



University  
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

Notice of the Final Oral Examination  
for the Degree of Master of Arts

of

**NICOLE HILDEBRAND-EDGAR**

BA (University of Victoria, 2014)

**“Creaky Voice: An Interactional Resource for Indexing Authority”**

Department of Linguistics

Tuesday, August 2, 2016

10:00 A.M.

David Turpin Building

Room A144

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Alexandra D’Arcy, Department of Linguistics, University of Victoria (Supervisor)

Dr. Sonya Bird, Department of Linguistics, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Robert J. Podesva, Department of Linguistics, Stanford University

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Michele Wiebe, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

## **Abstract**

This project explores the social meaning potential of creaky voice using a third wave variationist approach in order to uncover what motivates speakers to deploy this vocal quality. Intraspeaker variation in the use of creak is quantitatively and qualitatively examined in case studies of one male and one female individual who come from a similar social group. In recordings from a range of casual settings, both the male and female speaker are found to use creak at similar rates, for similar purposes. However, creak is found to vary across social settings: the greater the speakers' self-reported intimacy with their interlocutors, the lower the frequency of creak. This suggests that creaky voice is used for interactional functions, and is conditioned by conversational context. Qualitative discourse analysis of instances of creak further reveals that it has a high frequency of co-occurrence with linguistic features used for epistemic stancetaking. I suggest that creak is an interactional resource available for taking an authoritative position in interaction, especially in situations where speakers feel less intimately connected to their interlocutors.