## WHEN VERY INTENSE IS NOT REALLY SO INTENSE

Introduction

## Analysis of Survey Results

The survey questions are designed so as to cover a wide range of linguistic utterances. Questions 2 and 9 of the survey function as control items, items without true choice (Section D under

Summing up

Hence, i

Language needs constantly need to be updated; the words that are being used do not sufficiently convey the intensity of a situation.

(B)

respondents checked the letters She is very looking forward to the party this weekend, That is very not what I imagined Halloween to be,

material in ing form] and [be + intensifier + not (negation)] structures. These questions were

differences, if any. As the gender component was subsequently eliminated from our project, these questions doubled as control items in the survey to ensure that the participants were not checking off their answers unthinkingly or mechanically if they perceived themselves to b

ight be constituted: economic status, age and educational level being just some options. Age-grading in choice of intensifiers might also be an area of research.

ould

Could it be the British loody ? absolutely ? Or even pretty

Or could it be

are chosen in Canada instead of any of the other intensifiers. Language is constantly changing and at any moment, the process of recycling and replacement is taking place. Even at this point in time, a replacement could be in the works. Some s, indicating that there are other terms which they could be using already.

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(2009). Peaks Beyond Phonology: Adolescence, Incrementation, And Language Change. *Language*, 85(1), 58-108. DOI: 10.1353/lan.0.0084 we would appreciate your participation in this survey. Your participation is completely k your name, but we do ask for some

general information about you.

Gender: M / F Age: Under 18 18-24 25-34 35-44 Over 45

Nationality: Canadian Non-Canadian (I have spent \_\_\_\_\_years in Canada)

In each of the following questions, select the utterance which you are *most likely* to use in your *spoken* speech. There are no right answers! We are trying to figure out what Canadians actually say.

1(a) That is so cool!

- (b) That is *very* cool!
- (c) That is *really* cool!

2(a) That is *really* not what I imagined Halloween to b e

8(a) This class is *so*, so boring.

- (b) This class is *very*, very boring.
- (c) This class is *really*, really boring.

9(a) She is *really* looking forward to the party this weekend.

- (b) She is very looking forward to the party this weekend.
- (b) She is *so* looking forward to the party this weekend.

10(a) Be patient! The bus will be here very soon.

- (b) Be patient! The bus will be here really soon.
- (c) Be patient! The bus will be here so soon.

