

## General Extender Use in Southern Manitoban and Filipino-Winnipegger Speech

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General Extender such as *and stuff*, *and everything*, or *something like that* is a widely-studied sociolinguistic variable due to its rich variety and different uses by various communities (Overstreet 1999; Cheshire 2007; Tagliamonte and Denis 2010). General extender (GE) use can differ markedly across localities (Tagliamonte and Denis 2010) and is considered the favorite feature in youth speech (Cheshire 2007). This paper investigates how GEs are used as a sociolinguistic variable among different communities' speech in Manitoba. The present research thus examines GE use among Southern Manitoban and Filipino-Winnipegger speakers, and compared to GE use among Toronto speakers (Tagliamonte and Denis 2010). Southern Manitoban speakers come from rural southern Manitoba. Filipino-Winnipegger speakers are living in Winnipeg for most of their lifetime and/or native to Winnipeg.

The data come from a corpus of thirty-eight interviews with Filipino-Winnipegger and Southern Manitoban speakers for the Languages in the Prairies Project. Each interview is from 48 minutes to one hour 48 minutes long. The speakers' age ranges from 19 to 81 years old. All GEs which emerge in the interviews are identified, extracted, and coded using ELAN (Nagy and Meyerhoff 2015) for quantitative analysis. Overall, 522 GEs have been analyzed in the study.

Although the percentage representing the variants differs among the two communities as well as among different age groups, the most common variants in Southern Manitoban and Filipino-Winnipegger speech are *and stuff (like that)* and *or something (like that)*, which is similar as GE use in Toronto speakers' speech (Tagliamonte and Denis 2010). The GE overall frequency rates in Southern Manitoban and Filipino-Winnipegger speech are almost equal (20.99 and 23.81 per 10,000 words). On the contrary, the frequency rate among younger Filipino-Winnipegger speakers (under 30 years old) is considerably higher than that of younger Southern Manitoban speakers, 37.28 and 25.08 per 10,000 words respectively. In other words, younger Filipino-Winnipegger speakers are far ahead of younger Southern Manitoban speakers in GE use in terms of frequency. This can be explained by the fact that younger Filipino-Winnipegger speakers might get diffusion from Toronto speakers' GE use more effectively and faster than younger Southern Manitoban speakers due to their urbanity and easier access (Trudgill 1974). The high rates of GEs among younger speakers in the data also support the results that GE use is a feature of youth speech (Cheshire 2007). Thus younger speakers are innovative in the process of language variation and change and lead the trend while the process follows the geo-diffusion proposed by Trudgill (1974).

## References

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