

How do discourse markers fit into an integrated account of sociolinguistic identity?

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Third wave variation studies consider sociolinguistic meaning to be constructed in styles – where styles refer to the clustering of social and linguistic variants which comprise the shared repertoire of a community. If styles are what make a community identifiable, to truly understand the relationship between linguistic variants and identity, we need to examine the *range* of social and linguistic factors which construct a given identity. In this paper, I will explore the role of discourse markers (variables which have heretofore largely been neglected in studies of variation) in the construction of speaker identity. In particular, I will consider the level at which these variables can be meaningfully employed as identity resources. Can discourse markers contribute to the construction of ‘northernness’, or is their meaning only salient at the very local level?