

‘Toronto has everything’, ‘Toronto’s got it all’: Ethnolinguistic Dimensions of *have* in Toronto English

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INTRODUCTION*

(1) Variable Realization of *have (to)*: *have* ~ *have got* ~ *got (to)*

Possession:

- a. Toronto **has** everything you could ever want. (70:5)¹
 b. I mean, Toronto’s **got** it all (20:37)

Deontic modality:

- c. You don’t **have to** do everything in the store. (24:9)
 d. You **gotta** do everything. (73:18)

(2) Questions

- a. Are there social dimensions to variation in possession and deontic modality?
 → Canada’s increasing ethnolinguistic diversity
- b. What are the linguistic factors that condition this variation?
 ▪ Are these factors the same for possession and deontic modality?
 ▪ Is the conditioning the same for all ethnic groups?

(3) Social Factor Groups

- *Speaker Number* (59 speakers)
- *Speaker Sex*
- *Ethnic Background (and Age-Group)*:
 Older (40+): British/Irish
 Younger (18-30): British/Irish, Chinese, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Punjabi

LINGUISTIC FACTOR GROUPS

(4) Polarity

not-Negation

- a. And they don’t **have to** worry. (55:28)

no-Negation

- b. You **got no** choice. (88:21)

never

- c. You never **have** weekends to yourself. (74:11)

(5) Sentence Type

Declarative

- a. She’s **got** a boyfriend. (4:1)

Interrogative

- b. Do people **have** dual citizenships? (63:21)

(6) Type of Subject

Noun Phrase

- a. Your brother’s **got** one. (16:4)

Personal Pronoun

- b. He **has** an apartment there. (77:5)

Generic Pronoun

- c. I guess you **gotta** really love chili. (77:24)

(7) Abstractness of Object (possession only)

Concrete

- a. You **have** uh- your own pig. (76:25)

Abstract

- b. We **have** a very liberal immigration policy. (20: 4).

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¹ Examples are identified by speaker number in the Toronto English corpus (Hoffman & Walker 2010) and page number in the transcription.

(8) **Specificity of Object (possession only)**

Specific

a. My mom’s cousin *has* a nephew. (12:3)

Generic

b. Everyone’s *got* worries. (6:10)

Table 1: Overall distribution of variants.

	POSSESSION	DEONTIC MODALITY
Total N:	1,517	672
<i>have</i>	86%	77%
<i>have got</i>	6%	5%
<i>got</i>	8%	19%

ANALYSIS OF LINGUISTIC FACTOR GROUPS

Table 2: Linguistic factors contributing to the occurrence of two variants.

	POSSESSION		DEONTIC MODALITY	
	<i>have</i>	<i>got</i>	<i>have</i>	<i>got</i>
Input:	.885	.049	.802	.158
Polarity				
Negative	.85	.06	.85	.06
Positive	.41	.64	.41	.64
Range:	44	58	44	58
Subject Type				
Generic	.37	.65	.37	.65
Pronoun	.53	.51	.53	.51
NP	.64	.14	.64	.14
Range:	27	51	27	51
Abstractness of Object				
Abstract	.54	.46		
Concrete	.45	.55		
Range:	9	9		

Not selected as significant: Specificity of Object

ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL FACTOR GROUPS

Table 3: Social factors contributing to the occurrence of two variants.

	POSSESSION		DEONTIC MODALITY	
	<i>have</i>	<i>got</i>	<i>have</i>	<i>got</i>
Input:	.896	.049	.803	.156
Ethnic Background				
British/Irish, older	.28	.72	.50	.34
British/Irish, younger	.45	.23	.69	.33
Chinese	.74	.38	.74	.32
Greek	.68	.15	.50	.51
Italian	.27	.75	.25	.72
Portuguese	.82	0%	.23	.73
Punjabi	.54	.63	.58	.50
Range:	55	60	51	41
Speaker Sex				
Female	.68	.31	[.54]	.44
Male	.35	.66	[.47]	.55
Range:	33	35		11

CONCLUSIONS

- evidence for change in apparent time (increase in *have (to)*)
- different variants preferred by each ethnic group
- but parallel linguistic conditioning for both variables and across all ethnic and age groups

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