

Central Texas Dialect

General Characteristics and Sound Substitutions

Listen to the following for a good example of a central Texas dialect from the International Dialects of English Archive web site:

<http://web.ku.edu/~idea/northamerica/usa/texas/texas2.mp3>

GENERAL FOCUS OF TONE:

This dialect is fairly back-placed and lateral, with comparatively less freedom in the jaw.

Resonance is sometimes nasal, hence the descriptor “Texas twang.”

VOWEL SUBSTITUTIONS:

ɔ goes to au as in *dog, saw, lawyer* *

ɛ goes to ɪ as in *get, when, pencil*

æ goes to æjə as in *had, bath, Nancy* *

ɑɪ goes to ɑ as in *while, size, mine* *

eɪ goes to ʌɪ as in *day, razor, nature*

u goes to ʌu as in *who, goose, noodle* *

ɔə goes to ouə as in *score, bore, Norman* *

CONSONANTS:

r is “hard” or strongly pronounced

t in the medial position goes to d as in: *better, totter, hotter*

ADDITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

* Monophthongs are often diphthongized; and diphthongs are often triphthongized

ɪŋ in the medial position often goes to aŋ as in: *thing, singer, ringing*

ɪŋ in the final position is shortened to ɪn as in: *running, going, thinking*