

## **A Tale of Two Cities: quotatives and other features in London and Paris**

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Multiethnolects are attested in several large cities with sizeable recent immigrant populations, both in Europe (e.g. Berlin and Stockholm) and beyond (for example, in Nairobi). Our current research project focuses on developments among adolescents in London and Paris. In both cities, our main participants live in multi-ethnic working class areas and have friendship networks that include speakers from longstanding indigenous local families ('Anglos' in London, 'Franco-French' in Paris) as well as bilingual speakers of recent immigrant origin, from a wide range of different language backgrounds. In this paper we use the comparative data to address two issues.

First, thanks to a substantial corpus collected in both cities, we compare the emergence of new quotative expressions in French and English: 'similarity' quotatives (BE LIKE in London; *genre, en mode, (faire) style, être comme ça* in Paris) and deictic quotatives (*this is* +speaker in London; *être là* in Paris). For the deictic quotatives, there is evidence in both London and Paris that they initially appear in narratives, where speakers use them for the dramatic re-enactment of actions and states and subsequently of reported sound, thought and speech. As for the similarity quotatives, these appear to be related in both languages to the frequency of the corresponding discourse marker, *like* in English and *genre* in French. Thus in both cities the deictic and similarity quotatives enter the quotative systems in the same way. Our data show that they follow closely comparable grammaticalisation pathways. We use a series of multivariate analyses to assess the degree of grammaticalisation and to determine the effect of sociolinguistic factors on quotative choice.

Secondly, we use this corpus to compare the different effects of language contact in the two cities. Our London data shows that a multiethnolect has developed among adolescent speakers: a variable repertoire of innovative features in all components of language (of which the deictic quotative is one). Innovations are led by the non-Anglo speakers but are also used by Anglos, especially those with highly multi-ethnic friendship groups. In Paris the emergence of a comparable multiethnolect is more doubtful. Instead, non Franco-French speakers use various features typical of vernacular spoken French (such as the new deictic quotative) with a higher frequency than their Franco-French peers and with a higher frequency than attested elsewhere in France. At the same time, features typical of young people of bilingual background appear not to cross the ethnic/social divide and are not used by the Franco-French. We consider the different factors that can explain the different outcomes of language contact in the two cases. These include – but are not limited to – the different sociocultural

contexts in which young people from immigrant backgrounds acquire the language of the host country.