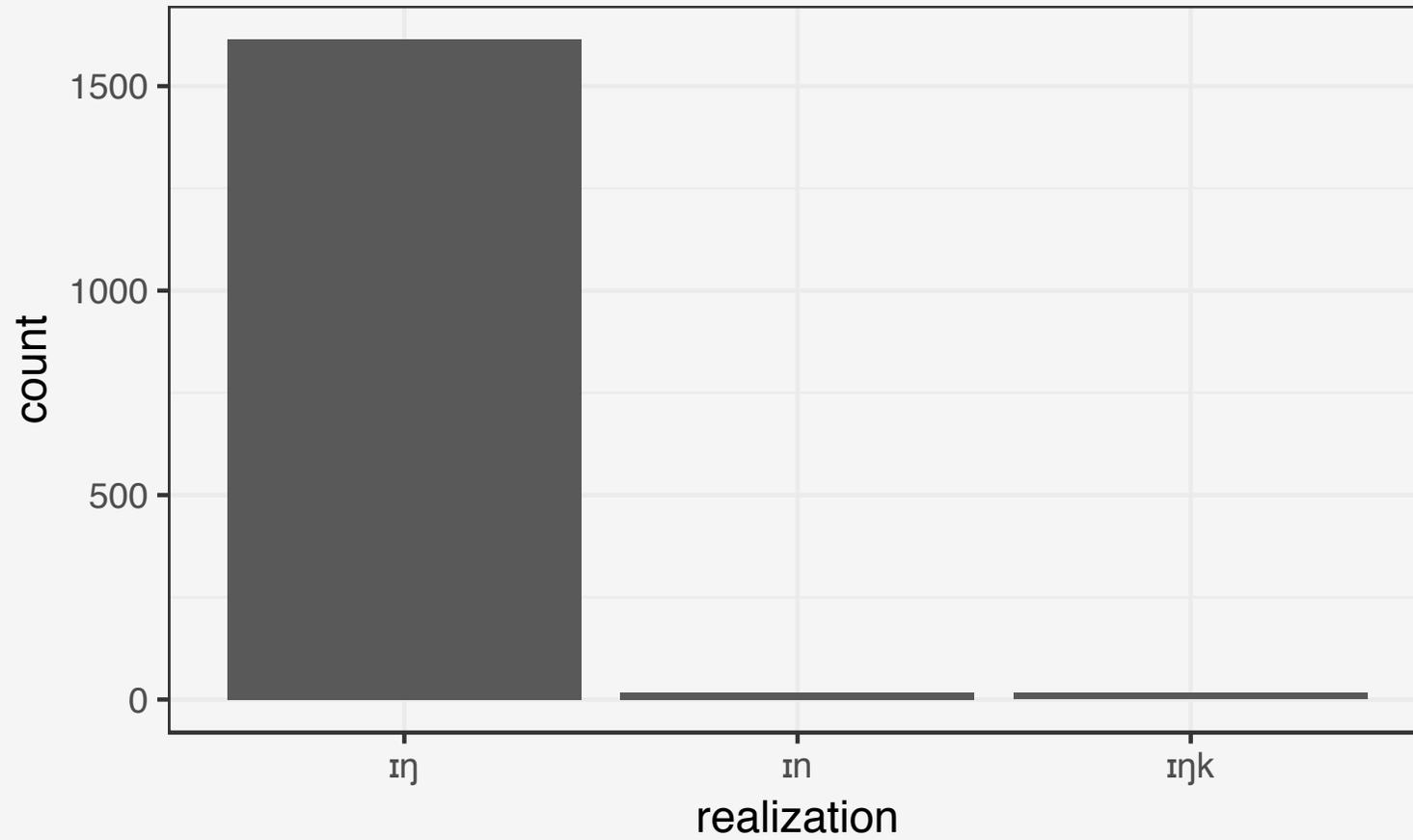
Baker, Eddington & Nay (2009) did not find it in their sample.

Little overt commentary. Mostly neutral in tone.

The thing I noticed when I moved to Utah was the "k" sound at the end of "ing" (like "sing-ink").

–Christiane Rampato, comment on HJnews.com. Aug. 2016

[K]-EPENTHESIS DISTRIBUTION



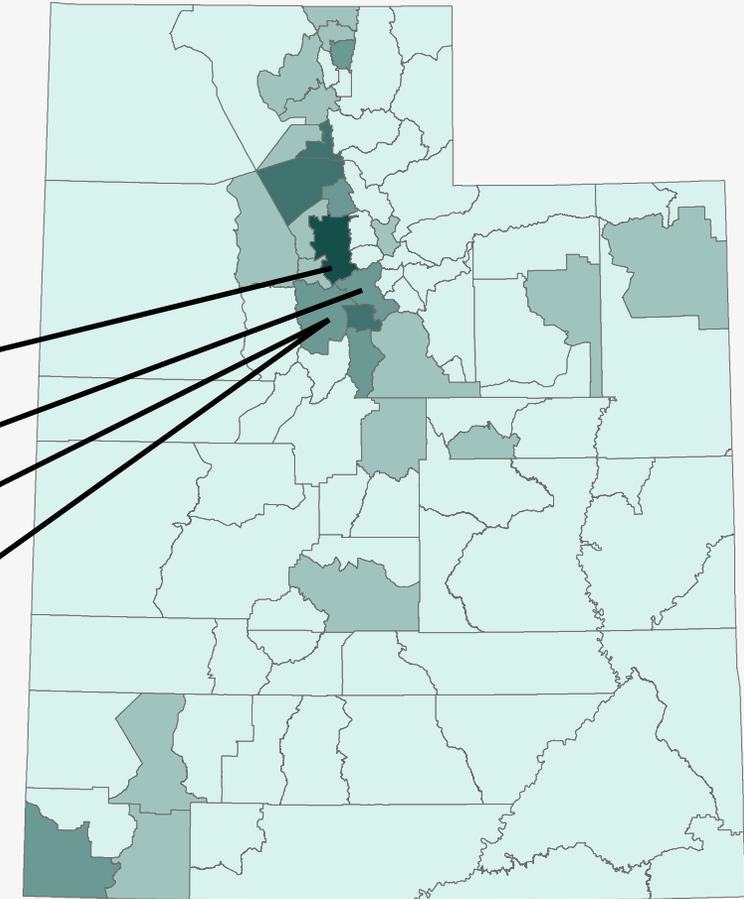
TALK[ɪŋk]

Who used this form?

6 of 14 people used [ɪŋk] at least once.

None with any degree of significance.

pseudonym	[ɪts]	age	religion	education	city
Maddy	3/81 = 3.7%	24	Mormon	some college	South Jordan
Jamie	2/74 = 2.7%	33	Mormon	some college	American Fork
Tim	5/82 = 6.1%	39	Mormon	BA	Cedar Valley
Sam	4/160 = 2.5%	22	non-Mormon	some college	Cedar Valley



SUMMARY

MOUNTAIN

standard *moun*[ʔŋ] was the most common

hyperarticulated *moun*[t^hin] twice as common as *moun*[ʔin]

possibly as reaction to stigmatized variant

FALSE

no clear pattern, but evident in the data

[K]-EPENTHESIS

not enough data, possibly because of the unnatural/formal setting

CONCLUSION

Nonmainstream forms can be found in Utah English.

These are not captured by the demographic variables we gathered.

We encourage more research on consonantal variation and Utah English generally.

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