Vowel Reduction and Merger in Pacific Northwest English

Research Questions:
(1) Does vowel reduction manifest differently in vowels undergoing “change in progress” than in vowels not undergoing change?
(2) How much style-related shift do we see in stable PNWE vowels vs. changing vowels?

1. General Background

1.1 Stabilization across Pacific Northwest English and other dialects

1.2 Differences from Mainstream US English

1.3 Hypotheses

2. Methods

2.1 Experiment I: Participation in the Low-Front Merger

3.0 Results

3.1 Experiment I: Participation in the Low-Front Merger

3.2 Experiment II: Reduction in Stable vs. Changing Vowels

4.0 Overall Summary

- Overall, we find three patterns of separation Figs. 6-8)