

THE LINGUISTIC ATLAS OF THE GULF STATES:
A CONCORDANCE OF BASIC MATERIALS

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INTRODUCTION

The LAGS Concordance is an alphabetical finding list of every word and phrase from the narrow phonetic notations of the LAGS protocols, transliterated into conventional spelling. It serves as a companion to the protocols by presenting all of their phonetically transcribed data in an uncomplicated format to accommodate a wide variety of readers. The materials are the idiolects of 1,121 natives of 452 counties and parishes in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Texas, as preserved on magnetic tape. Following the principles of completeness, consistency, and simplicity, LAGS seeks to make the retrieval of its data as convenient as possible, not only to linguistic geographers but also to any person interested in the heritage of the South.

The LAGS corpus consists of field records (tape-recorded interviews) and the corresponding transcriptions of selected items that make up the protocols. The protocol collection contains approximately 700 "complete" volumes (those with at least 80% of the work-sheet items recorded, without the urban supplement), 300 "incomplete" volumes (those with less than 80% of the basic work-sheet material), and 164 volumes with the urban supplement, some of which are complete and some incomplete. Every entry from every protocol appears in the concordance, and each entry has in turn been parsed by computer so that every word appears in the alphabetical list.

The concordance was conceived first as a manually produced index of entries and cross references, recorded on 4" x 6" slips. The original plan, executed in experimental form as Inventory #1 and Inventory #2, was impractical because of restrictions of time and personnel. The complexity of Inventory #1, an index of the entries from 16 protocols, and the additional problems of Inventory #2, intended as a similar index of 96 protocols but left incomplete, convinced the editors that a computer format was necessary.

The rules for converting the protocol entries to the concordance format are the product of experiments in the spring and summer of 1981. The editors first made handwritten reductions of the phonetics to conventional spellings, proofreading and commenting on each other's work. They discussed changes in the direction of simplicity and consistency. The implementation of the concordance program involved both the conversion of the entries and the proofreading of the daily printouts of converted protocols. Incomplete or simple protocols could be converted in five to six hours, while the fullest and most complex volumes required fifteen to twenty hours. The proofreading of an uncomplicated conversion took as little as an hour, but a careful examination of a protocol with numerous supplementary entries, perhaps written in a scribal hand difficult to read, took three hours or longer. Each of the printouts generated by the program was read by the converter; the majority had a second reading by one other editor. In addition, the concordance itself was proofread and corrected by all three editors.

Using *Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language, Unabridged* as the principal authority, the editors attempted to maintain consistency in the spelling of concordance entries. In most instances, the first spelling from the dictionary was used in the conversion, though some exceptions permitted a limited number of dialect forms. The most

common of these are the following:

chimley (for <i>chimney</i>)	overhauls (for <i>overalls</i>)
chitlins (for <i>chitterlings</i>)	sallet (for <i>salad</i>)
critter (for <i>creature</i>)	shivaree (for <i>charivari</i>)
flitter (for <i>fritter</i>)	spicket (for <i>spigot</i>)
frail (for <i>flail</i>)	stomp (for <i>stamp</i>)
lighterd (for <i>lightwood</i>)	wheelbarrel (for <i>wheelbarrow</i>)
mushmelon (for <i>muskmelon</i>)	

In addition, dialect spellings of verb forms appearing in *Webster's Third*, such as *drownded* (for *drowned*) or *fout* (for *fought*) appear in the concordance. Infinitives, however, have standard spellings regardless of pronunciation. Forms without spellings in *Webster's Third*, including place-names, varieties of fruits and vegetables, trade names, nonce forms, and other dialectal peculiarities, were verified if possible in other written sources or through confirmation by consultants. Those for which no verified spelling could be found were transliterated according to the phonetic transcription. A future errata list will update any concordance spellings that are determined to be incorrect, as well as typographical and conversion errors.

The creation of the concordance was governed by nine basic conversion rules and four additional guidelines for the use of "Phantom Space" (an asterisk to indicate multiple free forms bound for the purpose of word counts but parsed individually):

RULE 1: Convert all uninflected phonetic strings according to the first

spelling of *Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language, Unabridged*.

RULE 2: Disregard all deleted or excrescent internal syllables in uninflected phonetic strings.

RULE 3: Record all deleted initial and final syllables of uninflected phonetic strings in parentheses except for derivational suffixes, which will be accepted as pronounced.

RULE 4: Use special spellings only for animal calls, nonce forms, corrupted forms, and dialect spellings recurrently used by American linguistic geographers.

RULE 5: Convert all inflected phonetic strings according to the first spelling of *Webster's Third*.

RULE 6: Mark all deleted or special inflections according to the conventions of LAGS Concordance abbreviations.

RULE 7: Mark all deleted morphological and syntactic grammatical units according to the conventions of LAGS Concordance abbreviations.

RULE 8: Observe LAGS conventions of textual abbreviations, remarks, and marginalia.

RULE 9: Observe LAGS conventions of Phantom Space.

RULE A: Use Phantom Space to bind all multiword proper nouns.

RULE B: Use Phantom Space in compound nouns, verbs with postpositionals, and other compounds.

RULE C: Use Phantom Space in compounds and phrases that provide explicit synonyms for work-sheet items that seek such information.

RULE D: Use Phantom Space in all structures that comprise *noun + noun*.

LAGS Concordance conventions include scribal and grammatical glosses, symbols for form-class and function words, and markers to show deletion.

Other conventions allow for folk etymology and wordplay and for the inclusion of many explanations of lexical and semantic significance, as well as notes on phonology and paralanguage. A list of codes and glosses follows:

SCRIBAL AND CONVERSION GLOSSES

- F French
- G German
- S Spanish
- a probable scribal error of text or marginal gloss
- b variant (or inappropriate) line use
- c disambiguation of entry
- d false start or hesitation
- e vocal qualifiers, including contrastive/emphatic stress
- f usage and illustration
- g citation

GRAMMATICAL GLOSSES

- h singular number, pronoun and noun
- i plural number, pronoun and noun
- j nominative case, pronoun and noun
- k possessive case, pronoun and noun
- l objective case, pronoun and noun
- m pronoun
- n noun
- o infinitive form, verb
- p third person singular, present (tense) indicative (mood), verb
- q present tense, verb (excluding third singular)
- r preterit tense, verb
- s present participial form, verb
- t past participial form, verb
- u imperative mood, verb
- v verb

w comparison
 x adjective
 y adverb
 z function word

TEXTUAL CODES

[] frame deleted grammatical forms and signals, syntactic and inflectional units
 () frame deleted initial and final syllables, derivational units
 < > frame remarks, either contexts in conventional orthography provided by the scribe or scribal explanations of entries

SYMBOLS APPEARING WITHIN BRACKETS

Form-Class Words

N- for noun
 V- for verb
 M- for pronoun
 C- for copula (linking verb)
 A- for adjective
 B- for adverb

Function Words

P- for preposition
 X- for verb auxiliary
 D- for determiner (article)
 J- for conjunction
 R- for relative pronoun
 T- for dummy subject (*there*)

QUALIFYING SYMBOLS

-0 for any deleted form-class or function word

Symbols for deleted inflections of form-class words:

-i for deleted pronoun or noun plural marker
 -k for deleted pronoun or noun possessive marker
 -p for deleted verb/copula third singular, present indicative marker
 -q for other deleted verb/copula present tense marker
 -r for deleted verb/copula preterit marker
 -s for deleted verb/copula present participial marker

- t for deleted verb/copula past participial marker
- w for deleted adjective or adverb comparison marker

OTHER SYMBOLS

- ! for *sic*
- ? for *query*

To locate a particular concordance entry in its protocol, consult the first three columns on the page, headed *BOOK*, *PAGE*, and *LINE*. The next two columns, *SG* for *Scribal Gloss* and *GG* for *Grammatical Gloss*, may be empty or may contain the appropriate letters from the above code. Additional material within carets following the entry is a context or remark by the scribe or converter, added for clarification. The following is an example:

0768 073 6 d he just act[IV-p] the same with everybody <=common>

This item comes from protocol 768, page 73, line 6. The *d* gloss indicates a false start or hesitation in the pronunciation. The bracketed form following the verb indicates that the third person singular, present indicative, tense marker was deleted by this informant. Finally, the gloss <=common> shows that this entry is the informant's definition of *common* as applied to a person.

HOMOPHONES, HOMOGRAPHS, AND LINKAGE

Users of the concordance must keep the form, content, and plan in mind. The treatment of homophones and homographs offers one set of examples to illustrate the way the LAGS reference system works. Central to this and every other component of the atlas is linkage. The tape, fiche, book, and disk texts transmit information independently, but they are most effectively used

with an eye to their interdependent characteristics as well. Each component was organized as a link in a descriptive chain that extends from the tape-recorded interviews (the tape/text) to the microcomputer files and programs (the disk/text). In an effort to realize maximum coverage, coherence, and efficiency, LAGS composition proceeds bidirectionally through the work, steadily looking back for textual vagaries that require clarification and forward to the complex tasks that might be picked up more efficiently in the future. Only when the published disk/text signals the completion of the atlas will LAGS research lack resources for further improvement. Until then, we will continue to exploit our tools, sharpening older ones and roughing out newer ones in a predetermined, self-directed operation.

As composed, the LAGS concordance could not conveniently distinguish homophonous and, less frequently, homographic forms or explain its own systematic function within the LAGS materials. Homophones require grammatical or semantic glosses; homographs require phonological glosses. The former might have conflicted with basic concordance notation; the latter was impossible prior to the phonological survey reported in Working Paper #2 of the third series, included in this publication. "The Survey in Deductive Phonetics" helped identify the phonic ranges of contrastive units and support the system described as the Automatic Book Code (ABC) in the first working paper of the same series, "An English Technical Alphabet." The introduction to that series, "A Matrix for Word Geography" explains the relationships among the components of the atlas and anticipates the linkage that unites the parts. This concordance is the central unit of linkage for the fiche/text and shares an interdependent and parallel function with the index of the book/text, the protocols for the tape/text, and file of files for the disk/text. For those reasons, the concordance depends upon the forthcoming index, volume 2 of the

University of Georgia Press publication of the book/text, for graphic clarification.

Homophonous forms include three sets of data. The first consists of nouns, verbs, modifiers, and function words that carry self-evident explanations. For example, homophonous *brake/break*, *pin/pen*, *ten/tin*, *marry/Mary/merry*, *hoarse/horse*, *morning/mourning*, or *heard/herd* require no special notation in the word list. Such pairs are distinguished through spelling. Others, however, need to be disambiguated. Homophonous grammatical forms, such as *done* (preterit, past participle, verb auxiliary, and adverbial), are distinguished in the word list of the index. The *done* forms in "he done it," "he has done it," "he done did it," and "he is done dead," will be appropriately glossed in the index and tabulated according to respective incidence. Homophonous lexical forms, such as *pen* (enclosure or instrument) or *can* (noun or verb) are also glossed and tabulated according to incidence.

Homographic forms are fewer in number, but these require phonological explanations. Here, the graphophonemic ABC distinguishes forms. Some of these include *read* as infinitive <reed> and preterit <red>, *refuse* as verb <räfyooz> and noun <refyooz>, and *wound* as noun <woond/wownd> and verb <bownd>. Ideally, this procedure would extend through all phonemic variants in the word list. For example, a reader would be well served with a fully articulated set of variants, as for *French harp*: <french harp/frinch harp/fraench harp/fre[n]ch harp/frents harp/french (h)arp/french ha(r)p/french ha[r]p/french hawrp>, to list 10 of 23 recorded patterns under that word. However, such notation would delay index publication and obscure descriptive responsibility within the system.

Linkage aims to unite the four LAGS modes--tape, fiche, book, and disk--in

an interdependent descriptive system. The tape/text concept was outlined in Pederson's "Tape/Text and Analogues," *American Speech* 49(1974), 5-23. The fiche/text proceeds from that same notion, as a practical method of transmitting more than 174,500 pages of information in a concise format. The *Basic Materials*, including 129,000 pages of protocol notation (Ann Arbor: University Microfilms International, 1981) and this concordance in 45,500 pages could reach readers in no other way. The book/text is the proposed four volumes published by the University of Georgia Press, initiated by the *Linguistic Atlas of the Gulf States, Volume 1, Handbook* (1986). Plans for the disk/text are outlined in Pederson's "An Electronic Atlas in Microform," the fourth paper in the current series of working papers gathered in the present publication. Here, *linkage* is best understood in the context of the work at hand. We have tried to produce a concordance that is an independently useful research tool. That is to suggest that a student of American literature might find information about a word or phrase in the concordance without reference to any of the other three textual modes. Similarly, a student of lexicography might compare the word list published here with that record in *DARE* or other historical dictionaries of the English language. Or a grammarian, historian, cultural geographer, or geographic linguist might consult the pages of the concordance to confirm a hunch without further study.

We also recognize the practical realities of an extended research project. This program is not only "reader friendly," it is also "writer friendly." This characteristic underscores our dependence upon all the modes of the atlas in the completion of the work. As working papers appear in successive fiche/text publications, so maps not ready for the handbook will appear in the index, the second volume of the UGA Press publication, as reference material that looks ahead to the composition of the legendry, the

third volume of the book/text. In the same way, descriptive work that would refine this concordance to a higher order of elegance might jeopardize the completion of other tasks. For that reason, we offer as much as we can along that line and use our collective energies here to produce a work with a minimum number of mistakes.

Readers will find descriptive elaboration of most concordance entries elsewhere in the collection. With the matrix design in mind, one may begin here and move through the fiche/text back to the tape/text or forward toward the book/text and the disk/text. That ultimate format, a linguistic atlas on a small number of 5.25 diskettes ("floppy disks"), will offer the best we can provide. That text will file materials and programs for sorting and mapping and will give readers the resources to map all indexed LAGS data in whatever ways the programs allow or they see fit. For workers in the LAGS Project, that is the last word in geographic linguistics.

Atlanta, GA

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