

Exhibiting standards in the FACE of dialect levelling

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1. Introduction

- current study
 - variation in **FACE/GOAT** (Wells 1982) in York English
 - FACE: *gate, made, may* etc.
 - GOAT: *boat, home, slow* etc.
 - applies use of **Euclidean Distance** measurements to analysis of diphthongs (Fabricius 2007)
- part of larger ‘Northern Englishes’ project
 - comparative **cross-dialectal** investigation of variation in **phonology** and **morpho-syntax**
 - new data from Derby, Newcastle, York
 - real-time comparison with 1990s data
(Docherty and Foulkes 1999; Watt and Milroy 1999; Tagliamonte 1998)

2. Existing work on FACE/GOAT

- Northern Englishes: generally monophthong

– FACE [eː ɛː]

GOAT [oː ɔː]

- Newcastle Watt and Milroy (1999)
- Hull Williams and Kerswill (1999)
- Bradford Watt and Tillotson (2001)
- Leeds Richards (2008)

- GOAT-fronting also observed [əː]

3. Research questions

- What variation is present in FACE/GOAT in York English?
- How can euclidean distance measurement help us?
- Does ethnographic interview data tell us anything extra?
- What do findings tell us about supra-localism across Northern Englishes?

4.1 The 2008 York data

- 8 males, 8 females
- age 18-24
- network sample
- interviewed in self-selected, same-sex pairs
- casual conversation, ethnographic interview, word-list
- corpus size >120,000 words

FACE example:

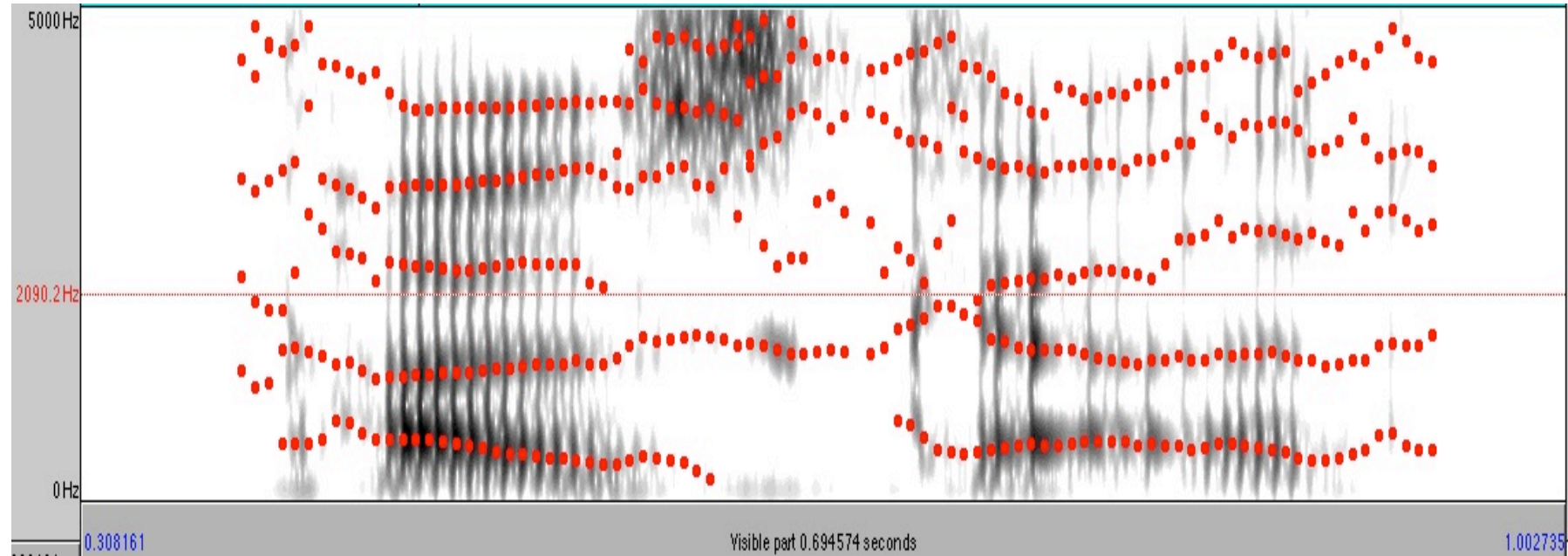
C: I remember doing like *baking* [eɪ] and stuff with my Nanna but I don't remember like the stories that they used to tell me.

S: Baking.

C: *Baking* [eɪ] with Nanna, it was well good.



4.2 GOAT example



post
[eɪ]

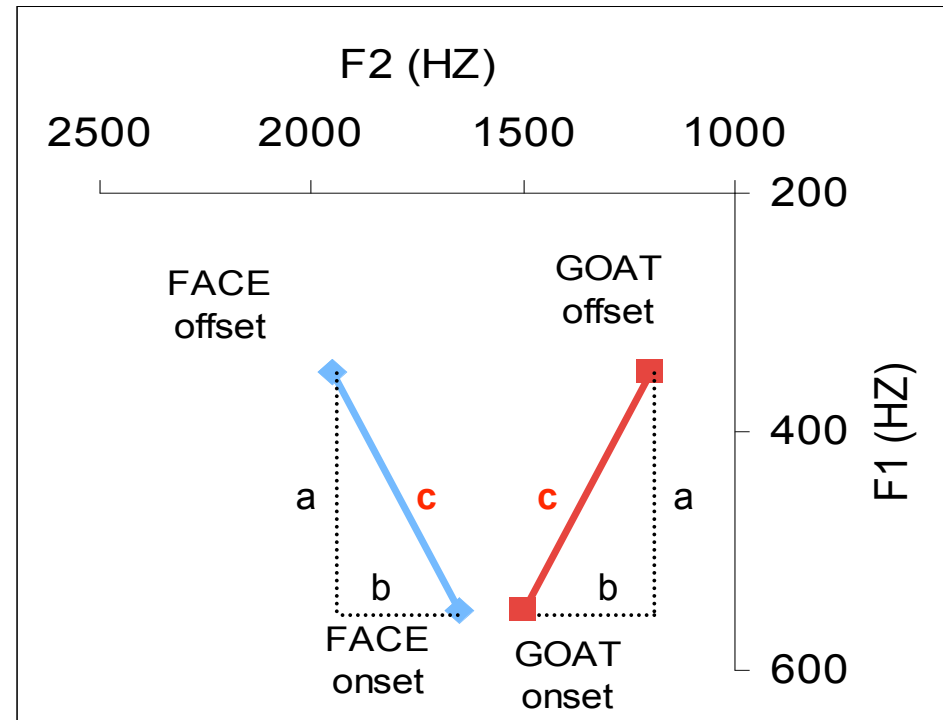
code
[e:]



5. A little maths revision...

Euclidean distance

- Pythagoras' theorem
 - length of hypotenuse of a right-angled triangle (**c**) is equal to the square root of the sum of the squared lengths of the other two sides
- Or put another way...



$$C^2 = A^2 + B^2$$

∴

$$C = \sqrt{A^2 + B^2}$$

Therefore...

F1onset - F1offset = length of side A

F2onset - F2 offset = length of side B

$$C^2 = (F1onset - F1offset)^2 + (F2onset - F2offset)^2$$

6. Ethnographic rating system

1. Do you like living here in York?
2. Do you plan to settle here in York?
3. What accent would you say you had?
4. Do you like the York accent?
5. Are you proud to be from York?

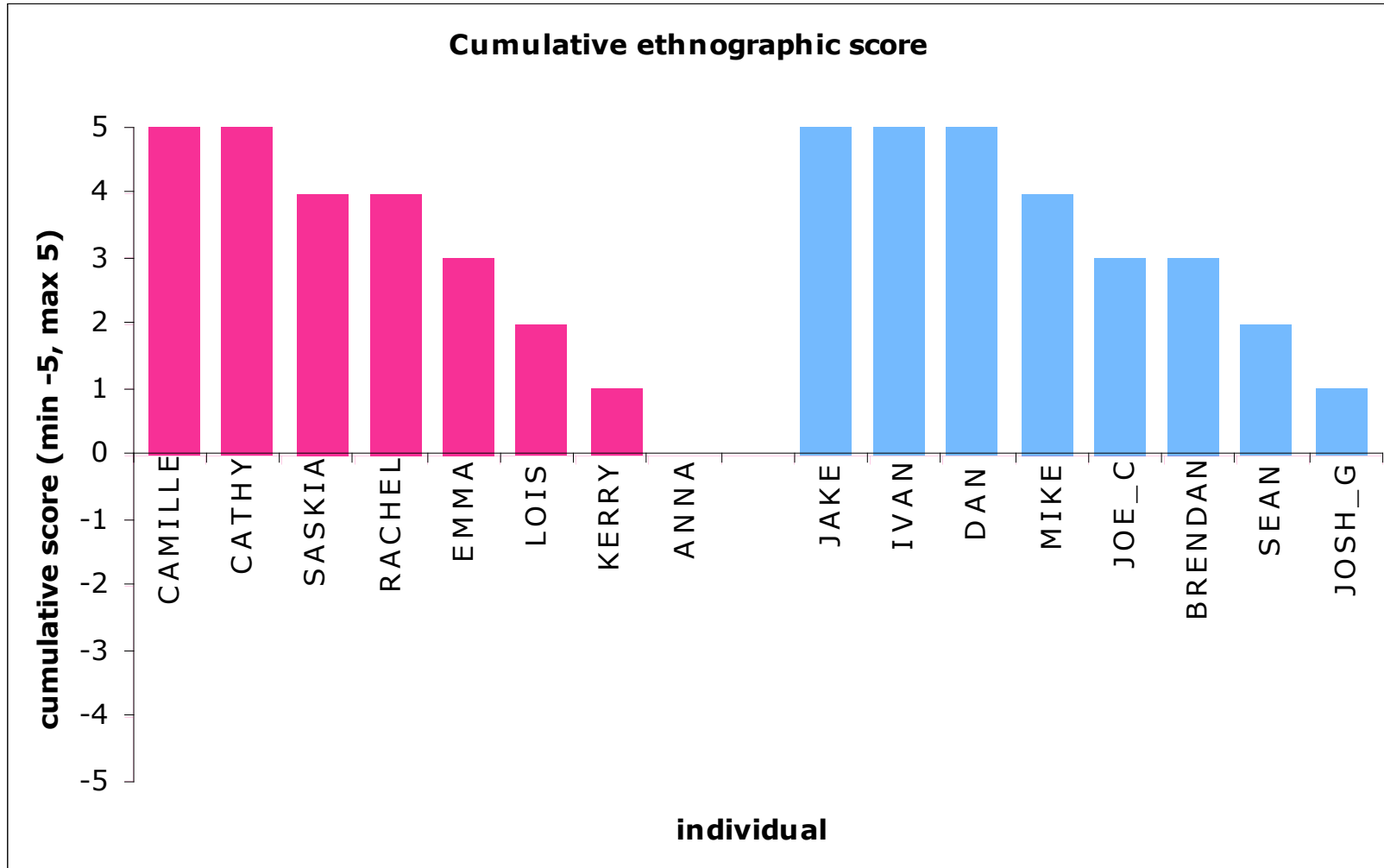
Questions 1,2,4,5

- Positive response +1
- Unsure/non-committal/neutral response 0
- Negative response -1

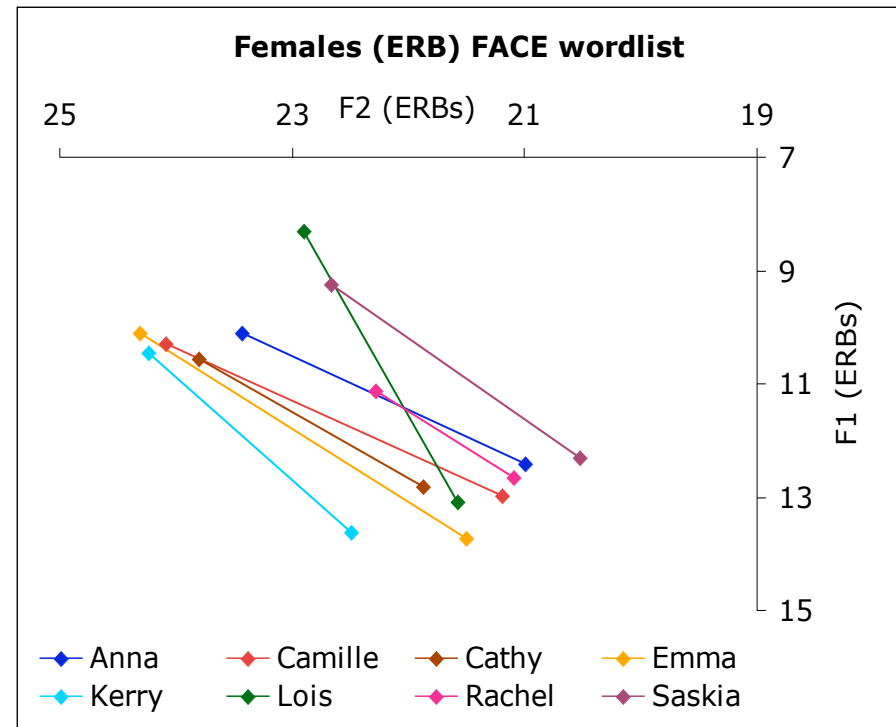
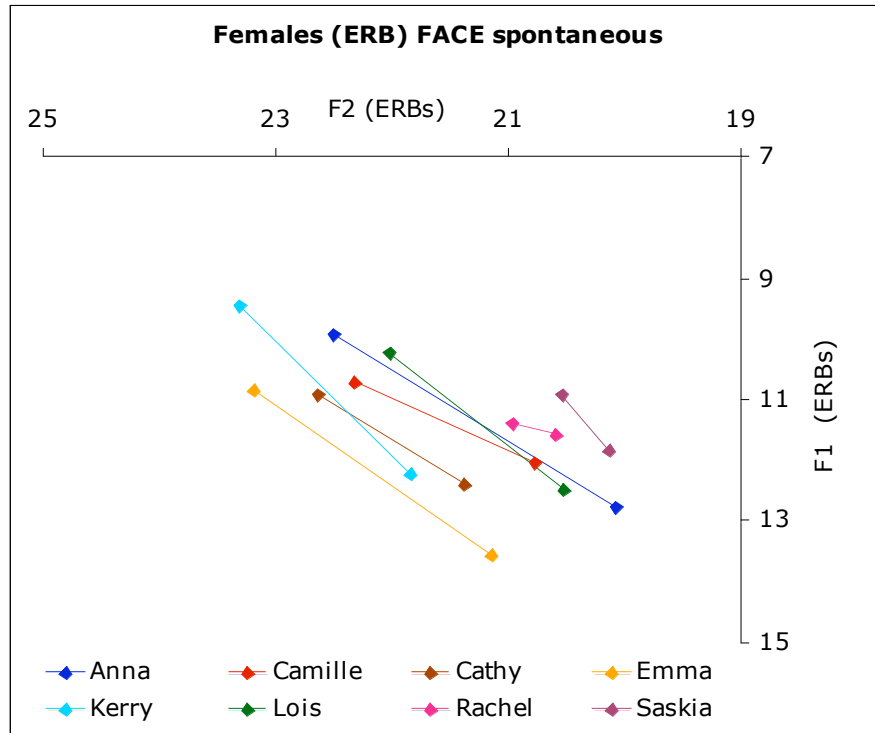
Question 3

- York/Yorkshire +1
- Northern 0
- None/neutral -1
- Miscellaneous answer -1

6.1 Ethnographic rating system

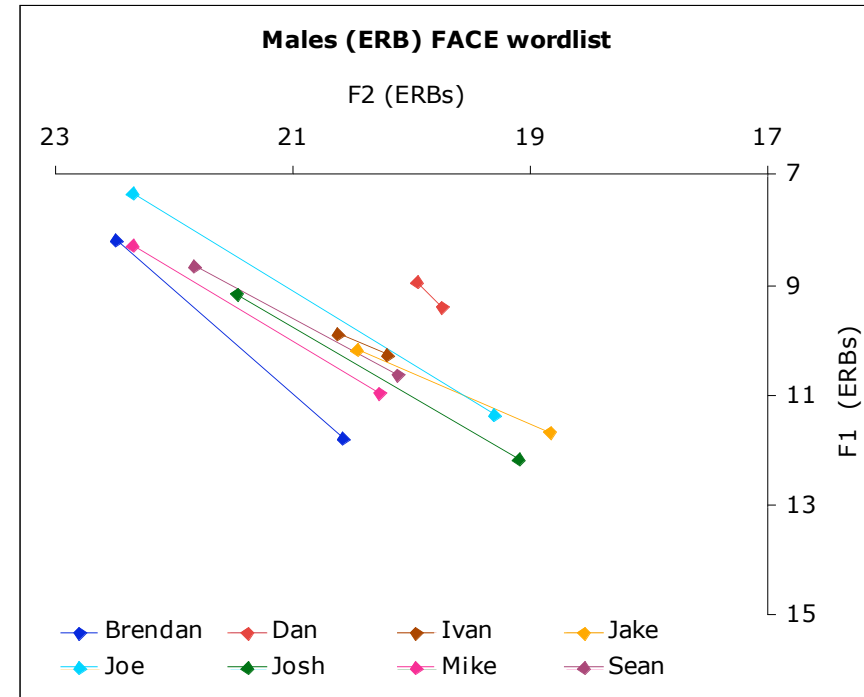
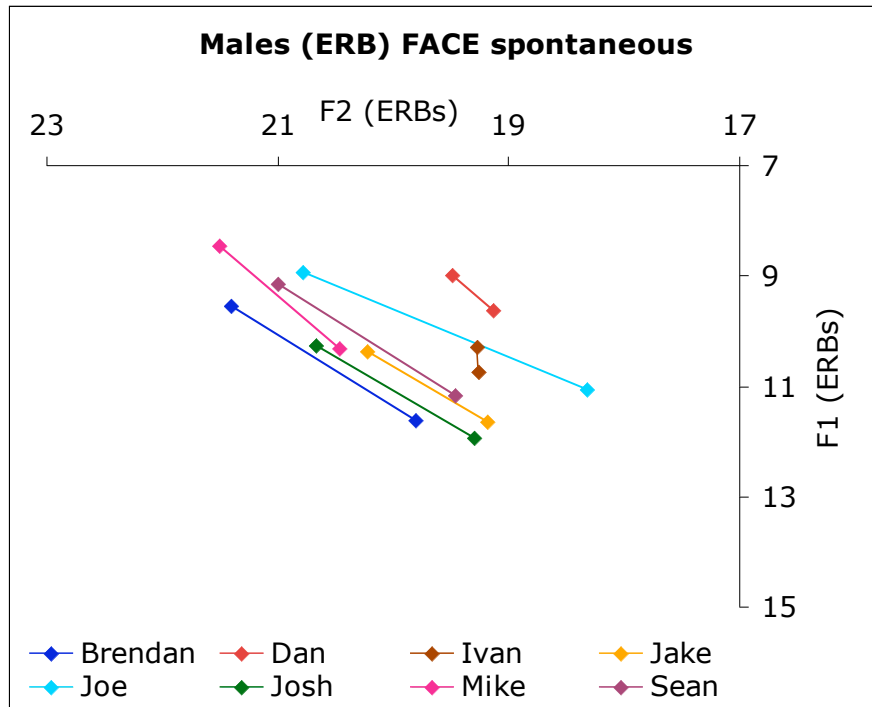


7.1 FACE analysis: female data



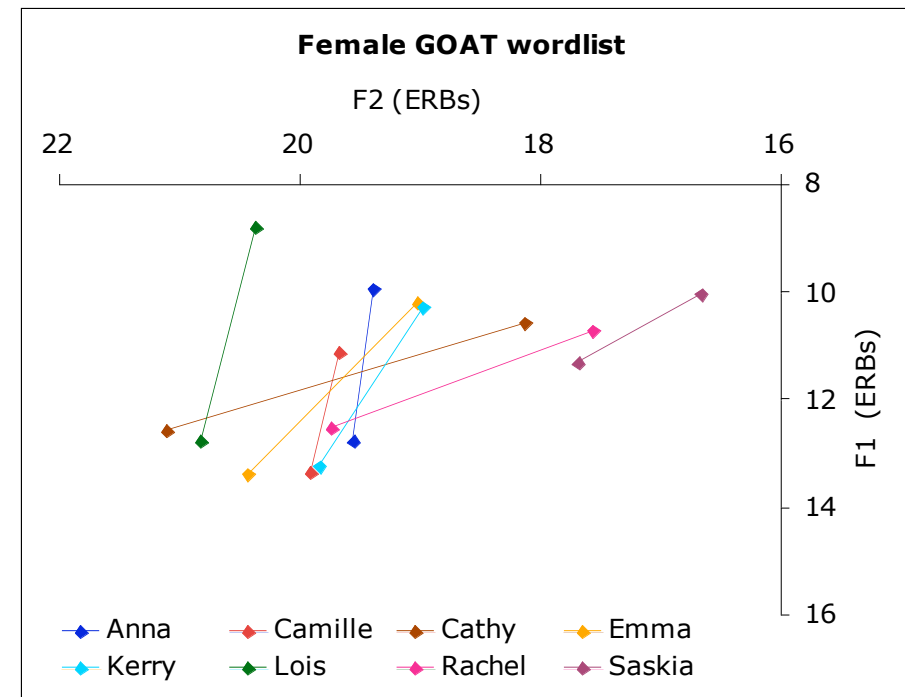
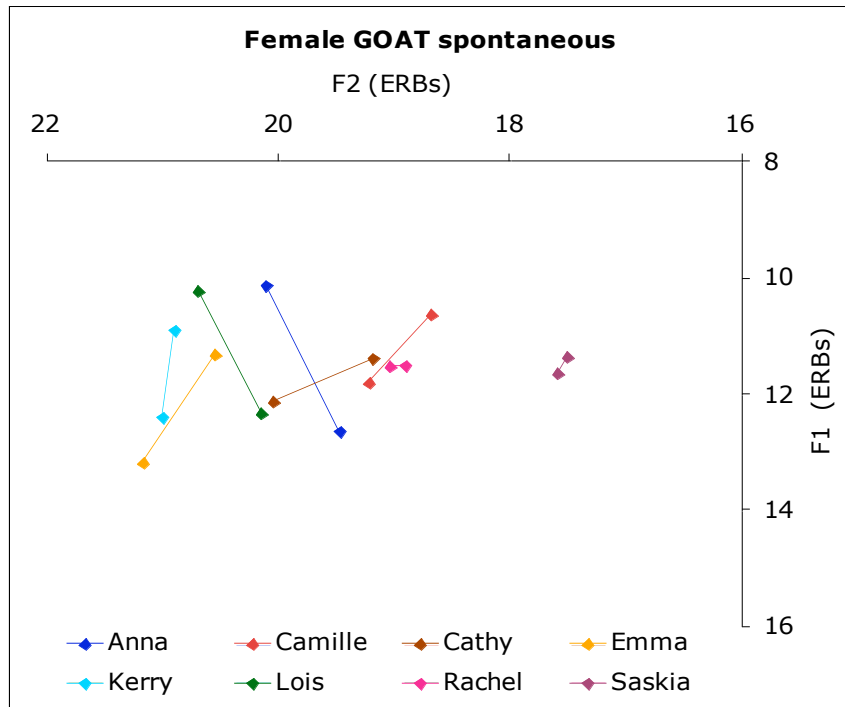
- 6/8 females have diphthong in both styles.
- 2 (Rachel/Saskia) have mono. spontaneous, diph. WL.

7.2 FACE analysis: male data



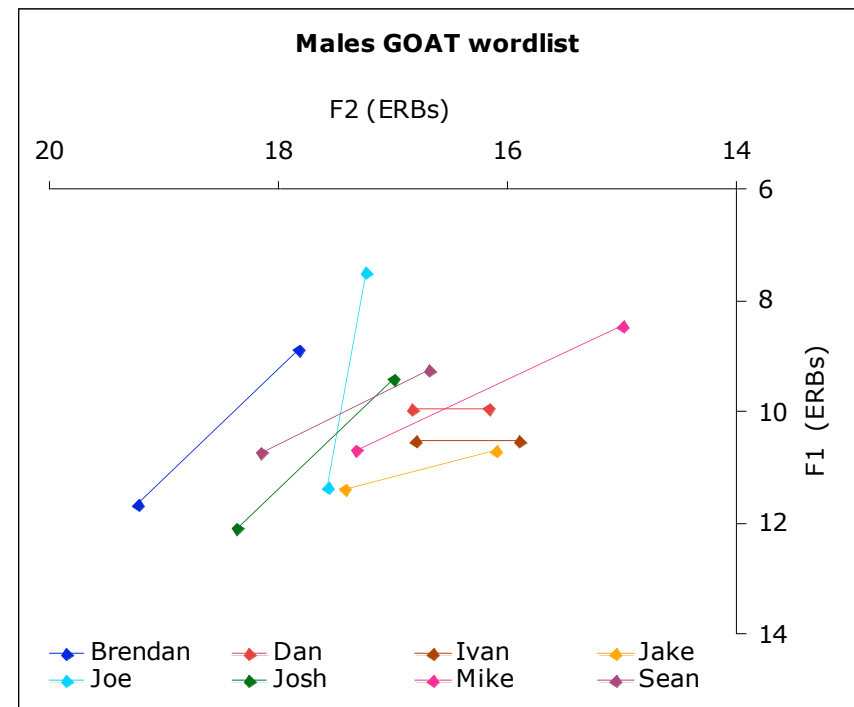
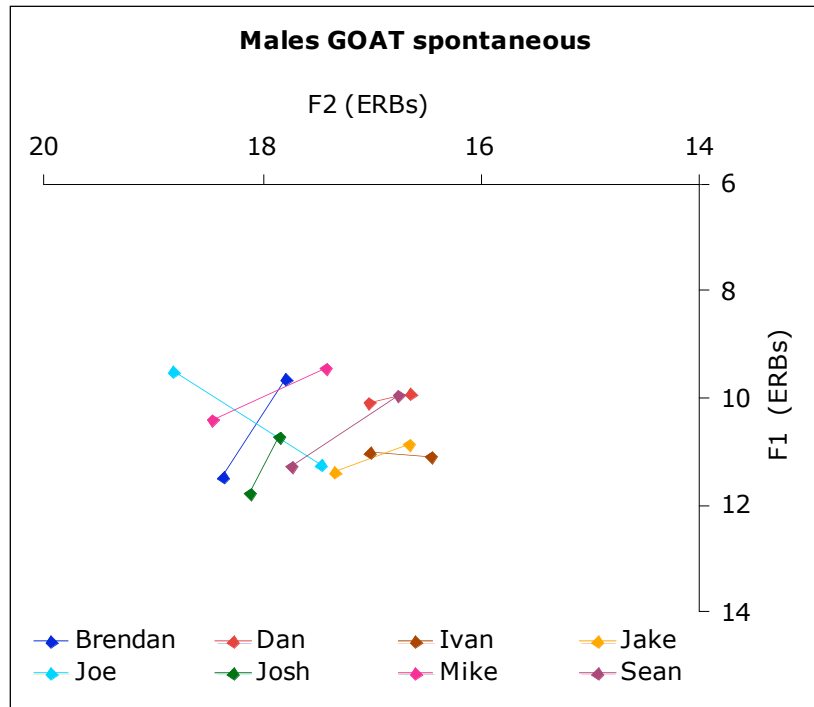
- 6/8 males have diphthong FACE in both speech styles.
- 2 (Dan/Ivan) are mono in both styles.

8.1 GOAT analysis: female data



- 2 females (Rachel, Saskia) monophthong in spontaneous data.
- All females diphthongal in WL data.

8.2 GOAT analysis: male data



- Lots of intra-speaker variation in male spontaneous data.
- Mainly diphthong in WL data.

9. Statistical analyses

- linear regression using *R* software package
- **dependent variable**: Euclidean distance
- **independent factors**:
 - speech style
 - vowel duration
 - position in word
 - following voicing/manner/place
 - preceding voicing/manner/place
 - ethnographic cumulative score
- male and female data retained as separate tests
- FACE and GOAT analysed separately

9. Statistical analyses

<p>GOAT - males</p> <p>DURATION F 27.76, p <.0001 ETHNO.CUM F 34.82, p <.0001</p> <p><i>Other factors not significant</i></p>	<p>FACE - males</p> <p>DURATION F 21.14, p <.0001 ETHNO.CUM F 92.04, p <.0001 FOLLOWING VOICING F 9.94, p <.0001</p> <p><i>Other factors not significant</i></p>
<p>GOAT - females</p> <p>DURATION F 99.49, p <.0001 ETHNO.CUM F 28.58, p <.0001</p> <p><i>Other factors not significant</i></p>	<p>FACE - females</p> <p>DURATION F 83.19, p <.0001 ETHNO.CUM F 50.78, p <.0001 FOLLOWING VOICING F 13.59, p <.0001</p> <p><i>Other factors not significant</i></p>

10. Answers to research questions

- What variation is present in FACE/GOAT in York English?
 - *predominantly diphthongal*
 - *only limited number of speakers show consistent use of monophthong variants*
- Does ethnographic interview data tell us anything extra?
 - *Yes: the speakers who use most monophthongs are typically those who score more highly in ethnographic cumulative score*
- How can euclidean distance measurement help us?
 - *Using euclidean distance as dependent variable presents a clear picture of what is happening across the data*
 - *Would be interesting to check correlation between euclidean distance and auditory judgements (in progress)*
- What do findings tell us about supra-localism across Northern Englishes?
 - *for the most part, speakers in York not participating in supra-localism of Northern English: monophthong variants not widely adopted*

11. And finally...

- I: Ok. What accent would you say that you had? How would you describe it?
- C: Broad Yorkshire [*laughs*].
- K: You're a lot broader than I am.
- C: Yeah.
- K: You've got your 'post'. [o:]
- C: Yeah.
- K: And your 'coat' [o:]. I never thought I had an accent until I went down south and everyone was like, "oh, you've got such an accent." [*laughs*] I just- I never noticed [eu] it before.



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