

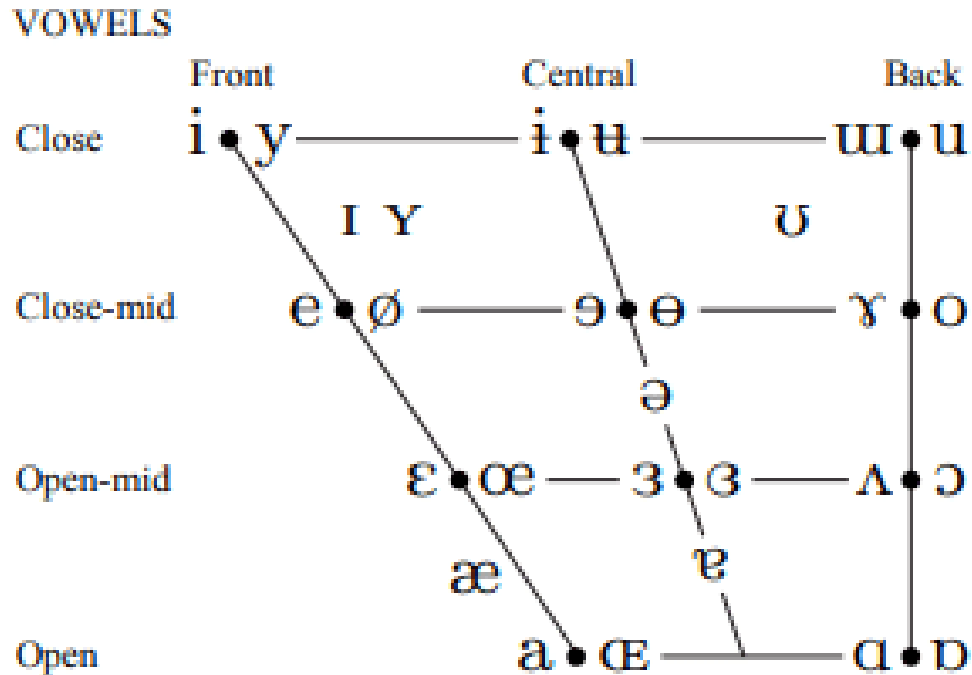
**MUNI**  
**ARTS**

# **SOME FEATURES OF MONTREALIAN ACCENT**

Annamária Zemanová & Catherine Girard

AJL22093

# CANADIAN RAISING AND CANADIAN SHIFT



Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a rounded vowel.

- Centralization of /aɪ/ or /aʊ/ before voiceless consonants, raising the open a sound to /ɪ /, /ɪ / or /ə/

- Example: „price“ and „clout“ but not „prize“ or „cloud“ or typical „out and about“

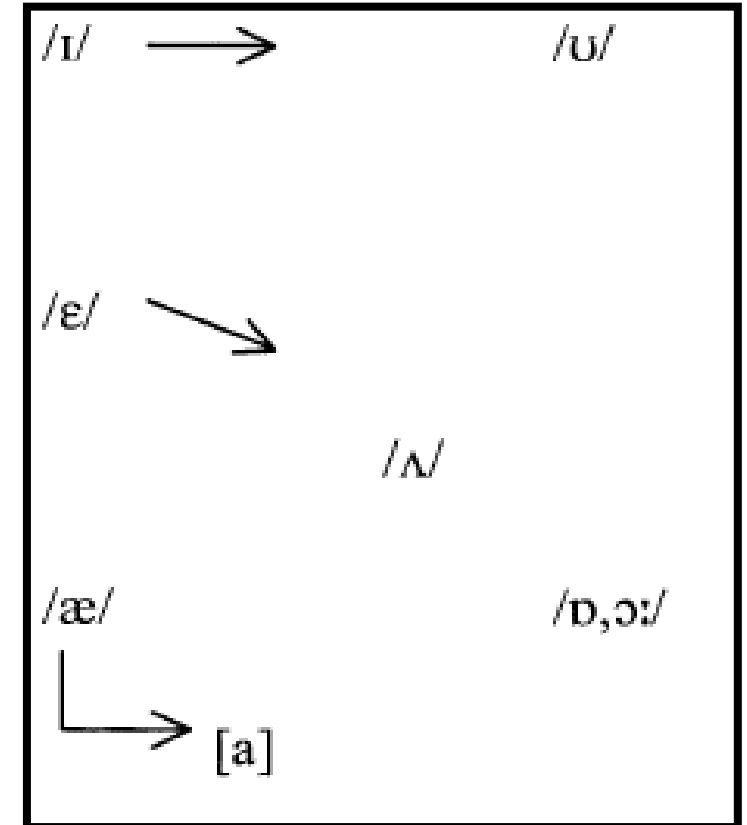
- Merger of /ɔ / (*cot*) with /ɔ / (*caught*) in low back position as /ɔ / (*on*)

- Lowering of the tongue in the front short vowels /æ/ (*trap*), /ɛ/ (*dress*), and /ɛ/ (*kit*)



# CANADIAN SHIFT IN MONTREAL

- According to Boberg's 2005 study
  - The Canadian Shift, or something very similar to it, is active in Montreal, but its phonetic character is not identical with the version of the Shift reported for Ontario English
- The retraction of /ɔ/ is the most active part of the Canadian Shift in Montreal
- The Shift is somewhat influenced by gender and age of the speakers



# DISTINCTIVE MONTREALIAN FEATURES

- Among young Canadian women in particular, the pronunciation of /ɪ/ is sometimes low enough to produce potential confusion with /æ/, at least when taken out of context

- *left, bet* → *laughed, bat*



- Vowel sounds before intervocalic /r/
  - Resistance to „merry-marry“ merger

- *Mary vs merry vs marry*



# CULTURAL INFLUENCES

- Communities (Italian, Jewish, British)
- Surrounded by French
- Local vs. Global prestige

# RESOURCES

- Boberg, C. (2005). The Canadian shift in Montreal. *Language Variation and Change*, 17(2), 133-154. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0954394505050064>
- Kelly, J. (2014, February 22). *The quest for the Montreal English accent* [Radio broadcast]. CBC, <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2442617322?fbclid=IwAR05Iy6oPC7EjmT6lGr3jopMjEIdYjaCisPGFAFJ0-dR-cuAEeokOps-IOc>
- Labov, W., Ash, S., & Boberg, C. (2006). *The Atlas of North American English*. Berlin: Mouton-de Gruyter.

# Q&A