

# Ripping open the envelope of variation:

## Stative HAVE (GOT) & auxiliary-/negative-contraction in British English



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### 1. Stative possession

HAVE and HAVE GOT are in variation as markers of stative possession, e.g. *I have a car* vs. *I have got a car*.

Under negation, the variation becomes more complicated:

		DO-support	Auxiliary- or Negative-contraction
HAVE	I don't have any money	Yes	n/a
	I've not any money	No	Aux-c
	I haven't any money	No	Neg-c
HAVE GOT	I've not got any money	No	Aux-c
GOT	I haven't got any money	No	Neg-c

This has arisen due to a series of historical changes:

c. 15th century – DO-support emerged but not initially used with statives (Warner 2005)

c. 16th century – HAVE GOT introduced as alternative to stative HAVE (Lorenz 2016)

19th century – DO-support became possible with stative HAVE (Hundt 2015)

DO-support is reportedly increasing in present-day British English (Trudgill et al. 2002), as is HAVE GOT (Tagliamonte 2003), but in negative contexts these are incompatible:

\**I don't have got any money*

Some have suggested that HAVE GOT is favoured in negative contexts in British English (Noble 1985), but others find the opposite (Fehringer & Corrigan 2015).

What is the state of the variation under negation?

### 2. Research questions

- ❖ If DO-support and HAVE GOT are on the rise, what is the current state of stative possessive variation under negation (where these two forms are incompatible)?
- ❖ How has the syntactic status of HAVE as an auxiliary (allowing contraction) or lexical verb (taking DO-support) changed over time?

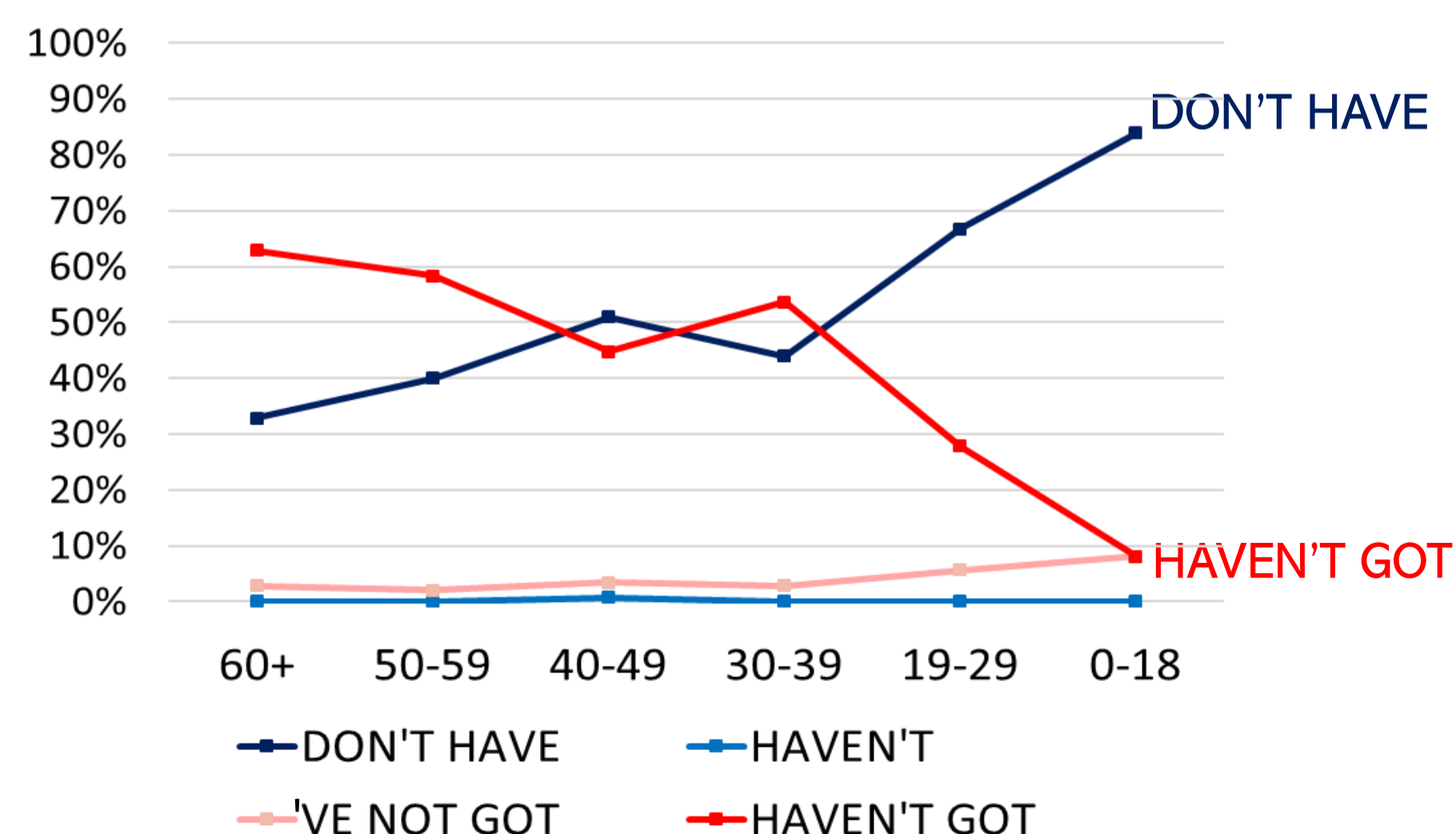
### 3. Methodology

Spoken British National Corpus 2014 (Love et al. 2017):

- ❖ Informal spoken conversation from 2012-16
- ❖ Sampled for conversations with 2 speakers of a native dialect of British English within the BNC “core set” = 2.5-million-word sample
- ❖ Extracted all instances of DON'T HAVE and HAVE NOT (GOT) including contracted forms. Excluded non-statives, past tense, questions and false starts.

### 4. Results

In contexts where aux-/neg-contraction are interchangeable:



Two independently reported findings from the literature:

- (1) **Stative possessives:** HAVE is used at higher rates with NP subjects than pronouns (Tagliamonte et al. 2010)
- (2) **Aux-/Neg-contraction:** Aux-c is used at higher rates with pronoun subjects than NPs (Hiller 1987)

**Hypothesis:** Higher % of HAVE with NPs in (1) is due to NPs resisting aux-c in (2). To test, extracted negative indefinites (structurally similar to affirmatives), e.g. *he has no time* :

		HAVE		HAVE GOT		% of subject tokens where aux-c is impossible
		'VE NO	HAVE NO	'VE GOT NO	HAVE GOT NO	
Pro	Aux-c possible	13.9%	36.1%	49%	1%	3.3% (Total N=306)
	Aux-c impossible	-	90%	-	10%	
NP	Aux-c possible	0%	50%	50%	0%	50% (Total N=8)
	Aux-c impossible	-	100%	-	0%	

Hypothesis supported: HAVE is used more with NPs because NPs tend to prohibit contraction and HAVE is rarely contracted (in contrast to HAVE GOT).

### 5. Conclusion

- ❖ DON'T HAVE increasing; HAVE increasingly lexical
- ❖ Status of HAVE as lexical leads to greater use of HAVE in contexts where aux-c is restricted
- ❖ “Ripping open” the typical envelope of variation allows us to explain observations made independently for separate linguistic variables and see their interaction

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