## CONTENTS

L)	ST O	F FIGUR	ES AND TABLES	íх
PF	EFAC	E AND A	CKNOWLEDGMENTS	хí
ı.	INT	RODUCTIO	ис	1
2,	LING	UISTIC	DIVERGENCE: THE EVIDENCE OF BAILEY AND MAYNOR	6
	2.1	THE T	WO BRAZOS VALLEY FEATURES	6
		2.1.1.	The Syntactic-Semantic Feature be2	6
		2.1.2	Postvocalic /r/	36
	2.2.	THE F	RONTING OF BACK VOWELS	47
		2.2.1	. Thomas (1987, 1988b) on /o/ Fronting in	
			Wilmington, North Carolina	<b>5</b> 0
		2.2.2.	California /o/ Fronting	58
	2.3.	CONCLU	USION	62
3.	CONC	ERNING	OTHER STUDIES IN SUPPORT OF THE DIVERGENCE HYPOTHESIS	66
	3.1.	DIVERG	SENCE CLAIMS FOR PHILADELPHIA WHITE VERNACULAR CHANGES	69
	3.2.	DIVERG	ENCE CLAIMS BASED ON CHANGES IN PHILADELPHIA BEV:	
		NARR	ATIVE -s	79
	3.3.	PERCEP	TUAL STUDIES AND OTHER ARGUMENTS	91
		3.3.1.	The Philadelphia Vowel-Perception Study	91
		3.3.2.	The Texas "Speech Identification Task"	94
		3.3.3.	Samana	97
		3.3.4.	Other Possibly Divergent Features: Multiple Modals,	
			Verbal -s, /θ/ Realization	101
	3.4.	CONCLU	SION	114
	CONV	ERGENT	FEATURES IN WEV AND BEV	116
	4.1.	TWO FE	ATURES FROM WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA	118
		4.1.1.	Final Consonant Cluster Simplification	118
		4.1.2.	Embedded Yes/No Questions	121

4.2. VAUGHN-COOKE (1987)	135	
4.3. SOME OTHER CANDIDATES FOR CONVERGENT FEATURES	142	
4.3.1. Final Unstressed Vowels	143	
4.3.2. More on Copulation	144	
4.3.3. Quotative go 'say'	146	
4.3.4. The get Passive	149	
4.3.5. The Merger of [1] and [C] Before Nasals	152	
4.3.6. Some "Minor" Convergent Features	158	
4.3.7. Edwards' (1988) Detroit Study	160	
4.4. FURTHER POSSIBILITIES: VOCALIZATION OF /1/	162	
5. THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS	180	
5.1. CONCLUSIONS	180	
5.2. LINGUISTIC PROFIT	183	
5.3. WHAT IS CAUSING THE DIVERGENCE HYPOTHESIS?	187	
5.4. THE MYTH OF THE TRUE VERNACULAR	198	
5.5. A FINAL NOTE ON FIELD METHODS	200	
REFERENCES		