1. Record Nr. UNINA9910817416303321 **Titolo** Advances in sociophonetics / / edited by Chiara Celata, Silvia Calamai Amsterdam, Netherlands; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; John Pubbl/distr/stampa Benjamins Publishing Company, , 2014 ©2014 **ISBN** 90-272-7050-3 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (220 p.) Collana Studies in Language Variation, , 1872-9592;; Volume 15 417 Disciplina Grammar, Comparative and general - Phonology Soggetti Language and languages - Variation Dialectology - Research Sociolinguistics Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Description based upon print version of record. Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references at the end of each chapters and index. Nota di contenuto Advances in Sociophonetics; Editorial page; Title page; LCC data; Table of contents; Introduction: Sociophonetic perspectives on language variation; 1. Why this volume?; 2. Setting the stage: Variationism and sociolinguistics; 3. Patterns of sociophonetic variation; 4. Problematic sociophonetics; 5. Acknowledgments; References; Part I. Variation and sociolinguistics: The sociophonetic orientation of the language learner: 1. Introduction; 2. Rejection of parental idiosyncrasy; 2.1 The King of Prussia study; 2.2 Milton Keynes; 2.3 The future in Tok Pisin 2.4 The low back merger in Eastern Massachusetts 2.5 The change of apical to uvular /r/ in Montreal; 2.6 Second vs. third generation in New York City; 2.7 The effect of ethnicity on sound change in Philadelphia; 3. Where ethnicity emerges; 4. Conclusion; References; French liaison and the lexical repository; 1. Introduction: Datum and exemplum approaches in the study of phonological variation; 2. The distributional analysis of French liaison; 3. Results; 3.1 Distributional analysis of liaison types: 3.2 Distributional analysis of liaison consonants

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## Sommario/riassunto

This paper describes the phonetic form, the distribution and the possible functions of ejectives in English and German, proposing that ejectives are on the increase in different varieties in English. The problems of teasing apart the different contributions of allophonic regularity, interactional function, sociophonetic variability and epiphenomenal inevitability in accounting for ejectives in English are discussed. Possible production mechanisms behind ejectives in both languages are explored and doubt is cast on previous epiphenomenal accounts which have ignored the importance of a pulmonic