

A sociophonetic investigation of FACE and GOAT monophthongisation and Scottish identity construction in Slovak immigrants in Edinburgh

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Although some research into immigration typically considered immigrants' integration in terms of their host communities, recent studies (e.g. McClelland, 2000; Irie, 2003; Lamb, 2004, Jenkins, 2001) have considered the presence of a distinct trans-national, global identities among immigrants. The current study observes the phenomenon under a linguistic lens, across three groups of female speakers: long-term Slovak immigrants residing in Scotland (N=20), Edinburgh-born English speakers (N=8), and fluent English language learners living in Slovakia (N=6). This paper addresses the development of language production among immigrants that incorporates elements from their host and home countries, and also examines how these immigrants' language attitudes reinforce the development of global linguistic identities.

The analysis revealed that immigrants' pronunciations differed from both their local Edinburgh peers and English-speaking Slovaks in Slovakia. The data from this study investigated pronunciation patterns using FACE and GOAT vowels obtained through a structured interview questionnaire, a reading passage, and a word list. The study used Euclidean distance measurements to determine F1/F2 movement between vowel onsets and glides. The goal was to investigate whether experienced L2 speakers (i.e. Slovak immigrants) produced similar style-based variation as their local Edinburgh peers. The results showed that the pronunciation patterns for Slovak immigrants' FACE and GOAT vowels were more diphthongal than their Scottish peers but more monophthongal than Slovak non-immigrants, across all three speech styles. As a result, immigrants exhibit a style of pronunciation for FACE and GOAT vowels that was distinct from both non-immigrant groups.

Language attitudes and cultural identity data were collected through responses to a questionnaire (Llamas and Watt, 2014) and a verbal guise task. Results from the verbal guise task suggested that immigrants found Scottish and Slovak-accented varieties most favourable in the *social attractiveness* category, but still evaluated the native varieties (Scottish and RP) highest in the *prestige* category. These responses were similar to those given by Scottish participants, though in contrast the Scottish participants had more defined attitudes and more varied scores between guises. When combined with results from production analysis, these attitudes reinforce the notion that Slovak immigrant participants developed identities that were neither fully adapted to nor resistant toward their host country. Rather, the immigrants appeared to favour multi-national identities, whether through explicit self-evaluation or via implicit language attitudes. In short, both language attitudes and language production supported the idea that even long-term immigrants maintained identities and values that were distinct from those given by peers in both their home country and their host country.

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