

Pasifika English in New Zealand: The case of *bro'Town*

There is relatively little sociolinguistic research on the varieties of English spoken by Pacific Islanders in New Zealand. The characters in *bro'Town* provide a model of some of the features associated with these varieties. *bro'Town* is a popular animated comedy series that depicts the lives of five teenage boys (four Samoan and one Maori) growing up in suburban Auckland. The characters' identities are constructed on the basis of a number of social stereotypes which are satirized in the appearance and behaviour of the characters as well as in their speech.

Our analysis looks at three of the Samoan characters in the cartoon: 'Dad' Pepelo, and his 14 year old sons, twin brothers Vale and Valea. The study tracks several variables in these characters' speech and addresses the variation between the three characters. The analysis focuses on consonantal features, finding high rates of DH-stopping and TH-fronting, differences in the length of /p/ aspiration between characters and low rates of linking /r/. We also investigate the rhythm of these characters' speech.

An on-line, qualitative analysis looks at several strands of speech from Pepelo, Vale and Valea in greater phonetic detail. This analysis shows how the portrayal of identity in speech relies on the co-occurrence of a wide range of features, and demonstrates the importance of both the frequency and intensity of these features.