



Surveying the New Appalachia: Change, Perception, and Influence

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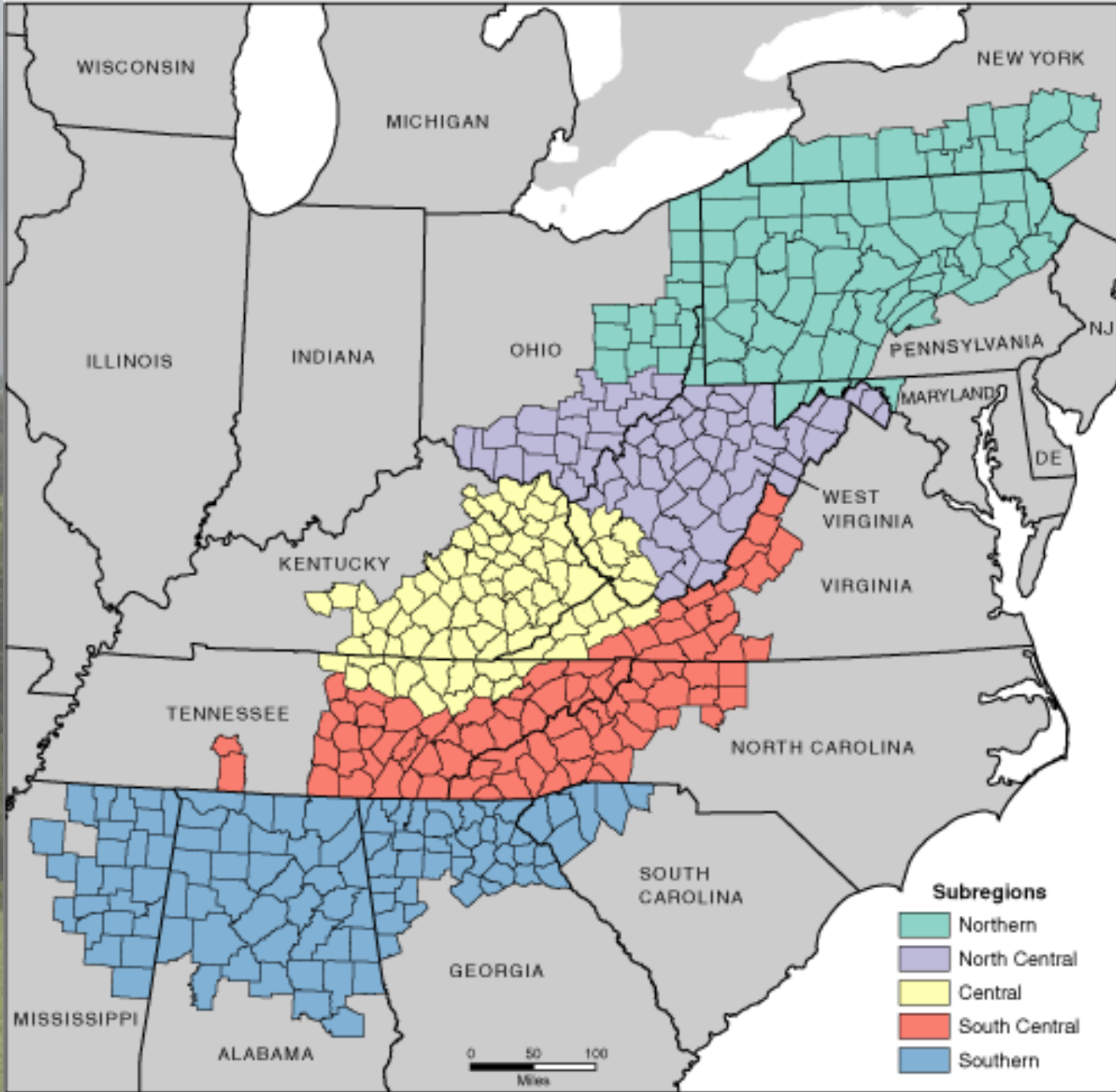
A region in change

- Less isolation, less poverty
- Recent “coolness” of Appalachia
- Evidence pointing towards language change (Hasty 2011, Childs and Mallinson 2004)
- Perceptions of young Appalachians

Appalachian English

- Traditional/heritage dialect associated with older speakers
 - Dial 1972, Montgomery 1979, Wolfram & Christian 1976
- Overrepresentation of West Virginia
 - Older features dying out
 - Hazen 2006, Hazen, Butcher, & King 2010, Hazen, Hamilton, & Vacovsky 2011
- Underrepresentation of Southern Appalachia

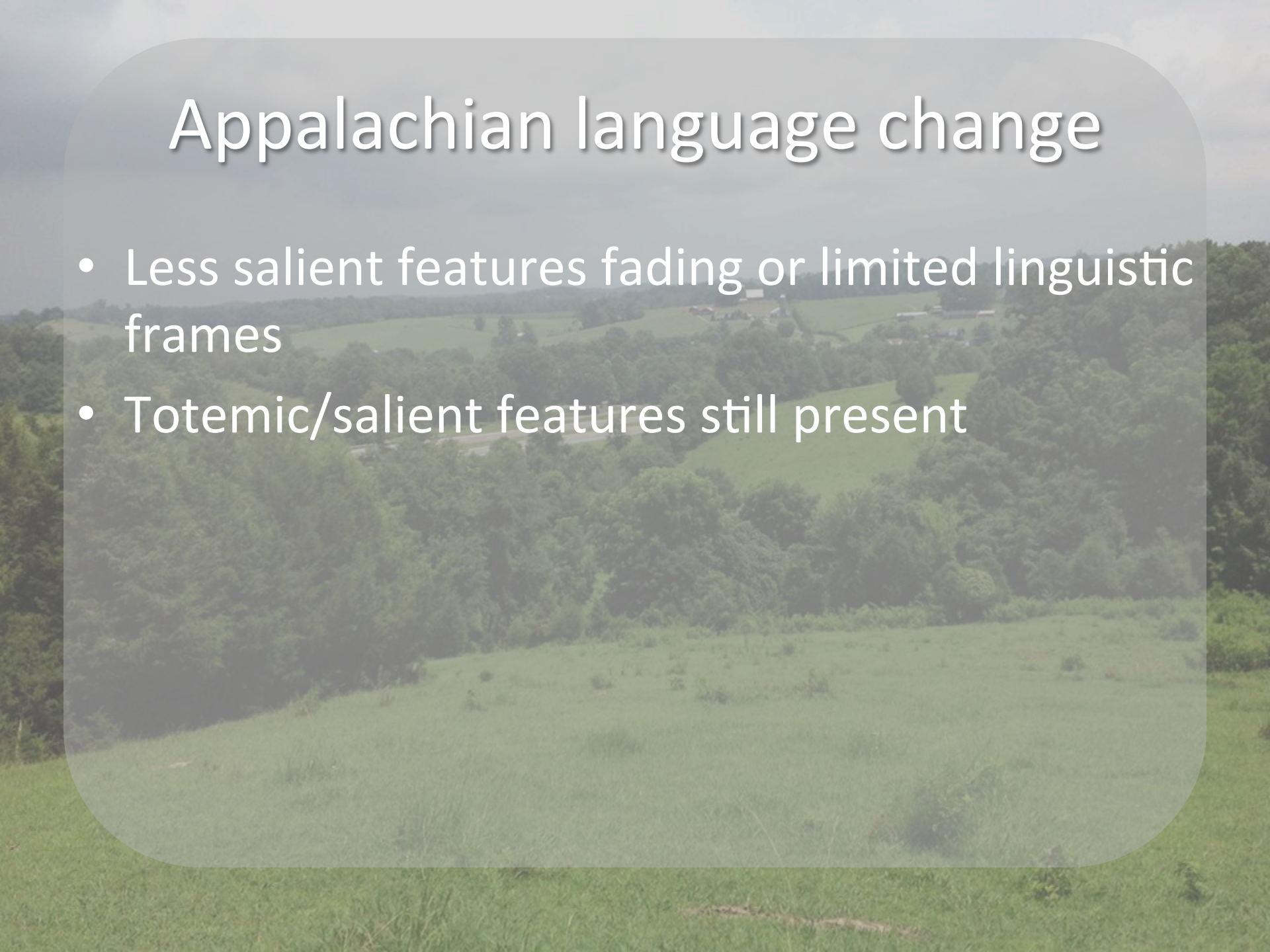
Appalachian region



Map by: Appalachian Regional Commission, November 2009.

Appalachian language change

- Less salient features fading or limited linguistic frames
- Totemic/salient features still present



Research questions

- Which totemic features persist?
- Who is using these features and where?
- Is there subregional variation?
- Have traditional AppE features spread to the broader South?

Our survey

- Made up of known features of AppE
- Distributed online at universities across App
 - University of Kentucky
 - West Virginia University
 - University of Tennessee
 - Tennessee Technological University
 - Middle Tennessee State University
 - Western Carolina University
 - Appalachian State University
 - Virginia Tech

Methodological concerns

- Web based
 - researchers not present
- Text based
 - how to look at sound
 - register clash
 - lack of context
- Self-report data
 - “what I do, what I hear” (Van Herk 2008, MacKenzie, Bailey, & Turton 2014)

Survey design

- Runs from IR server at CCU
- <http://snap.coastal.edu/snapwebhost/surveypreview.asp?k=142082821915>
- [this link is to a test version of the survey, for the actual survey link, please email jhasty@coastal.edu]

Survey design

Language Changes in the South

In the following sections of the survey, you will see a list of words, pronunciations, or sentences. For each one, please tell us:

- How often you use it (is it something you would say)?
- How often you hear this used around you (is it something you hear others say)?
- Who uses it most (what age, gender, type of person) and/or where (what region or setting)? *You may not be able to answer this part each time.*

An example how this type of question will look, and how it might be answered, is below:

How often...

Do you use this expression?					Do you hear others use this expression?					
never	rarely	sometimes	often	all the time		never	rarely	sometimes	often	all the time
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oh my God!	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Radical, dude.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Who uses "Oh my God"?

Young girls

Where?

At the mall

Who uses "Radical, dude"?

Teenage boys

Where?

At the skate park

Progress

Survey design

Language Changes in the South

Who uses <i>plumb</i> ?	<input type="text"/>	Where?	<input type="text"/>
Who uses <i>yonder</i> ?	<input type="text"/>	Where?	<input type="text"/>
Who uses <i>y'all</i> ?	<input type="text"/>	Where?	<input type="text"/>
Who uses <i>y'uns</i> ?	<input type="text"/>	Where?	<input type="text"/>
Who uses <i>right-pretty</i> ?	<input type="text"/>	Where?	<input type="text"/>
Who uses <i>poke</i> ?	<input type="text"/>	Where?	<input type="text"/>
Who uses <i>bald</i> ?	<input type="text"/>	Where?	<input type="text"/>
Who uses <i>fodder shock</i> ?	<input type="text"/>	Where?	<input type="text"/>
Who uses <i>holler</i> ?	<input type="text"/>	Where?	<input type="text"/>
Who uses <i>reckon</i> ?	<input type="text"/>	Where?	<input type="text"/>
Who uses <i>tote</i> ?	<input type="text"/>	Where?	<input type="text"/>
Who uses <i>carry</i> ?	<input type="text"/>	Where?	<input type="text"/>

Progress

← Back

Reset

Next →

Lexical items

plumb

yonder

y'all

y'uns

right-pretty

poke *(for a sack)*

bald *(for a mountain formation)*

fodder shock

holler

reckon

tote *(for carry)*

carry *(for take)*

Phonological items

feel & fill

cheer & chair

air & hair

pin & pen

tire & tar

fool & full

ten & tin

Morphosyntactic items

You might should eat before you go.

I might could do that for you.

I want for John to come over.

He was a-runnin like crazy.

Give me some of them crackers.

I'm fixin to go to the store.

Any more, I ride the bus home.

The board is 5 foot long.

We had us a cabin by the lake.

Me and my dad, we would toss the ball.

She don't know him yet.

I done told you once.

Open responses and attitudes

- Report pronunciations as “joking around”
- Referencing “correct” pronunciation
 - Being lazy
 - Doesn’t bother to pronounce the “right way”
 - Doesn’t know any better
- Negative labeling of “who uses”
 - Rednecks, hillbillies
 - Hoods, ghetto rats
 - Poor, low class, uneducated

What is a *holler*?



Descriptive statistics

region	n	%
Appalachia	173	56.35
South	134	43.65

gender	n	%
female	242	63.52
male	139	36.48

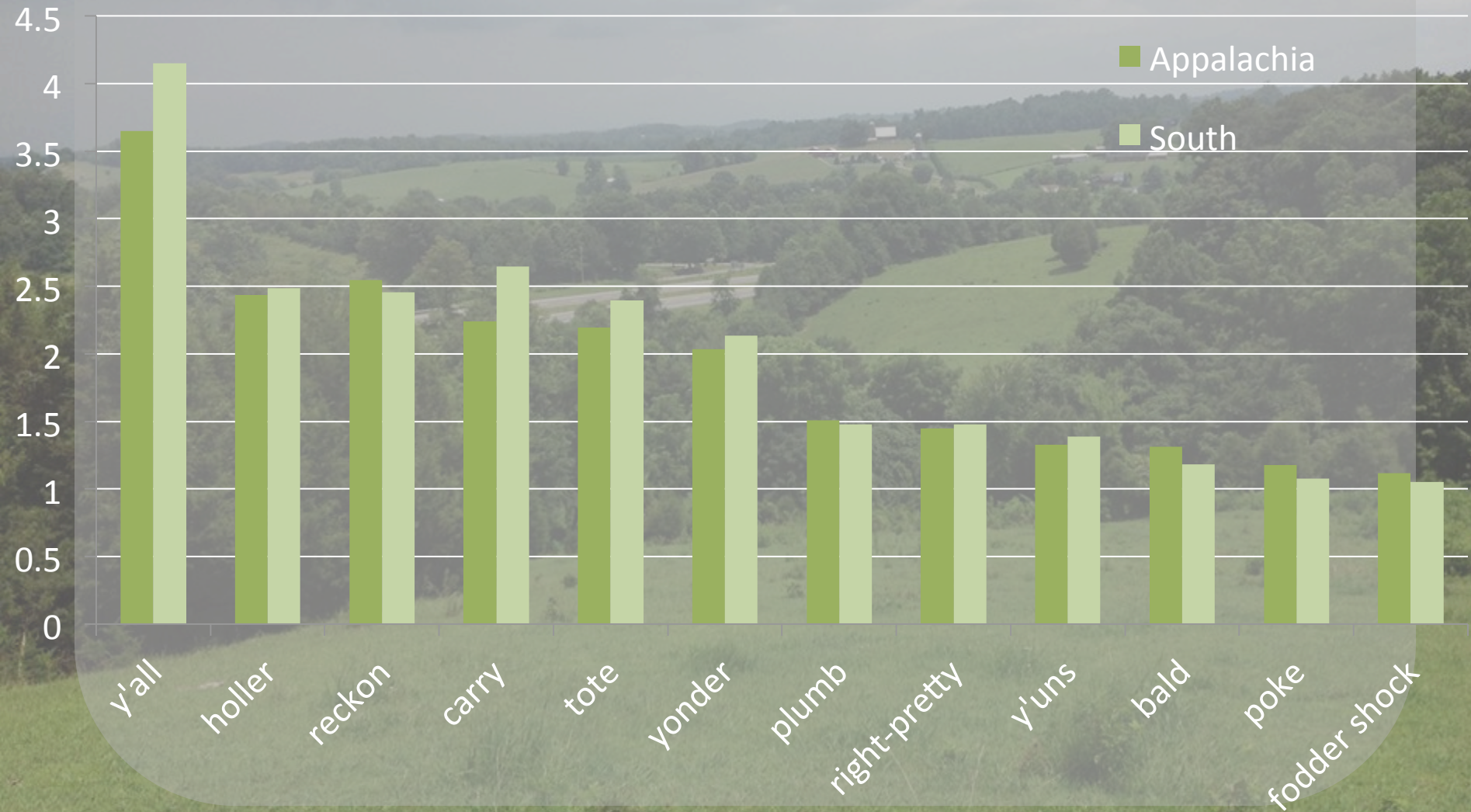
Descriptive statistics

gender	n	%
Appalachia		
female	119	68.79
male	52	30.06
South		
female	79	58.96
male	55	41.04

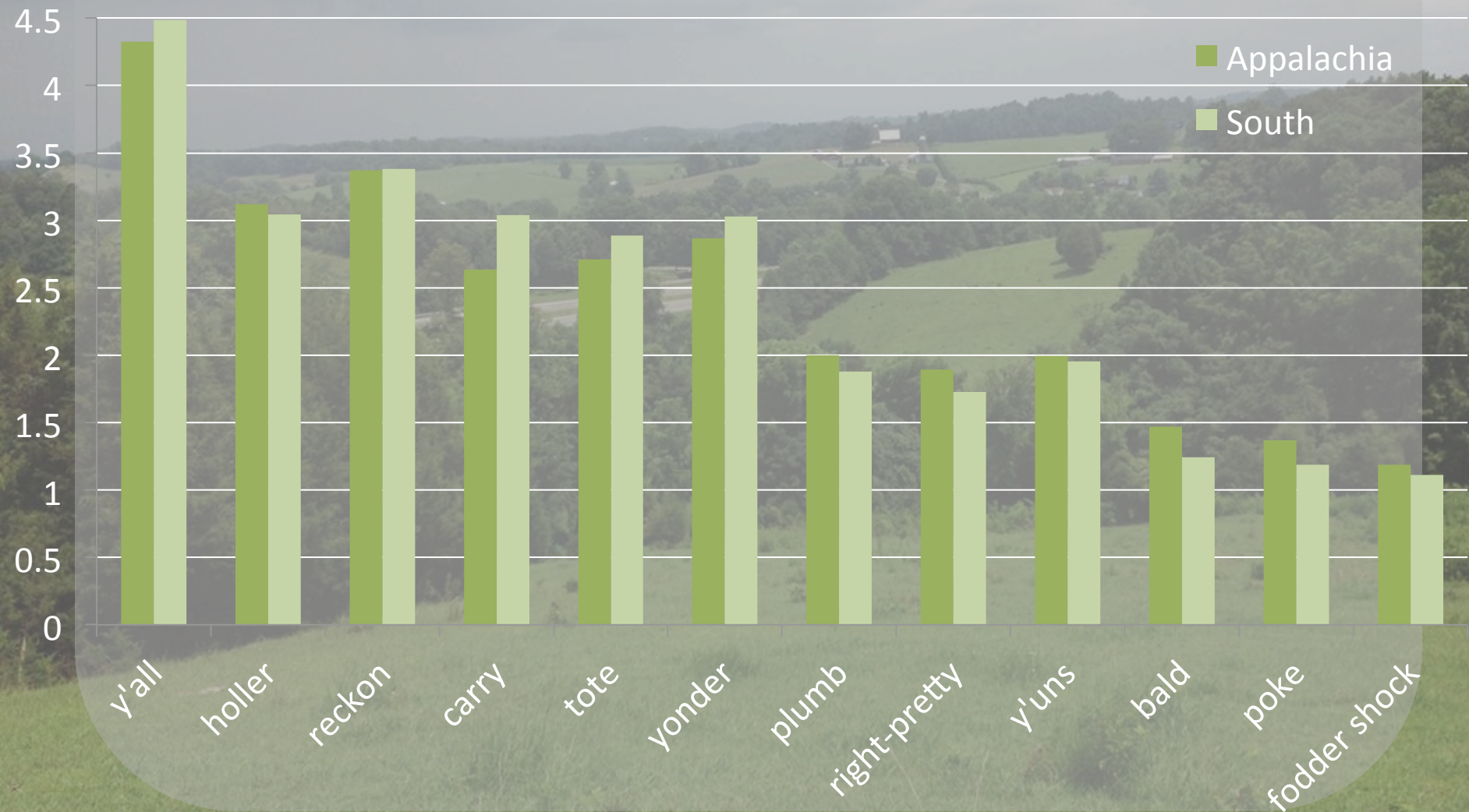
Descriptive statistics

age	n	%
Appalachia		
young	126	72.83
middle	25	14.45
old	21	12.14
South		
young	79	58.96
middle	30	22.39
old	24	17.91

Use lexical



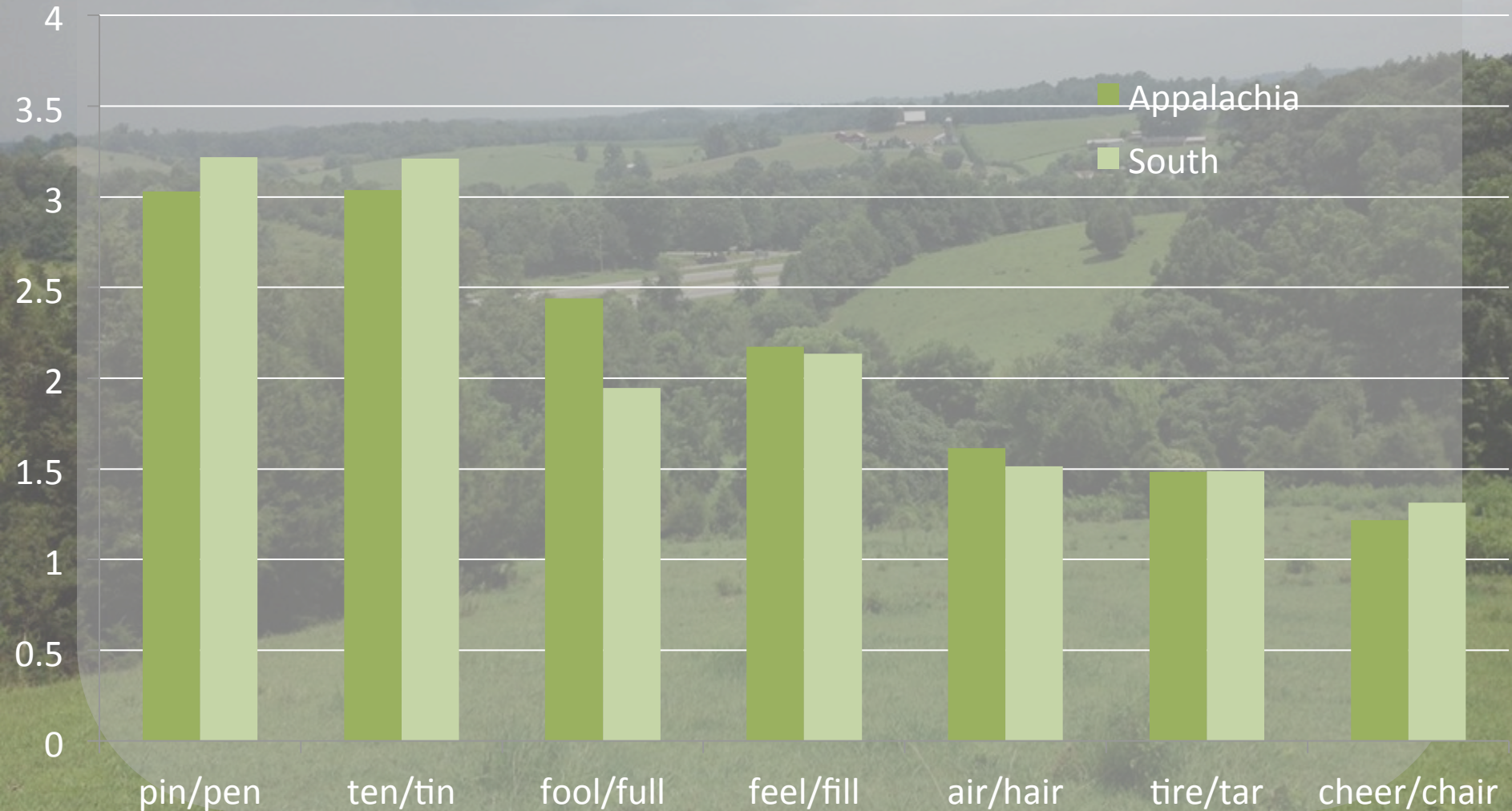
Hear lexical



App vs South lexical

- y'all
 - South use more: A 3.65—S 4.15 (p 0.00)
- carry
 - South use more: A 2.24—S 2.64 (p 0.02)
 - South hear more: A 2.64—S 3.04 (p 0.02)
- poke
 - App use more: A 1.18—S 1.08 (p 0.04)
 - App hear more: A 1.37—S 1.19 (p 0.01)
- bald
 - App hear more: A 1.47—S 1.24 (p 0.02)

Use phonology



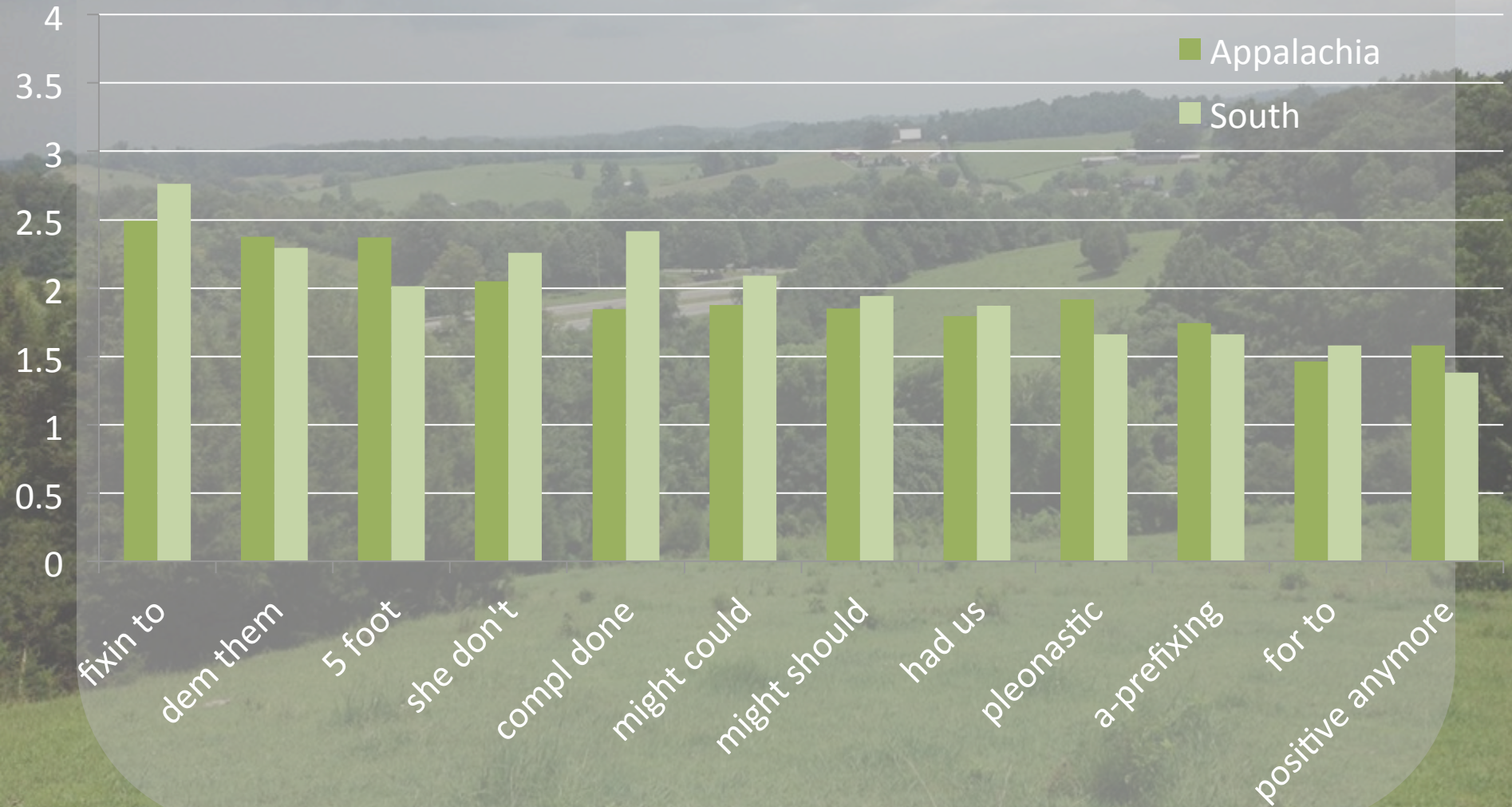
Hear phonology



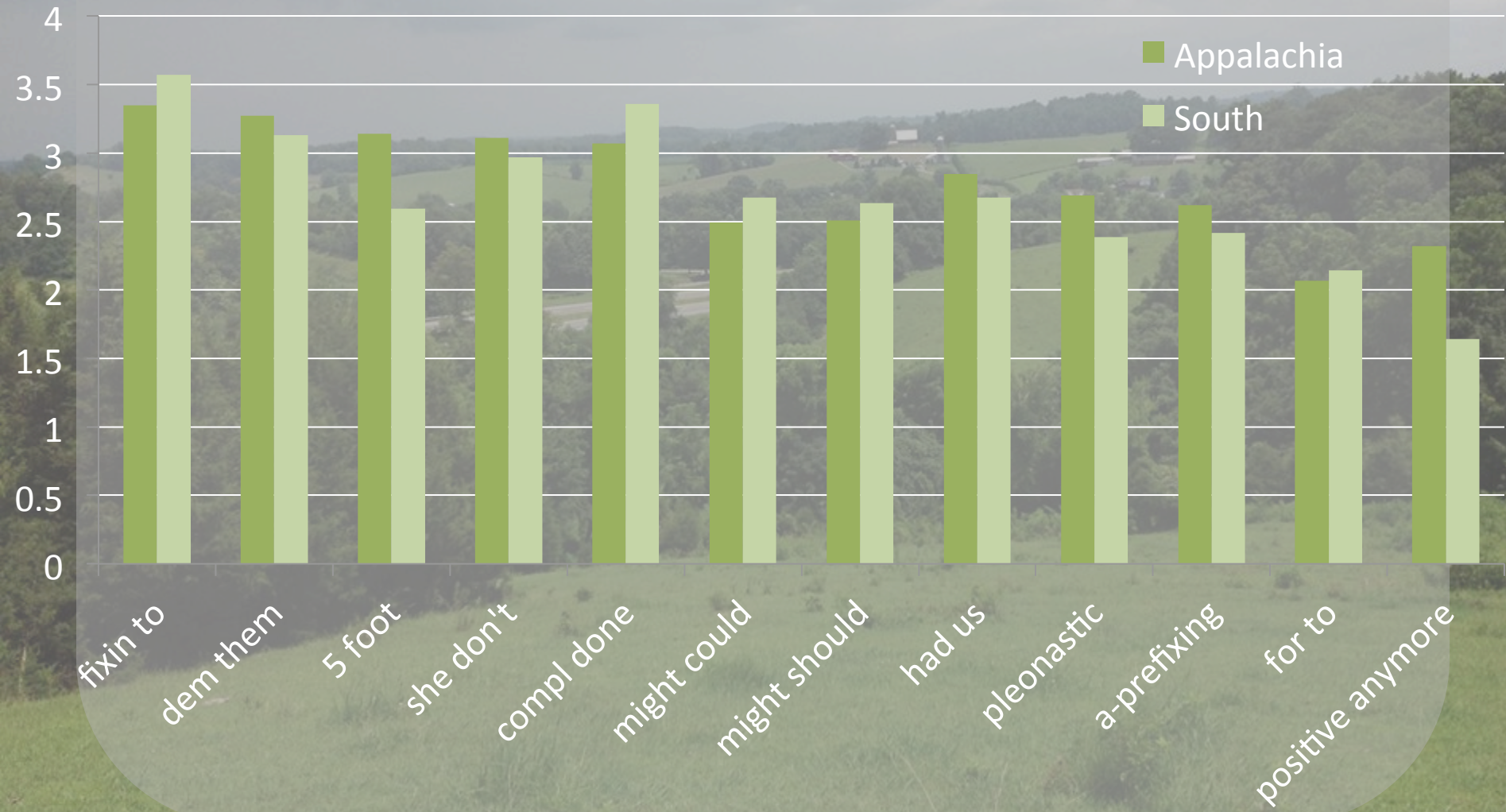
App vs South phonology

- full/fool
 - App use more: A 2.44 — S 1.95 (p 0.01)
 - App hear more: A 3.16 — S 2.47 (p 0.00)
- feel/fill
 - App hear more: A 3.16 — S 2.82 (p 0.04)
- cheer/chair
 - App hear more: A 2.10 — S 1.70 (p 0.00)
- tire/tar
 - App hear more: A 2.79 — S 2.40 (p 0.01)
- pen/pin merger
 - Both groups report high

Use syntax



Hear syntax



App vs South syntax

- Positive anymore
 - App hear more: A 2.32 — S 1.64 (p 0.00)
- Zero plural measurement
 - App use more: A 2.37 — S 2.02 (p 0.04)
 - App hear more: A 3.14 — S 2.60 (p 0.00)
- Completive done
 - South use more: A 1.84 — S 2.41 (p 0.00)

App vs South females

- yall
 - South use more:
A 3.65 — S 4.29 (p 0.00)
- carry
 - South use more:
A 2.30 — S 2.85 (p 0.01)
 - South hear more:
A 2.66 — S 3.33 (p 0.00)
- tote
 - South hear more:
A 2.64 — S 3.04 (p 0.05)
- cheer/chair
 - South use more:
A 1.17 — S 1.44 (p 0.03)
- Completive done
 - South use:
A 1.73 — S 2.63 (p 0.00)
- she don't
 - South use:
A 1.88 — S 2.37 (p 0.02)

App vs South females

- plumb
 - App hear more: A 2.03 — S 1.71 (p 0.04)
- cheer / chair
 - App hear more: A 2.06 — S 1.71 (p 0.03)
- fool / full
 - App hear more: A 3.16 — S 2.59 (p 0.01)
- Positive anymore
 - App hear more: A 2.29 — S 1.72 (p 0.00)
- Zero plural measurement
 - App hear more: A 3.18 — S 2.47 (p 0.00)

App vs South males

- bald
 - App use more: A 1.48 — S 1.15 (p 0.05)
 - App hear more: A 1.68 — S 1.22 (p 0.01)
- poke
 - App hear more: A 1.39 — S 1.15 (p 0.04)
- air/hair (h insertion)
 - App use more: A 1.61 — S 1.20 (p 0.04)
 - App hear more: A 2.09 — S 1.57 (p 0.04)
- cheer/chair
 - App hear more: A 2.19 — S 1.68 (p 0.03)
- tire/tar
 - App hear more (2.81 v 2.15 (p 0.01))
- fool/full
 - App hear more (2.91 v 2.26 (p 0.02))
- positive anymore
 - App hear more (2.45 v 1.54 (p 0.00))
- zero plural measurement
 - App use more (2.63 v 1.98 (p 0.03))

Gender within App

- Preliminary analysis
- App males reporting higher use of marked features
 - might could: m 2.10 — f 1.79 (p 0.18)
 - completive done: m 2.15 — f 1.73 (p 0.10)
 - personal dative: m 2.10 — f 1.68 (p 0.04)
 - she don't: m 2.50 — f 1.88 (p 0.01)

Preliminary age results

- Older leading Younger in Appalachia
 - use of lexical items
 - yonder, yall, right-pretty, poke, fodder shock, reckon
 - use of cheer /chair
- Younger leading Older in Appalachia
 - use and hear phonological items
 - fool/full, feel/fill, pin/pen
 - hear morphosyntactic items
 - a-prefixing, demonstrative them, zero plural measurement, she don't, completive done

Open responses and attitudes

- Report pronunciations as “joking around”
- Referencing “correct” pronunciation
 - Being lazy
 - Doesn’t bother to pronounce the “right way”
 - Doesn’t know any better
- Negative labeling of “who uses”
 - Rednecks, hillbillies
 - Hoods, ghetto rats
 - Poor, low class, uneducated

Conclusions

- Some AppE lexical items fading
- Some unique AppE features
 - later stages of Southern Shift
 - positive anymore and zero plural measurement
- Apparent gender difference
 - more claimed usage by males
- Age differences pointing towards Young reclaiming features

Upcoming plans

- More responses from AppE speakers
- Subregional differences in App
- Looking at identity
- Factor analysis, multivariate analysis

Thank y'all

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