

# Variation in African American Language: Th-Stopping, Non-Rhoticity, & Alveolar vs Velar Nasal

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## Introduction

- This study further analyzes 1966 Bengt Loman Tapes looking at th-stopping, alveolar vs. velar nasal, and non-rhoticity
- These tapes contain conversations among 3 children
- The purpose of this study is to find data regarding how social factors impact a Black child's speech
- The study was conducted using auditory coding

## Demographics

Speaker	Age	Grade	Sex	Parent Origins	Conversation	Relationship
MJ	10	4	Male	Virginia	2: Recording (dcl0020a)	Acquaintances (conversation was facilitated through a game)
JD	11	6	Female	North Carolina		
AP	10	4	Female	Virginia	3: Recordings (dcl0031a) & (dcl0033a)	Best Friends

## Conclusion

- Each speaker presents African American Language differently in their own speech; however, this could always change over time as people are bounded different social constraints as they age.
- JD's role in these conversations is particularly interesting because of the constant shift between her usage of Standardized American Language and African American Language. While we don't know specifically if this is because of the lack of data regarding her conversation with MJ, because she is female, or because she is older; we can make several judgements around these variables.
- There were also some similarities found between MJ and AP and we are unsure if that is due to their age and grade similarities or their parent origins.
- Due to the many variables presented in this study it is hard to pinpoint exactly why a speaker may speak a certain way, but this data can provide insight on sociolinguistics now and in the future.

## Acknowledgements

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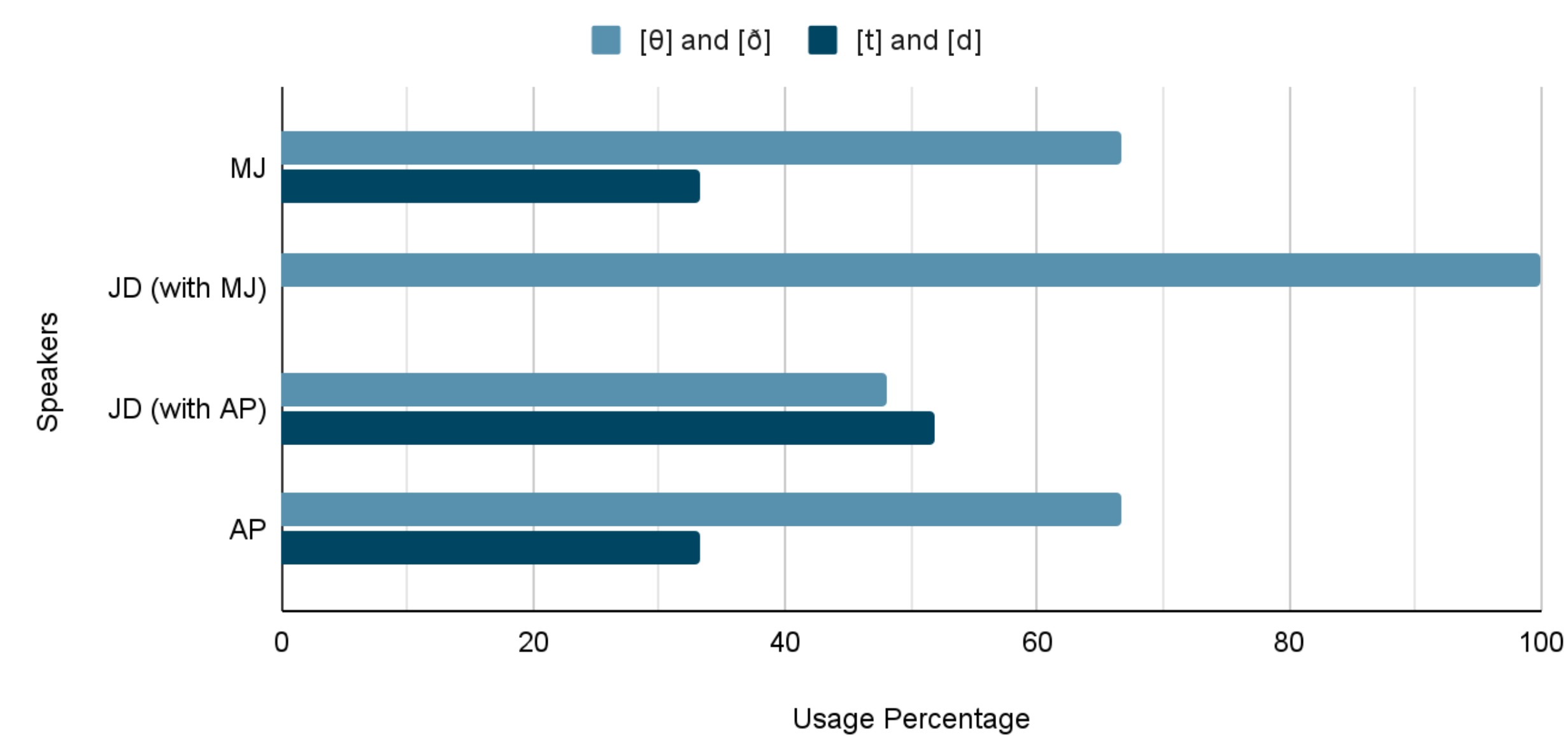
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## Th-Stopping

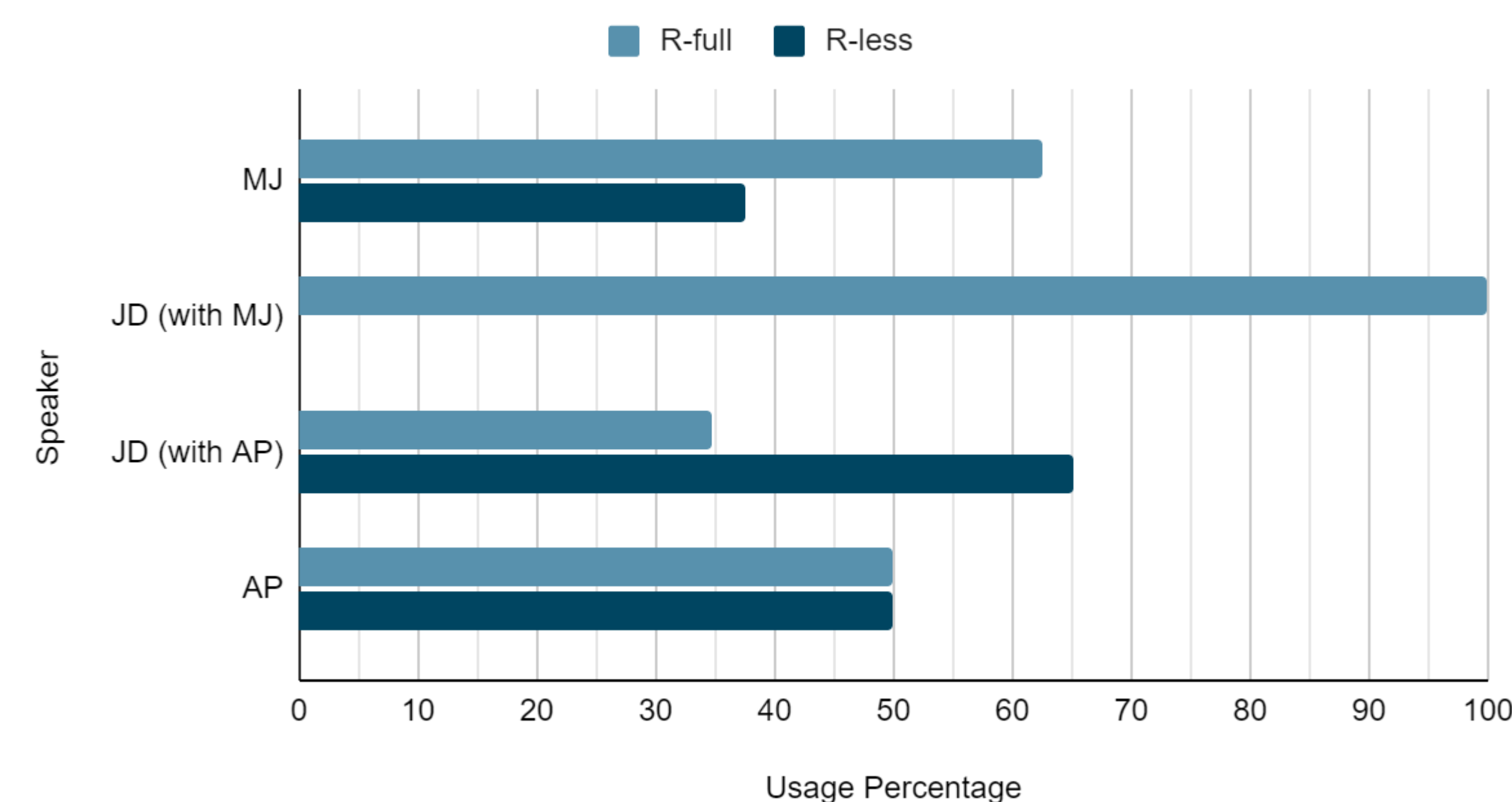
### Th-Stopping



- MJ and AP both demonstrated a preference in stopping words that began with the [θ].
- JD was more variable in her TH-stopping with AP, preferring to stop. Directly opposed to her never stopping when speaking with MJ.
- This variance could be the result of JD speaking with a boy that she is not as close to or due to the volume of words presented when she spoke with the two parties. 5 with MJ, 79 with AP.

## Non-Rhoticity

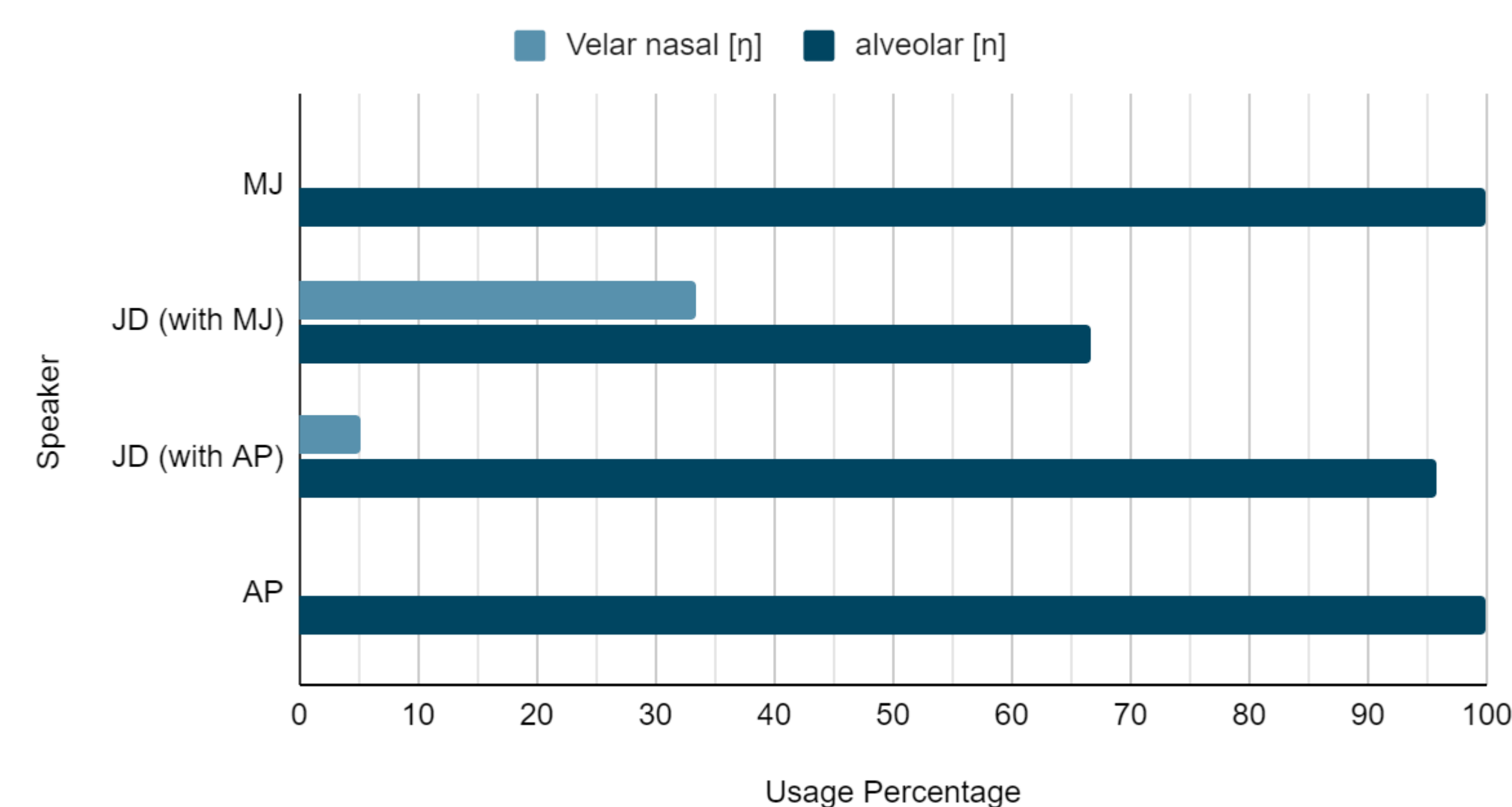
### Non-Rhoticity



- MJ demonstrated a preference in R-fullness in words that contained an r following the vowel [e] as seen in "carry," "pair," and "there." The correlation to R-lessness was found in words where the vowel [ɪ] occurs as seen in "your," and "afford."
- AP showed a pattern in being R-full in words where the R was followed by another sound and R-less when the word ended in R.
- JD was R-full in her conversation with MJ; however, she only had two instances of R. In her conversation with AP, JD only tended to be R-full in words containing the vowel [ɪ].

## Alveolar vs Velar Nasal

### Alveolar vs Velar Nasal



- Each speaker showed a preference in using the alveolar [n]. There were no specific correlations found in the words.
- JD demonstrated another shift to African American Language being more prominent in her speech when speaking to AP.