

Sound Change in Māori, and the influence of New Zealand English

The MAONZE project has been investigating sound change in Māori, the indigenous language of New Zealand, analysing the speech of three groups of bilingual speakers : 20 Historical Elders , born around 1880s, recorded in the late 1940s, 20 Present Day Elders, born around the 1930s, recording between 2001 and 2007, and 20 Young adults born around the late 1980s, recorded between 2001 and 2007. For most speakers we have recordings of their Māori, and their English. In this talk I will present the sound change that has occurred in Māori in both the Monophthongs and Diphthongs; and show how many of these changes have been caused by the impact of New Zealand English. This English itself has undergone extensive sound change over the last 50 years.

Brief Bio: Dr Catherine Watson is based in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. She has been investigating sound change for over fifteen years, her prime focus has been on Maori and New Zealand English, however she also worked with Jonathan Harrington on the initial analysis of the current British Queen's Christmas broadcast. She is currently on research in study leave in the Institute of Phonetics and Speech Processing, at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich.