

Summary

- Folk beliefs and attitudes about language, known as language regard in perceptual dialectology, shape how language is used in a speech community.
- The present study seeks to examine the geographic distribution of perceived "Finnish-ness," "Canadian-ness," and "Yooper-ness" across Michigan's UP.
- Data was obtained from 92 UP residents through hand drawn mental maps.
- Analysis was conducted using ArcGIS 10.4 software.
- Perceived categories were found to be concentrated in different areas, and the degrees of concentration were dependent on whether participants were from MI's UP westside/eastside.

Introduction

BACKGROUND

- In the field of perceptual dialectology, hand drawn mental maps have been used in other regions of the United States [1–3].
- These maps demonstrate the perceptions and attitudes held by nonlinguists toward language variation in a given speech community, also known as language regard [5].
- However, no perceptual dialectology studies have been conducted in Michigan.
- Previous linguistic studies on Michigan's Upper Peninsula (UP) by Rankinen [6, 7] and Remlinger [8] limited to western north-central regions of UP.

PRESENT STUDY

- Michigan's Upper Peninsula is well positioned to examine language regard due to its immigration history, local pride, and proximity to regional influences.
- The present study is part of a larger corpus of UP studies containing speech production, perceptual, and attitudinal data.
- This study aims to examine language regard across the Upper Peninsula through mental maps from 92 participants.

GUIDING RESEARCH QUESTION:

- How do nonlinguists in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, comparing participants from the east- and west-side of the peninsula, perceive the language of their own speech community and those in the surrounding regions?

Methods

PARTICIPANTS

- Lived in Houghton or Marquette counties (Westside), and Luce or Chippewa counties (Eastside).
- Spent no more than 20 percent of their life outside respective county.
- Received at minimum a HS diploma and at maximum a bachelor's degree.

Table 1: Sample design of 92-participant corpus

| REGION | MALES | FEMALES | TOTAL |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Westside | 21 | 21 | 42 |
| Eastside | 19 | 31 | 50 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>40</i> | <i>52</i> | <i>92</i> |

STIMULI

- Presented with a blank map of Michigan and the surrounding regions.
- Indicated on the map where people speak differently by circling or outlining the region.
- Provided label to identify speakers.

PROCEDURES

- The categories examined: "Finnish-," "Canadian-," and "Yooper-ness."
- Analysis of perceived categories were completed using methods by Montgomery and Stoeckle [4] using ArcGIS 10.4 software.

Results 1: Perceived category of "Finnish-ness"

RESULTS 1.1: UP-WIDE

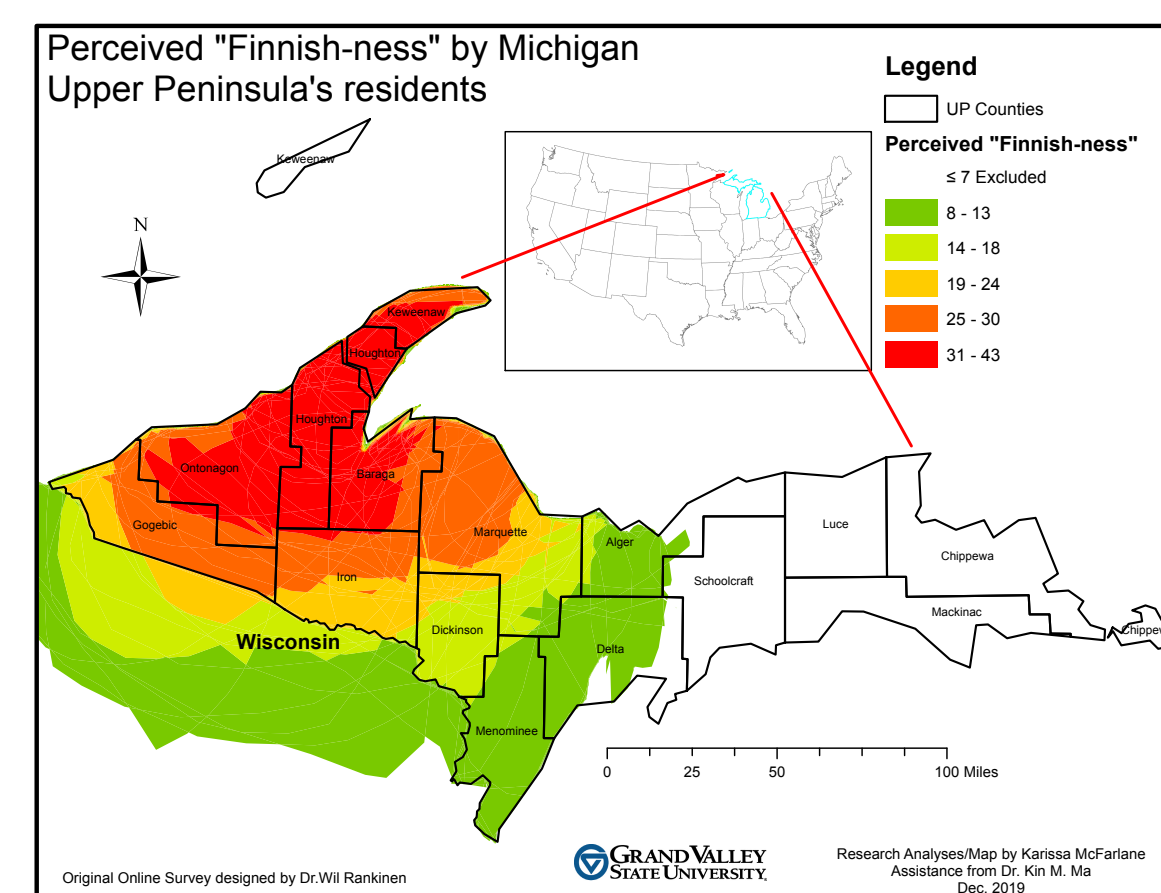
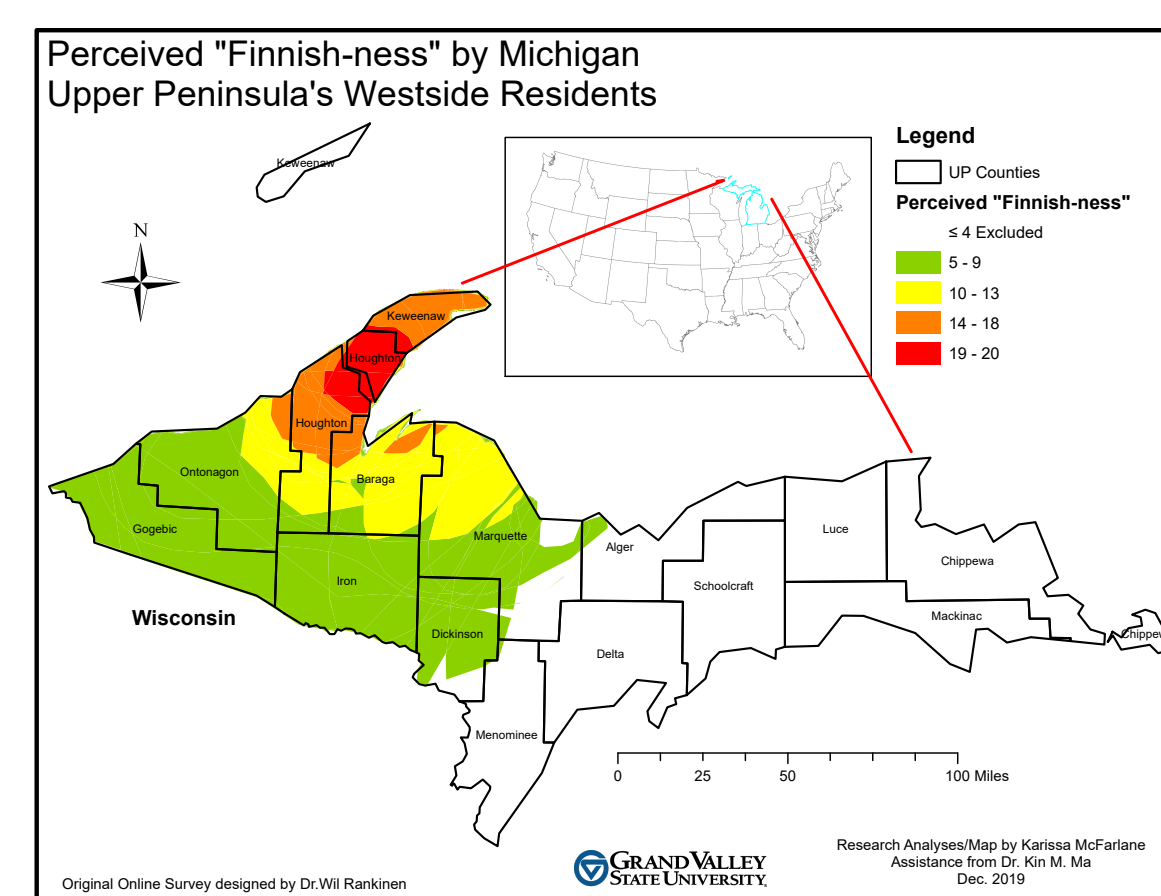


Figure 1: Perceived "Finnish-ness"

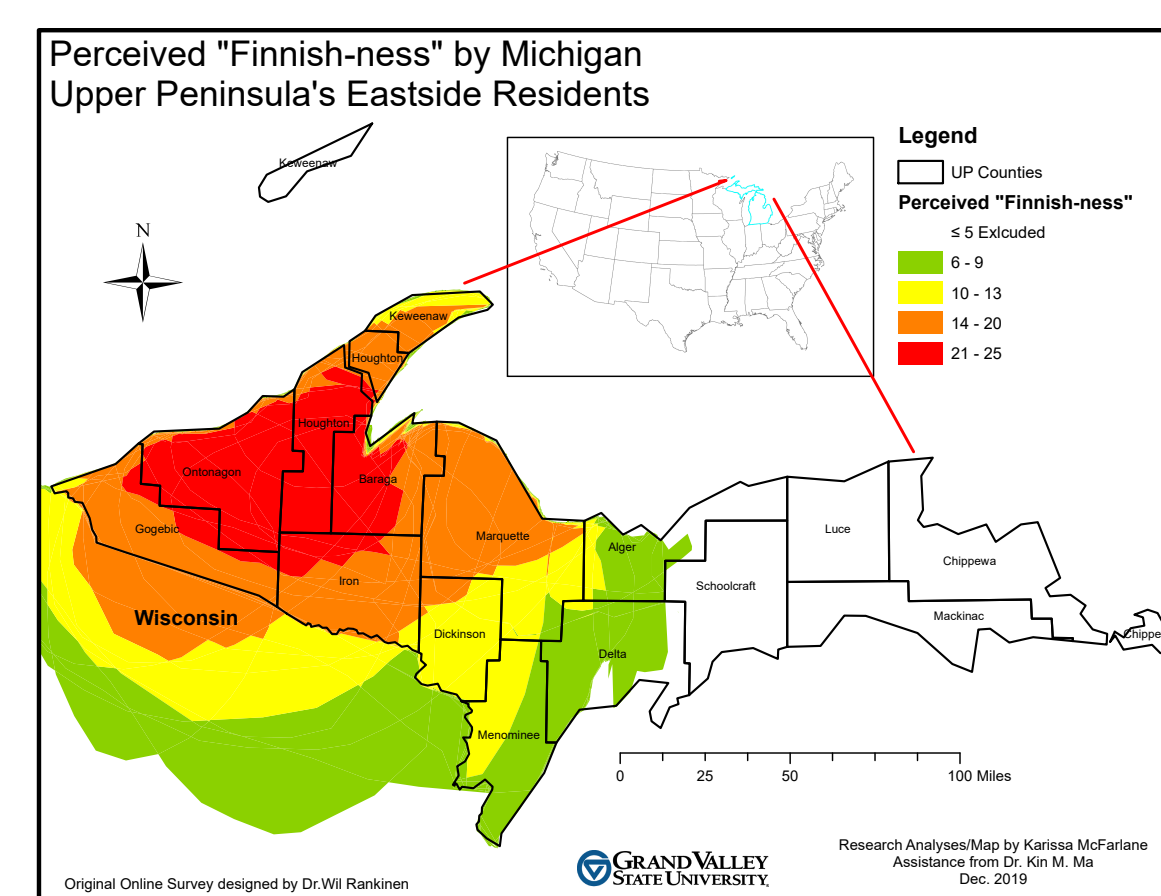
OBSERVATIONS:

- 45 participants indicated a perceived "Finnish"-related category with an associated geographic boundary.
- Boundaries concentrated on the Houghton and Keweenaw Counties, but extends into western UP and northeast WI as well.
- Westside and eastside participants pattern similar, but to different degrees of concentration:
 - Westside - tightly focuses on the Keweenaw.
 - Eastside - loosely focuses on western UP.

RESULTS 1.2: WESTSIDE/EASTSIDE COMPARISON



(a) Westside participants



(b) Eastside participants

Figure 2: Westside/Eastside comparison of perceived "Finnish-ness"

Results 2: Perceived category of "Canadian-ness"

RESULTS 2.1: UP-WIDE

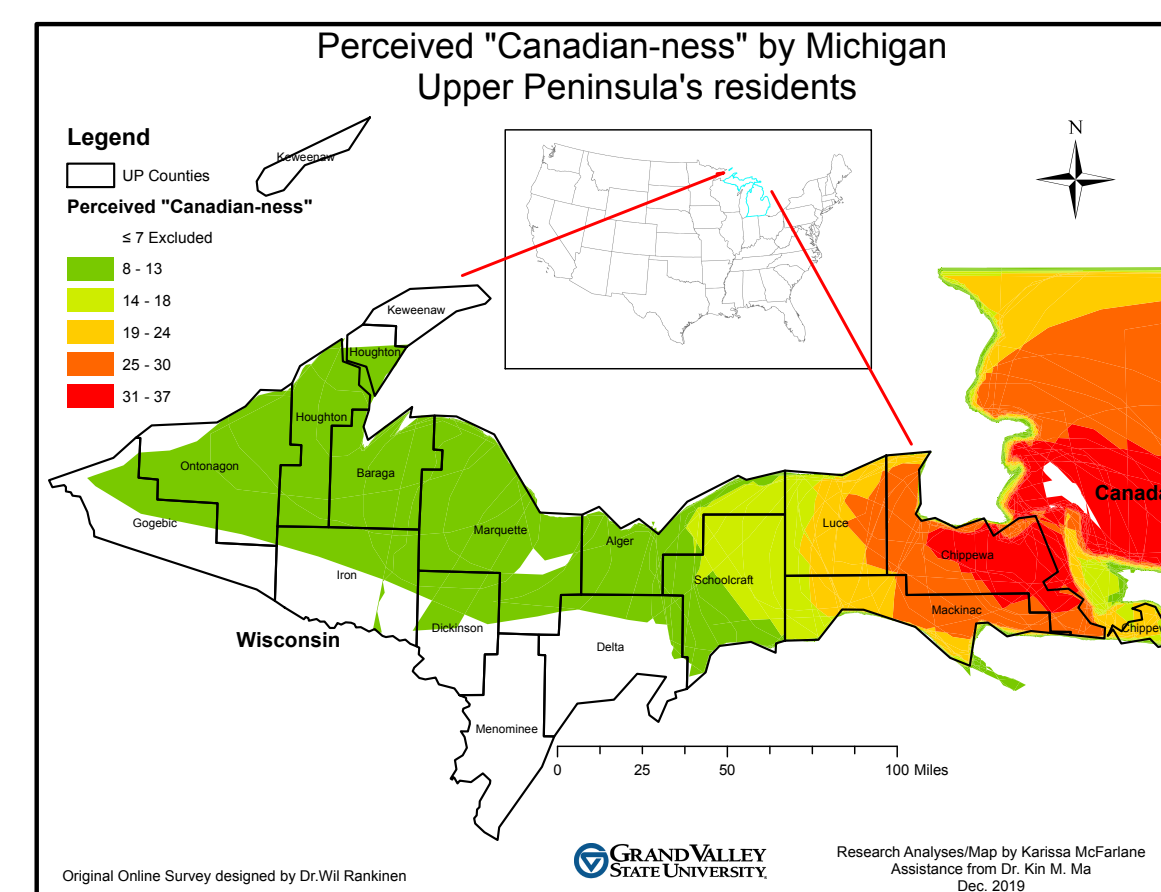
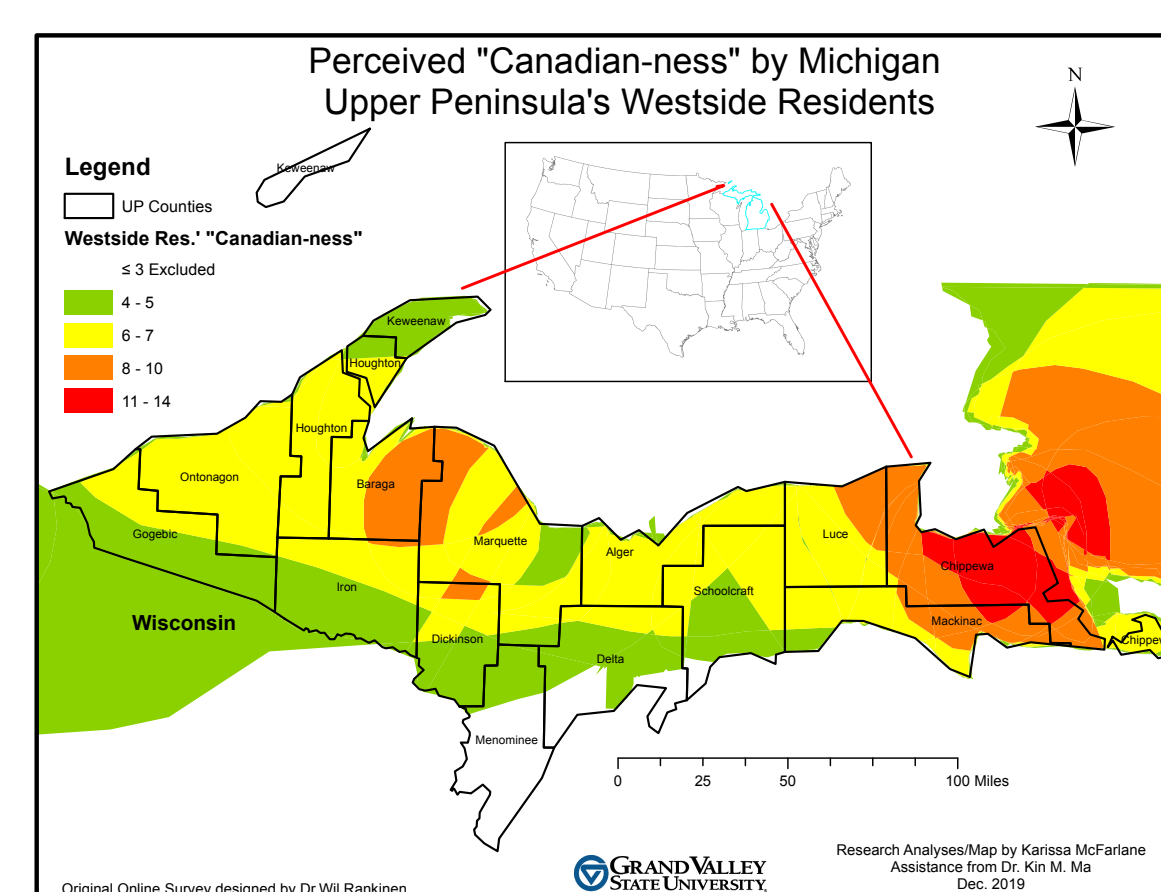


Figure 3: Perceived "Canadian-ness"

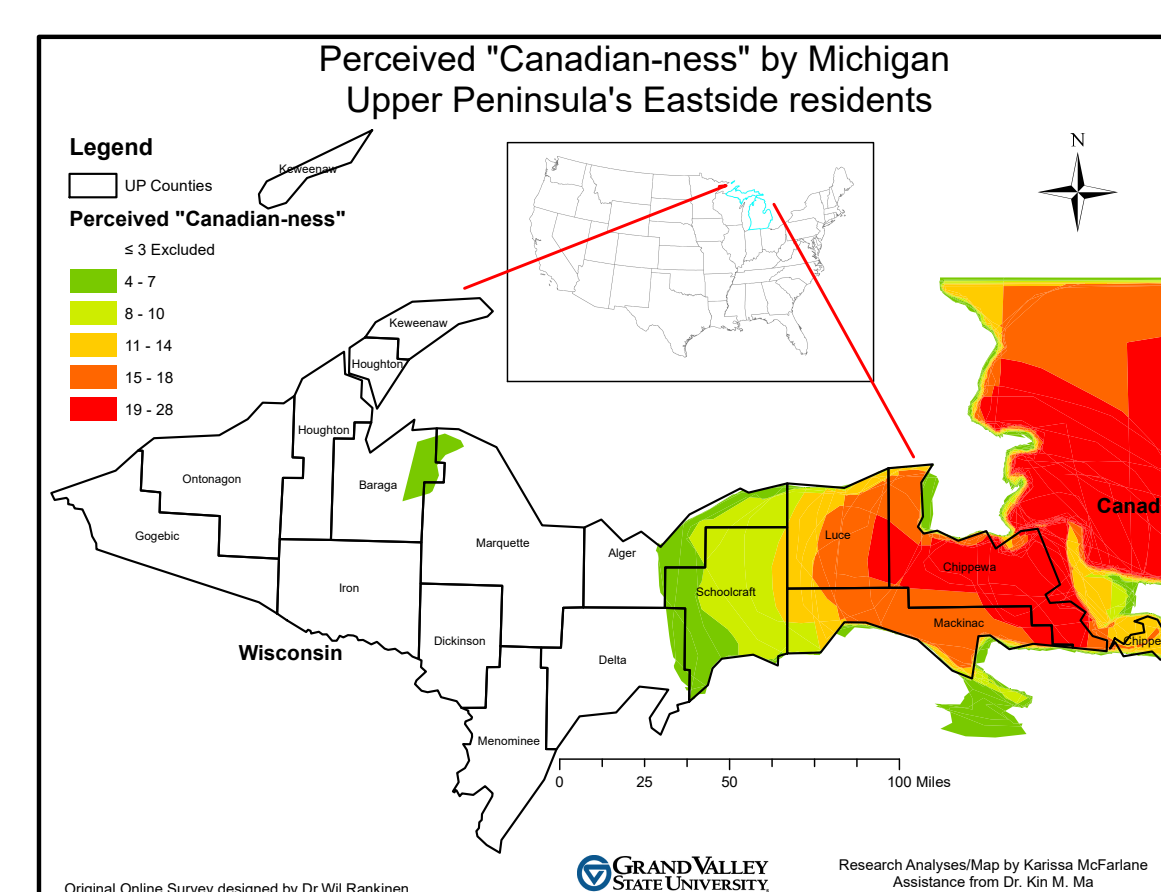
OBSERVATIONS:

- 52 participants indicated a perceived "Canadian"-related category with an associated geographic boundary.
- Concentrated on Chippewa County; extends into Canada and westward into the UP.
- Westside and eastside participants pattern similar, but to different degrees of concentration:
 - Westside - loosely focuses on UP/Canada border.
 - Eastside - tightly focuses on UP/Canada border.

RESULTS 2.2: WESTSIDE/EASTSIDE COMPARISON



(a) Westside participants



(b) Eastside participants

Figure 4: Westside/Eastside comparison of perceived "Canadian-ness"

Results 3: Perceived category of "Yooper-ness"

RESULTS 3.1: UP-WIDE

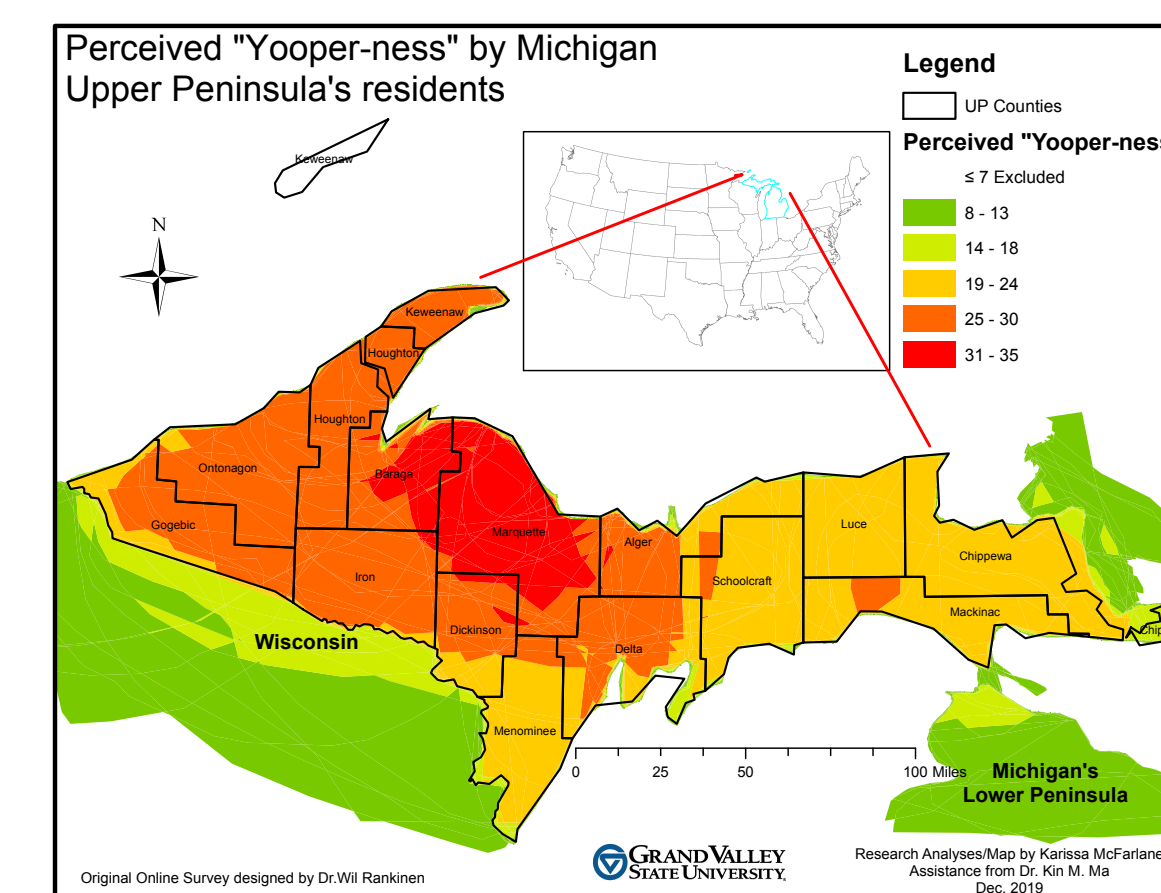
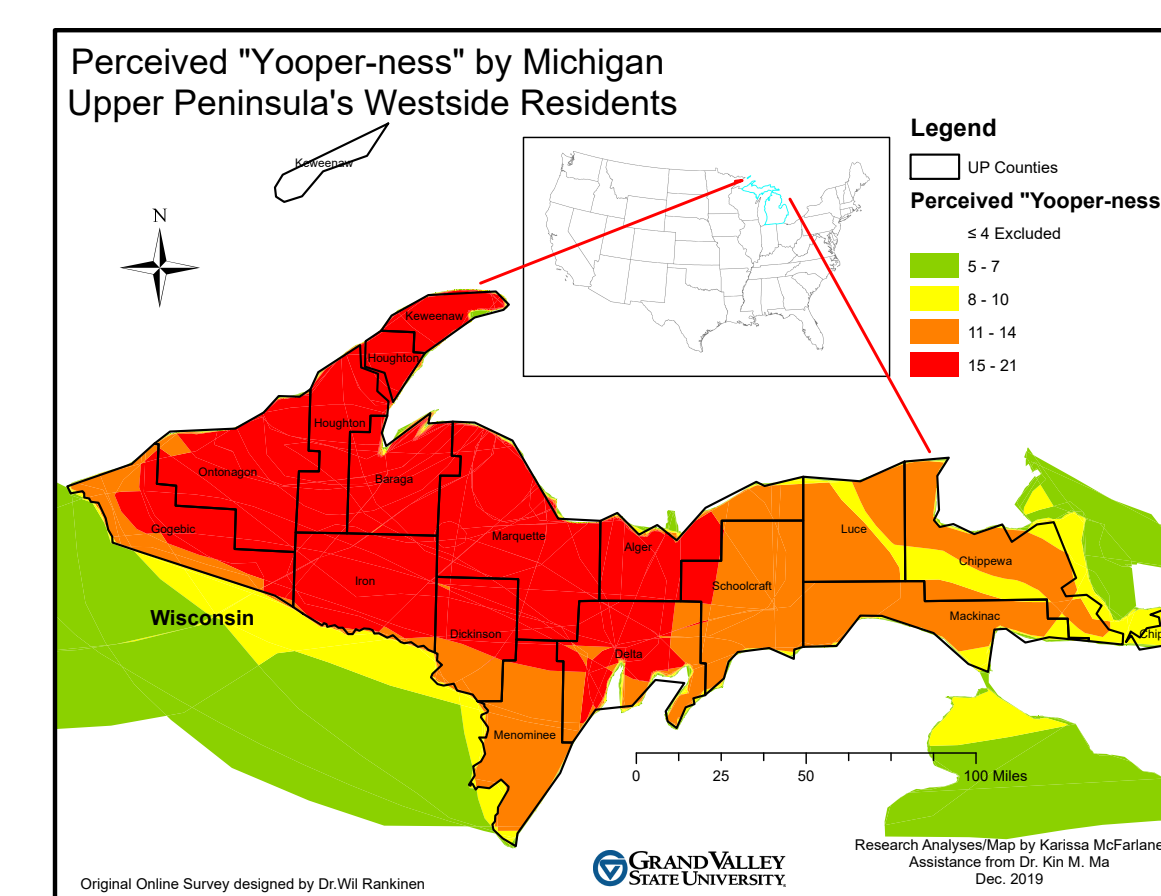


Figure 5: Perceived "Yooper-ness"

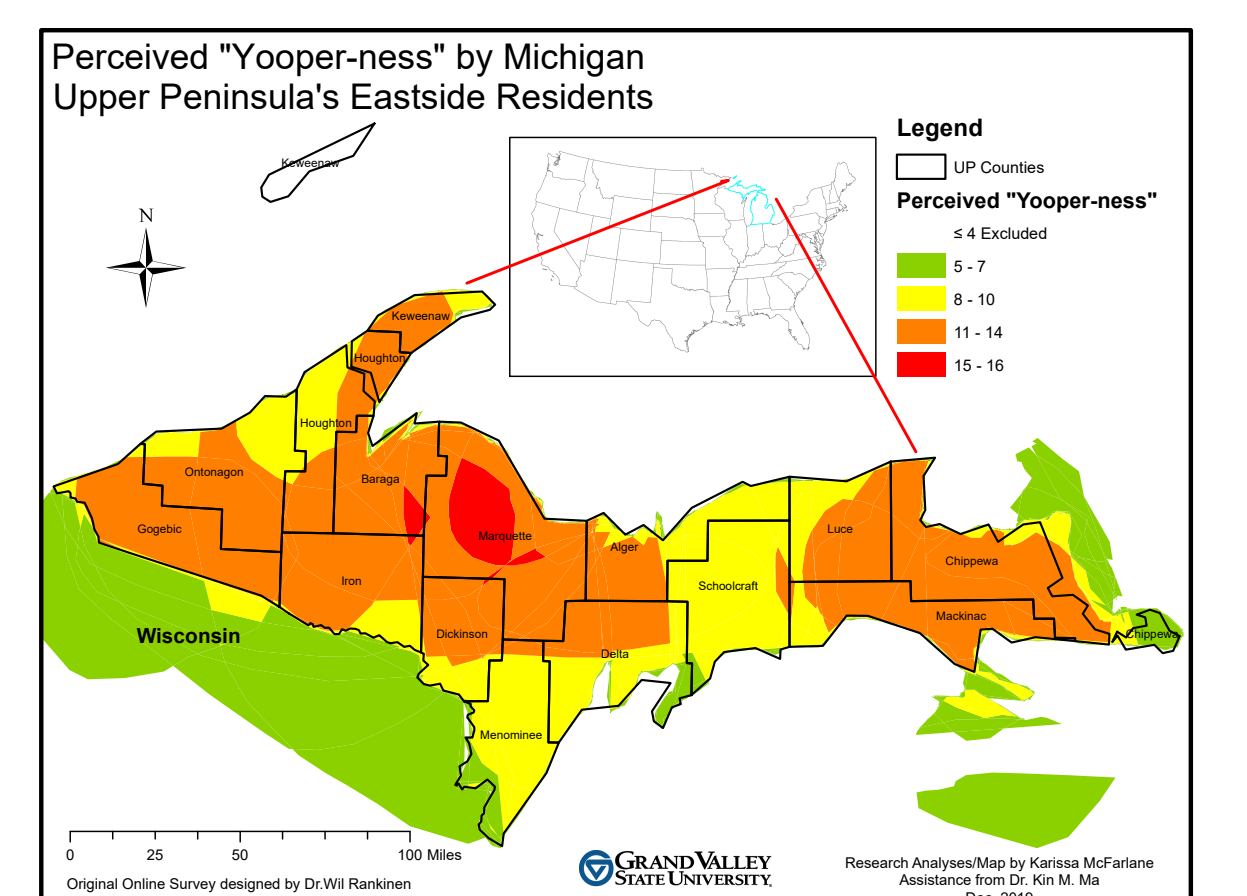
OBSERVATIONS:

- 52 participants indicated a perceived "Yooper"-related category with an associated geographic boundary.
- Concentrated on Marquette County and western UP; extends into northeast WI, Canada, and Lower MI.
- Westside and eastside participants pattern similar, but to different degrees of concentration:
 - Westside - loosely focuses on northwestern and northcentral UP.
 - Eastside - loosely focuses on northcentral UP.

RESULTS 3.2: WESTSIDE/EASTSIDE COMPARISON



(a) Westside participants



(b) Eastside participants

Figure 6: Westside/Eastside comparison of perceived "Yooper-ness"

Discussion

- Participants exhibit a clear recognition of a Finnish-heritage influence on UP English.
 - 'Finnish-ness' is a salient marker of UP identity [8].
 - West-side participants appear to believe this Finnish speech community is primarily located in the Keweenaw Peninsula, which is supported by but more restrictive than census data suggests [9].
- Canadian influences are perceived to be originating from the UP/Canada border.
 - However, Westside UP participants perceive a Canadian influence in the western regions of the peninsula as well (while the Eastside participants do not).
 - Perhaps, this is associated with perceptions of sounding "Canadian" from outsiders.
- Influences originating within the UP are perceived to extend into neighboring regions.
 - Perhaps, indicative of strong linguistic security present in this internally-focused speech community.
- Future research should examine the mental maps of UP speech communities along the WI/MI border and in the southcentral and southeastern areas of the peninsula.

Selected References

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