

Ethnic variation in East Anglian /ai/ and /oi/ diphthongs  
Michelle C Straw and Peter L Patrick  
University of Essex

We analyse apparent-time variation in East Anglian English, comparing longstanding Anglo residents of Ipswich to Barbadian migrants (6 females, one each from three generations of Anglo and Barbadian women). We identify changes across generations, which are assimilatory, yet operate counter to prevalent systemic vowel-rotation patterns.

Nearby Essex shows a near-merger in /ai/, /oi/; London (south) and Norwich (north) do not (Labov 1994). In Barbados, the vowels overlap (Wells 1982). These similarities allow migrants to approximate the dominant local feature (Straw & Patrick *fc*).

Preliminary instrumental analyses of reference vowels show significant /u/-fronting, completed by the youngest local generation, and incipient /ɨ/-fronting. Older Barbadians (who have a single low vowel) do not participate in these; younger, British-born ones do.

For Ipswich Anglos, /ai/ nuclei are non-peripheral, showing centralisation with some rising. For younger Barbadians, /ai/ is back and mid, with no central nuclei.

Anglos' /oi/ nuclei are back and high, but centralising and dropping towards mid, which creates significant overlap with /ai/. While the oldest Barbadian completely overlaps /ai/ and /oi/, with a wide but always-mid range, for younger Barbadians /oi/ is high and back, with little centralisation and no overlap with /ai/.

Thus the phonetic similarity of older Barbadian and Ipswich patterns, based on distinct phonologies, largely disappears as the systems are brought into alignment. Younger Barbadians appear to lag slightly behind Ipswich Anglos, though with similar systems.

## References

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Michelle C Straw and Peter L Patrick  
Dept. of Language and Linguistics  
University of Essex  
Wivenhoe Park  
Colchester CO4 3SQ, U.K.

Contact email:           patrickp@essex.ac.uk

iclave3@meertens.knaw.nl

## PRICE – Anglos

Sarah: non-peripheral central to back, ranging from low (lower than START) to high (as high as FOOT, not quite as high as NORTH). Always forward of START, not as far forward as TRAP. Frontest (?most advanced?) tokens as low/lower than TRAP; backest (?most advanced?) barely overlap w/CHOICE.

Sadie: non-peripheral central and back, ranging from low (as low as START) to mid (lower than FOOT). Always forward of START, just about as far forward as TRAP. Most advanced tokens move up, as high as FOOT. Highest tokens slightly overlap the most advanced ones of CHOICE.

Safie: non-peripheral central and back, mid height (above START, below FOOT and NORTH). As far back as START but stretches as far forward as TRAP. Most advanced tokens move up, as high as FOOT; sign't overlap w/most advanced CHOICE tokens.

Movement: PRICE is losing its vertical range and moving forward (and slightly up?), as a mid vowel. Non-peripheral for all?.

## CHOICE – Anglos

Sarah: High back vowel, slightly lower and forward of NORTH, behind START. Non-peripheral?

Sadie: High back to mid, forward of NORTH, reaching forwards towards TRAP. Most advanced tokens drop as they centralise.

Safie: High back to mid, forward of NORTH (actually higher), approaching TRAP. Most advanced tokens drop.

Movement: CHOICE is centralising, dropping towards mid as it goes; this deepens the formerly marginal overlap w/ PRICE.

## PRICE – Bajans

Betty: mid vowel, below FOOT and above (most of) START and TRAP; ranges from nearly as far back as backest NORTH to frontest TRAP. (She has only one low vowel.)

Barbara: mid vowel, clearly below FOOT etc, from back periphery towards centre (not as wide as Betty's). Two low vowels.

Beatrice: mid-back vowel, well below NORTH but some as high as FOOT; most central tokens are lowest, just above/in front of START.

Movement: As the low vowels have separated, PRICE has consolidated its range as a mid and back vowel, with all nuclei well back. For all speakers though it sometimes looks peripheral.

CHOICE – Bajans

Betty: mid vowel, from quite back to quite central; most tokens well below FOOT but above low vowel(s). Complete overlap w/PRICE.

Barbara: high back vowel! Most tokens as high as FOOT, behind START; not quite as extremely high/back as NORTH but close. Only the most extreme tokens of CHOICE and PRICE overlap – most keep well clear via height.

Beatrice: high-back vowel but non-peripheral. One advanced token is central. No overlap w/PRICE, via height, even when CHOICE centralises.

Movement: from mid to high back, possibly beginning to centralise from there in Beatrice. Non-peripheral for all?.