

Hughes A., Trudgill P.: English Accents and Dialects (An Introduction to Social and Regional Varieties of English in the British Isles), 3rd ed., Arnold, 1996.

Wells, J.C.: Accents of English (3 vol.: Introduction; The British Isles; Beyond the British Isles), CUP, 1982.

English Accents and Dialects (Hughes/Trudgill)

DIALECT - differences of grammar and vocabulary

ACCENT - varieties of pronunciation

RP - 'received pronunciation' (received - 19th c.: 'accepted in the best society')

It is still the accent of those in the upper reaches of the social scale in terms of education, income, profession or title. It is largely perpetuated through public schools and remains the most prestigious accent in Britain (Note: research has shown, for example, that RP university lecturers are considered 'more intelligent' by English pupils aged 16-18 than speakers of certain regional accents).

Although RP originates in the speech of London and the surrounding area, it is not the accent of any region, so it is impossible to tell (on the basis of pronunciation) where an RP speaker comes from.

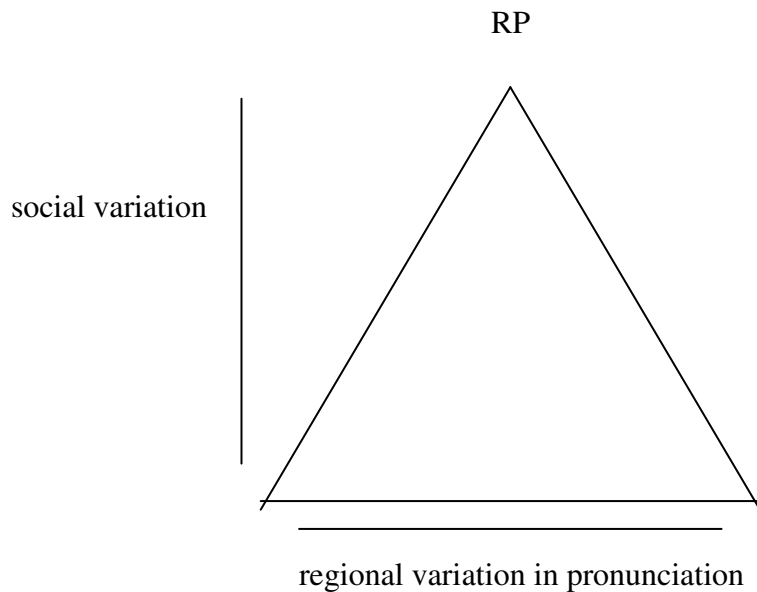
Only about 3 percent of the population in England speak RP. However, it is the most widely understood accent in Britain, because of its use on radio and television. It is also the most thoroughly described.

All other English speakers in Britain have some form of regional accent, referred to in very general terms as 'northern English', 'Welsh', 'Scottish' etc. People at the bottom of the social scale speak with the most obvious (the broadest) regional accents. The relationship between the two extremes (RP and broad regional accents) can be represented in the form of a triangle (Transparency: below).

The relationship between accent and social scale can be illustrated with figures for h-dropping in items like 'house, hat' etc.:

Upper-middle class: 12%
Lower-middle class: 28%
Upper working class: 67%
Middle working class: 89%
Lower working class: 93%

Note that people who climb the social scale, generally tend to modify their accent in the direction of RP. This often leads to 'hypercorrection' (e.g. 'cushion' pronounced with /ʌ/).



Grammatical and Lexical Variation

The model dialect in Britain and Ireland is Standard English. It is the dialect of educated people, used in writing, education in schools at all levels, and used on radio and television.

Just as in the case of accents, close relationship can be observed also between dialect / social class, e.g. for non-standard 3rd p.sg. without 's'; survey in Norwich (East Anglia):

Upper middle class 0%
 Lower-middle class: 29%
 Upper working class: 75%
 Middle working class: 81%
 Lower working class: 97%

On the basis of (relatively small) regional variation within the standard dialect, SE is further divided into Standard English English (England and Wales), Standard Scottish English and Standard Irish English).

Compare for example: They didn't have a good time. (SEE) / They hadn't a good time. (SSE)

There is also some variation within SEE, e.g.:

SOUTH

I haven't got it.
She gave it to the man.
I want it washed.

NORTH

I've not got it.
She gave it the man.
I want it washing.

Grammatical differences between non-standard British dialects and Standard English

1. Multiple negation

Most English dialects: I didN'T have NO dinner. She couldN'T get NONE Nowhere.

Other aspects of negation

NO / any He went out without NO shoes on.

AIN'T / aren't, isn't, am not I ain't coming. It ain't there. We ain't going.

AIN'T / aux. haven't, hasn't I ain't done it. He ain't got it.

I AREN'T, I AMN'T / I'm not

Scottish dialects: He's NO coming. I've NAE /ne/ got it. I canNAE go.

2. Past tense of irregular verbs

see/seen/seen or see/see/seen, give/give/give, come/come/come, go/went/went,
write/writ/writ, draw/drawed/drawed

DO: grammatical distinction for the past tense - full verb p.t. DONE, aux. p.t. DID

E.g.: You DONE lots of work, DIDn't you?

NEVER as past tense negative

I NEVER done it. (= I didn't do it.) I NEVER! (= I didn't!)

3. Present tense verb forms

The absence of 3rd p.sg. 's': She LIKE him. He DON'T want it.

'-s' in all persons (e.g. south Wales): I LIKES it. We GOES home. You THROWS it.

4. Relative pronouns

Standard English: WHO (humans), WHICH (non-humans), THAT (both)

Non-standard dialects, e.g.:

That was the man WHAT/WHICH/AS/AT/ done it. That was the man done it.

WHOSE / WHAT + det. That's the man WHAT HIS son done it.

5. *Personal pronouns*

ME / US (NE English): Do US a favour.

YOU / (eg. Yorkshire) informal, sg THOU , formal and/or plural YOU

Strong / weak forms: YOU/EE, HE/ER (subject), 'N (object), SHE/ER, WE/US, THEY / 'M, e.g.:

YOU wouldn't do that, would EE?

WE wouldn't do that, would US?

6. *Reflexive pronouns*

Following 'myself, yourself': HISSELF, ITSELF, THEIRSELVES

7. *Comparatives and superlatives*

MORE + -ER: She's MORE roughER than he is.

MOST + -EST: He's the MOST roughEST. (cf. Shakespeare: The most unkindest cut of all.)

8. *Demonstratives*

THOSE /THEM, (Scottish dialects) THEY - Look at THEM / THEY animals!

9. *Adverbs*

Most non-standard dialects: no distinction between formally related adj. and adv., eg. slow/slowly: He ran SLOW. They done it very NICE. (Also: He'll do it very GOOD.)

10. *Unmarked plurality*

Nouns of measurement: a hundred POUND, twenty MILE, five FOOT (cf. standard 'five foot' or 'five feet')

11. *Prepositions of place*

It was AT London (=in). He went UP the park (=to). I got OFF OF the bus (=off the bus).

12. *Lexical features*

No distinction between TEACH/LEARN, BORROW/LEND:
(the title of a book on Scouse: Lern yerself Scouse)

They don't LEARN you nothing. Can I LEND your bike?

('wrong' - a social rather than linguistic judgment)

Some idiomatic expressions from Lern Yerself Scouse:

I don know a blind werd e says.

(= I don't understand him.)

Give yer chin a rest. / Purra zipper on.

(= Shut up.)

Ee's got both legs in one knicker.

(= He's playing (football) badly.)

I avent da a road through me fer a week.

(= I am constipated)

ACCENT - varieties of pronunciation ('RP')

RP - received pronunciation (19th c.: 'accepted in the best society')

To many English speakers it sounds 'affected'

The upper classes (education, income, profession, title)

Origins: the speech of London

Only about 3% of the English population, but: thoroughly described

Regional variation

Relationship between accent / social scale, e.g. 'h dropping' in Bradford (Yorkshire):

hat /æʔ/

Upper-middle class 12%

Lower working class 93%

Regional Accent Differences

1 The vowel /ʌ/

- does not occur in northern accents and Midlands (/ʊ/ has been retained instead)

The same pronunciation of put/putt, could/cud; also rhyming of: good/blood, hood/mud

Exception: some words with /ʌ/ in RP have /ɒ/ in northern accents: e.g. one, none, tongue

Many northern speakers have /u:/ for RP /ʊ/ e.g. in look, took, cook, distinguishing between e.g. book/buck in a different way from RP speakers, i.e. /u:- ʊ/

Many speakers in Wales, western England, Midlands use the schwa for both RP /ə/ and /ʌ/, e.g. in 'butter, another'

2 The vowels /æ/ and /ɑ:/

In the south of England, the vowel /æ/ was lengthened and retracted to /ɑ:/

a) in some words before voiceless fricatives (e.g. 'path, laugh, grass'; but not in e.g.: 'daffodil, Catherine, maths, gas, mass etc.)

b) in some words before n,m+C (e.g. 'plant, dance, branch, demand, example'; but not in e.g.: 'pant, romance, mansion, band, camp')

Notice also variability in RP for: 'photograph, plastic, transfer' etc.

In the Midlands and north of England, /æ/ has been retained. In most northern areas it is pronounced as a short front open V [a] and stands for both RP /æ/ and /ɑ:/ in the words above. /ɑ:/ is pronounced, however, in words with mute l/r, e.g. 'palm, part', and also e.g. in 'can't, banana' etc.

Some Welsh and Irish accents (also many Australian accents) have

-/ɑ:/ for words under a) ('path')

-/æ/ for those under b) ('dance')

Scottish and Northern Irish accents have no /ɑ:/ at all, and do not distinguish e.g. between palm/Pam. Depending on the accent in question, /æ/ is realized as [æ], [a], or [ɑ].

3 The vowel /ɪ/ in final position

E.g.: city, money, coffee; unstressed 'me, he, we'

In the south and NE of England, parts of Midlands and in the south of Ireland, it is pronounced as [i]

Scottish accents typically have [e], e.g. 'hazy' /'heze/

Most of NE accents have [ɪ]

4 Vowels /u:/ and /ɔ:/

Scottish and Northern Irish accents, apart from having no /æ α:/ distinction, also neutralize /ʊ u:/ and /ɒ ɔ:/, e.g. in pull/pool, cot/caught.

5 Diphthongs /eɪ/ and /əʊ/

Accents in the SE and SC part of England have undergone 'long mid diphthonging'. The length of the glides increases in the direction North → South (/eɪ/ → /æi/; /əʊ/ → /æu/).

Elsewhere (N and SW of England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland) the Vs have remained monophthongal, e.g. gate /ge:t/, boat /bɔ:t/.

6 Post-vocalic /r/

E.g. in 'bar, bark'

It is pronounced in SW English, in Scottish and Irish (and most Northern American) accents. It is dying out within England and Wales (used by older, working-class rural speakers).

Linking and intrusive /r/ are generally used in 'non-rhotic' accents.

In rhotic accents, there were no words with final /ə/, so a problem arose with new words such as 'America, china, banana, algebra'. In many Scottish accents, /æ/ is pronounced, e.g.: 'china' /'tʃɪnæ/. In parts of SW England, /r/ (Southampton) or /l/ (Bristol) is pronounced, e.g.: banana /bə'nænər/, America /ə'merɪkl/.

The actual pronunciation of /r/ also varies (alveolar approximant in SE of England (including RP); flap /r/ often used in Scotland, Wales, NE; retroflex approximant /ɻ/ in SW of England and in Ireland; labio-dental or uvular in some parts of England).

7 Glottal reinforcement ('glottalization') and replacement ('glottaling')

In most British regional accents, except in parts of Wales, [ʔ] is more widely used than in RP. It replaces word-final and word-medial /t/, e.g. in 1-5 (where 1 is the most frequent, 5 the least frequent environment):

1 t+C: that man, 2 t+syll. n: button, 3 t+init. V: that apple, 4 t+syll. l: bottle, 5 t+V: better

In NE of England, East Anglia, Northern Ireland: glottalization of /p t k/ even between Vs:

e.g. flipper, city, ticker

8 Velar nasal /ŋ/

a) In -ing, most non-RP speakers pronounce it as /-ɪn/ (e.g. singin', walkin')

b) In western central England (Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool), <ng> is pronounced /ŋg/, e.g. in: ‘singer, thing’.

9 /h/ dropping

England and Wales (most accents, except NE England): no /h/; thus words like art/heart, arm/harm are homophonous.

10 /j/ dropping

It was first dropped in most English accents after /r/ (‘rude, rule’), then after /l/ (e.g. ‘allude’, alternatively in RP still with /j/). Currently it is being lost after /s/ (‘suit-72%, super’; prevalingly still used by RP speakers in e.g. ‘assume’-84 %, ‘presume’-77 %).

Parts of Northern England: dropped also after /θ/ (‘enthuse’)

London (as in GA): often dropped after /n/ (‘news’), and even /t,d/ (‘tune, duke’)

E and S Midlands and east Anglia: sometimes dropped after all Cs, e.g. in ‘pew, view, few, queue, music, human’.

EX: Identifying regional origins of speakers with the following pronunciation features:

1. a speaker with the same V in 'foot' and 'food' ? (Scotland or N Ireland)
2. a speaker with /r/ but no /h/ in 'hurt' (SW of England)
3. a speaker with a monophthong and /h/ in 'hate', and with /r/ in 'fair' (NE of England)
4. a speaker with /g/ in 'bang', /i/ in 'party' (w Midlands or Merseyside)
5. a speaker with non-RP pronunciation of the Vs in 'grass' and 'half', and with a diphthong in 'lake' (E SW of England)

1 London (Cockney)

- a southern accent

Vowels

1 /ʌ/ realized as retracted [æ] (e.g. blood, l. 11), and /æ/ as [ɛ] or [ɛɪ] (e.g. bag, l. 37)

2 final /ɪ/ is [i] (e.g. actually)

3 distinction is made between e.g. paws/pause, bored/board (/ɔə/ vs /ɔ:/)

4 Realization of diphthongs:

/eɪ/ - [æɪ] e.g. paper, l. 2

/aɪ/ - [ɑɪ] e.g. inside, l. 3

/aʊ/ - [æə] e.g. surrounded, l. 54

/əʊ/ - [æʊ] e.g. soaked, l. 10

Consonants

1 the dark /l/ is realized as a /ʊ/ (e.g. well, l. 19, milk, table)

2 /h/ - almost invariably absent

3 /r/ - very common, also:

- accompanies /p/ between Vs (glottalization: e.g. paper, l. 2)

- replaces /t/ between Vs and before a pause (glottaling: e.g. butterfly, l. 20 wet, l. 3)

4 /θ/ and /ð/ are often replaced by /f/ and /v/ (e.g. thin, Cathy, both; together, l. 21 bathe); initially, /ð/ is replaced by /d/ or elided (e.g. the, l. 4, (th)ey, l. 11)

5 -ing is /ɪn/ (e.g. laying, l. 1); in 'something' etc. it is sometimes /-ɪŋk/ (e.g. anything, l. 5)

6 initial /p, t, k/ are heavily aspirated (more than in RP), /t/ is affricated to /ts/ (e.g. tea, l. 5)

Dialectal Features

1 the past tense of COME is variably 'came' (l. 1) and 'come' (l. 39, 45, 53)

2 the past tense of the full verb DO is 'done' (l. 20, 24)

3 1st p. sg. neg. of aux. HAVE is 'ain't' (l. 5)

4 colloquial lexical features, not restricted to Cockney:

- LAY for 'lie' (l. 1)

- AND ALL for 'as well' (l. 13)

- COS for 'because' (l. 32)

- exclamations HOW THE DICKENS (l. 4), BLIMEY (l. 34)

2 Norwich (East Anglia)

- a southern accent

Vowels

1 final /ɪə/ is [i] (e.g. city)

2 distinction is made between e.g. moan/mown, sole/soul, nose/knows (WL 38,39) :
(/u:/ vs /ʊ/; certain words with /əʊ/ in RP have /ʊ/, e.g. home (l. 31), suppose (l. 45))

3 no distinction between /ɪə/ and /eə/, both pronounced /ɛ:/, e.g. beer, bear (WL 14,15)

Consonants

1 /ʔ/ :

1 accompanies /p,t,k/ between Vs, sometimes replaces /t/ between Vs (e.g. bottom, l. 22, dirty, l. 27)

2 /j/ is variably lost after all consonants (e.g. humorous, l.1)

3 -ing is /ən/

Dialectal Features

1 the 3rd p.sg. presnt t. has no 's' (e.g. laugh, l. 5, have, l. 25)

2 relative clause introduced by 'what' (l. 25)

3 Bristol

- a southern accent (ESW)

Vowels

1 RP /ʌ/ is realized as [ə] (e.g. putt, WL 5)

2 there is no /æ/-/ɑ:/ contrast (WL 21-26); both vowels are realized as [ɪ]

Consonants

1 post-vocalic /r/, retroflex in quality; RP /ɪə eə uə/ are pronounced [ɪr er ʊr]

(WL 14,15,42)

2 'Bristol l' feature (/l/ following the word final schwa, e.g. America, Eva = evil; generally stigmatized)

3 -ing is /ɪŋ/; in 'anything, something' it may be /ɪŋk/ (l. 3)

Welsh (from Katzner, K.: The Languages of the World. 2nd edition. Routledge, 1995)

Spoken by about 600,000 people (less than 25% of people in Wales)
A Celtic language (like Gaelic, spoken in Ireland and Scotland)
Celtic tribes entered Britain after the 5th century B.C. Many centuries later, the Welsh were driven by Angl-Saxons into the west. The Welsh call their country Cymru /'kɪmrɪ/, and their language Cymraeg.

The alphabet:

<w> = /ʊ/ eg. in bwyd (food)

<ch> = /x/ eg. in chwaer (sister)

<dd> = /ð/ eg. in dydd (day)

<ll> = lateral fricative /ɬ/ eg. in Llandudno /læn'dɪdnəʊ/,

Welsh /ɬan'dɪdnəʊ/

Welsh English (from Trudgil P. and J. Hannah: International English: A Guide to the Varieties of Standard English 3rd edition. Arnold, 1982)

English is the native language of about 80% of the population (about 2.25 million), 20% are bilingual (speak Welsh and English).

Welsh Standard English

Grammar:

1. Universal tag question *isn't it* : You're going now, isn't it? They do a lot of work, isn't it?
2. The use of *will* for *will be*: Is he ready? He will in a minute.
3. Predicate object inversion for emphasis: Coming home tomorrow he is.
4. The use of negative *too* instead of *either*: I can't do that, too.
5. The use of reduplication for emphasis: It was high, high.

Lexis – some examples:

delight for *interest*: a delight in language

rise for *get*, *buy*: I'll rise the drinks.

tidy for *good*, *nice*: a tidy car.

4. South Wales (Pontypridd)

Vowels

- 1 no qualit. contrast betw. /æ a:/ as in NE; contrast in length; e.g. cat /cart [a:] WL 21,26
- 2 no contrast between /ʌ ə/ (as in Bristol): putt [ə]; WL 4
- 3 diphthong /ɪʊ/ instead of RP /ju:/, e.g. in tune, few, used;
with distinction between blew/blue /ɪʊ u:/ (e.g. in the exchange after the WL)
- 4 narrowing or monophthongization of /eɪ/ to /e:/ WL 8, 40, 41
- 5 narrowing or monophthongization of /əʊ/ to /o:/ WL 12, 29, 38, 39
- 6 lip rounding for /ɜ:/ - e.g. bird, WL 16

Consonants

- 1 /r/ is a flap [ɾ]
 - 2 clear /l/ in all environments
 - 3 /h/ usually absent
- Also: intonation influenced by the Welsh language.

Dialectal Features

- 1 unmarked plurality: ‘two pound of apples’, l.23
- 2 DONE as past tense of ‘do’, l. 27
- 3 AYE for ‘yes’ (as in North of Eng., Scotland and Ireland)

5 West Midlands (Walsall) (locally pronounced /^hwɔ:sɪ/)

Northern and southern characteristics

Vowels

- 1 /æ/ is pronounced in e.g. dance, daft (WL 21-26)
- 2 no distinction between put/putt; both pronounced with /ʊ/ (WL 4,5); distinction between one/won as /wɒn/-/wʊn/
- 3 diphthongs /eɪ/ and /əʊ/ realized as [æɪ] and [aʊ] (WL 8,40,41; 12,29,38,39)
- 4 /aɪ/ realized as /ɔɪ/ (WL 9,46,47)
- 5 diphthongization of /i:/ and /u:/ to /ɜi/ and /ɜu/ (WL 14,19,20; 28)
- 6 /ɪə/ is closer than in RP (WL 1,19)
- 7 /ɜ:/ and /eə/ are both realized as [æ:] (WL 15,16)
- 8 elision of the vowel of ‘the’ before a V (/ð/ instead of /ðɪə/ in ‘the amateur’; l. 51)

Consonants

- 1 /h/ usually absent
- 2 -ing pronounced /ɪn/

Dialectal Features

- 1 multiple negation, l. 16, 49
- 2 COME as past tense of ‘come’, l. 37,47,50
- 3 I SAYS (present historic), l. 10; WAS for 3rd p.pl., l. 25,37
- 4 WHAT introducing a relative clause, l.50
- 5 HER used for ‘she’, l. 11

6 Bradford (West Yorkshire) - northern accent

Vowels

- 1 /æ/ is pronounced in e.g. dance, daft (WL 22-23)
- 2 no distinction between put/putt; both pronounced with /ʊ/ (WL 4-5)
- 3 the final V of e.g. 'city' is /ɪ/ (WL 19-20)
- 4 /eɪ/ pronounced in words with <eigh> in the spelling, e.g. 'weight' (WL 41); it is narrowed or monophthongal [e:] elsewhere, e.g. 'plate, mate' (WL 40,52); also: 'make, take' (e.g. l. 56) - thus: distinction between weight/wait
- 5 /əʊ/ - pronounced [ɔʊ] in words with <ow,ou> in the spelling (knows, WL 39), narrowed or monophthongal elsewhere, e.g. 'boat, nose' [o:] (WL 12, 38) - thus: distinction between knows/nose (as in Norwich, but of a different kind)
- 6 pairs of words like pore/paw are distinguished ([pɔə] vs [pɔ:]) (WL 44-45) (also some RP speakers)
- 7 /aɪ/ is realized as [aɛ] (WL 46)

Consonants

- 1 /h/ usually absent
- 2 -ing pronounced /ɪŋ/
- 3 /b,d,g/ pronounced /p,t,k/ before voiceless Cs, e.g. 'Bradford' /-tf-/
- 4 final /t/ is often realized as [ʔ] (e.g. 'that', l. 43)
- 5 /r/ is a flap
- 6 'the' is sometimes /t/ ('to t'fire', l. 44)
- 7 elision of /w/ in 'always' /'ɔ:ləz/, l. 5)

Dialectal Features

- 1 WERE as past tense of 'be' for all persons, l. 16
- 2 YOU WERE SAT for 'you were sitting', l. 7
- 3 'D for full verb 'had', l. 24
- 4 HAPPEN for 'perhaps', l. 26

7 Liverpool (Merseyside - Lancashire) - northern accent, with some S and Irish E characteristics

The ‘Scouse’ accent (from: lobsouse – sailor’s stew of meat, vegetables and ‘hardtack’ bread)

Liverpool

- formerly a great port (migration to America)
- many Irish people
- Fab Four (Beatles)

Vowels

- 1 /æ/ is pronounced in e.g. dance, daft (WL 21-26) (‘northernism’)
- 2 no dist. between put/putt; both pronounced with /ʊ/ (‘northernism’) (WL 4-5);
- words like ‘book, cook’ have /u:/
- 3 the final V of e.g. ‘city’ is [i] (WL 19-20)
- 4 no distinction between fair/fir, both pronounced as [ɛ:] or [ɜ:] (WL 34-37)
- 5 /eɪ/ and /əʊ/ are narrow diphthongs (WL 8,12,38,39,40,41)

Consonants

- 1 non-rhotic
- 2 /h/ usually absent
- 3 -ing pronounced /ɪn/; words like ‘singer, thing’ have /ɪŋ/, l. 19
- 4 /p,t,k/ are heavily aspirated or affricated (cf Cockney), e.g. ‘can’t’ /kx-/, ‘straight’ /-ts/ back /-kx/ (affrication)); in final position they may be realized as fricatives [ϕ s x] (frication)
- 5 between vowels, /t/ may be realized as [ɾ] (lenition), e.g. ‘got a job’, l. 23
- 6 /r/ is usually a flap - [ɾ]
- 7 /ð/ is sometimes /d/ (‘there’, l. 11)
- 8 general velarization (back vowel resonance)

Specific intonation patterns

Dialectal Features

- 1 multiple negation, l. 44,49
- 2 COME, DONE as past tense of ‘come, do’, l. 47, 60
- 2 YOUS (/ju:z/ when stressed, /jəz/ when unstressed) is plural ‘you’ (Irish English)
- 3 Lexical Items:
TARRAH = goodbye, l. 21; MADE UP = very pleased, l. 16; TAP = take money from, l. 25,
WELL AWAY = drunk, l. 32; WHERE IT IS = the thing is, l. 21

Scotland

Has always had a linguistic tradition rather different from England.

It was an independent state until 1707.

A resurgence of national consciousness since the 1970s, reflected in a lower status of RP in comparison with England and Wales.

1 Scottish Gaelic (a Celtic Language closely related to Irish) – was spoken in the north and west, the Highlands and the Islands; today: only in some of the Hebrides.

2 Scots – developed from an Old English dialect; was first called Inglis, then Scottis, and Scots. Considered by some to be a group of English dialects and by others a distinct language); transparency: some Scots words. Scots was the language of court under the Stuart monarchy (Mary Queen of Scots, 1542-87).

3 Scottish English (Standard English with a Scottish accent) – began to be introduced only in the 18th century, when (according to Wells) Scottish Members of the British Parliament took lessons in elocution so that the English might understand them better. Scots was downgraded to a kind of domestic dialect, although it had some literary revivals (in particular by Robert Burns)

8 Edinburgh (Scottish English)

Vowels

1 no centring diphth. /ɪə eə ʊə/; vowels /i e u/ + /r/ are used in e.g. ‘beer, their, poor’

2 instead of RP /ɜ:/, /ɪ/ is pronounced in e.g. ‘bird’, /e/ in ‘fern’, /ʌ/ in ‘fur’

3 instead of /eɪ/, monophthong /e/ is used, e.g. in ‘mate, weight’, which is closer than /ɛ/ in e.g. ‘pet’ (distinction between e.g. let-late is therefore maintained)

4 instead of /əʊ/ monophthong /o/ is used, e.g. in ‘nose, boat’

5 neutralization of /æ ɑ:/, pronounced as /a/; e.g. in ‘Pat, dance, palm’

6 neutralization of /ʊ u:/, pronounced as /u/; e.g. in ‘pull, boot’

7 neutralization of /ɒ ɔ:/, pronounced as /ɔ/; e.g. in ‘cot, caught’

8 length distinction is made between e.g. ‘tide/tied’, ‘booze-boos’: words with an inflectional morpheme have a longer V (/taɪd taɪd/ /buz bu:z/)

Consonants

1 rhotic accent

2 /r/ is usually a flap - [ɾ]

3 -ing pronounced /ɪn/

4 distinction between ‘witch-which’ /wɪtʃ ˌwɪtʃ/

5 /ð/ is often elided in ‘with’

6 /t/ between Vs is often realized as [ʔ]

9 Belfast (Northern Ireland)

Vowels

The vowel system is very similar to that of Scottish accents

- 1 no centring diphth. /ɪə eə ʊə/; vowels /i e u/ + /r/ are used in e.g. 'beer, their, poor'
- 2 instead of /eɪ/, /ɛ/ is used e.g. in 'bay, say', but: contrast betw. e.g. days /ɛ/ and daze /ɛə/
- 4 instead of /əʊ/ monophthong /o/ is used, e.g. in 'nose, boat'
- 5 neutralization of /æ ɑ:/, generally pronounced as /a/, but varies depending on the C following; e.g. bag /ɛ/ (sometimes the same as in 'beg') vs. daft /ɑ:/
- 6 neutralization of /ʊ u:/, pronounced as *centralized* /u/; e.g. in 'pull, boot'; but e.g. 'wood' may be pronounced as /wʌd/
- 7 neutralization of /ɒ ɔ:/, pronounced as /ɔ/ e.g. in 'doll, Paul'; but not before /p t k/ e.g. 'cot, caught' /kɒt kɔ:t/
- 8 /aɪ/ is often /eɪ/ (e.g. 'buy') and /aʊ/ is typic. /æʊ/ (e.g. 'house')

Consonants

- 1 rhotic accent
- 2 /r/ is usually a retroflex continuant
- 3 -ing pronounced /ɪŋ/
- 4 /ð/ is sometimes elided between Vs, e.g. in 'mother, another'
- 5 in some areas /j/ is pronounced after /k/, before a front V, e.g. in 'car' [kjaɹ]

Dialectal Features

- 1 COME, DONE as past tense of 'come, do', WENT as past p. of 'go'
- 2 I SAYS for 'I say'; adj. HEARTY for adv. 'heartily'

10 Dublin (Ireland)

Vowels

- 1 no centring diphth. /ɪə eə ʊə/; vowels /i e u/ + /r/ are used in e.g. 'beer, their, poor'
- 2 /æ ɑ:/ mostly distinguished by length /a a:/
- 3 /ɒ/ is pronounced /ɑ/ e.g. in 'lot', and /ɔ:/ is pronounced /ɑ:/
- 4 /aɪ/ has a back 1st element /ɑɪ ɒɪ/ (e.g. 'buy') but is distinct from /ɔɪ/
- 5 /eɪ/ and /əʊ/ are monophthongs or narrow diphthongs
- 6 /ʊ/ and /ʌ/ are neutralized in broad local accents as /ʊ/
- 7 /ɜ:/ does not occur in broad local accents, and is /ɪr/ (firm) /ɛr/ (Germans) or /ʊr/ (work)
- 8 /æ/ is used in 'any-' words (anything, anyone)

Consonants

- 1 rhotic accent
- 2 /θ ð/ are often pronounced as dental /t d/ (neutraliz. of true / through)
- 3 /p, t, k/ are strongly aspirated, even in final position (e.g. 'it')

Dialectal Features

1 COME, DONE as past tense of 'come, do'

2 COULD EVER GOT = 'could ever have got'

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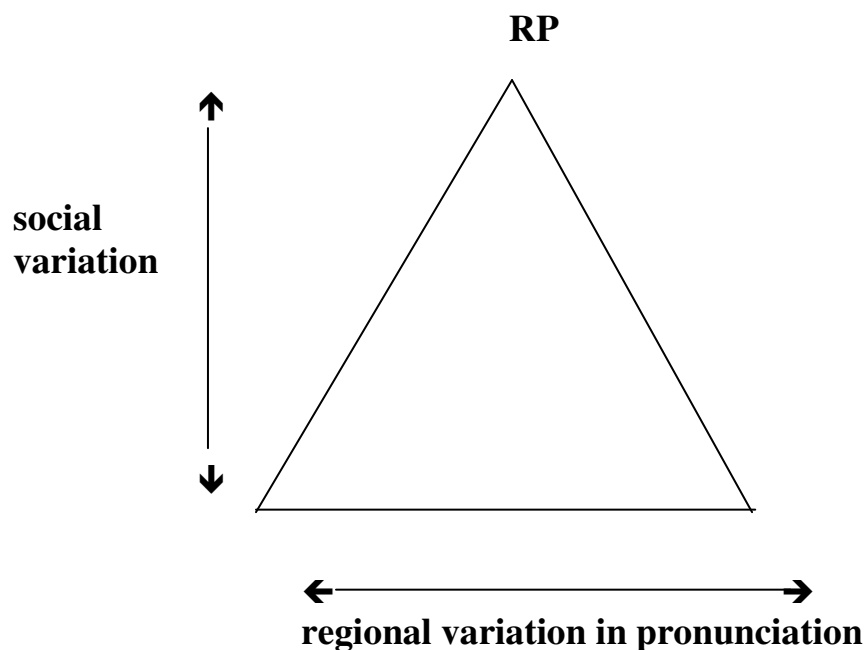
English Accents and Dialects (Hughes/Trudgill)

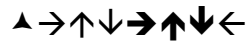
DIALECT - differences of grammar and vocabulary

ACCENT - varieties of pronunciation

RP - 'received pronunciation' (received - 19th c.: 'accepted in the best society')

The relationship between accent and social scale (1)





The relationship between accent and social scale (2): 'h-dropping':
in items like 'house, hat' etc.:

Upper-middle class: 12%
Lower-middle class: 28%
Upper working class: 67%
Middle working class: 89%
Lower working class: 93%

Grammatical and Lexical Variation

Relationship between dialect / social class: non-standard 3rd p.sg. without 's':

Upper middle class 0%
Lower-middle class: 29%
Upper working class: 75%
Middle working class: 81%
Lower working class: 97%

Standard English Dialect:

-Standard English English (England and Wales)
-Standard Scottish English
-Standard Irish English').

Cf.: *They didn't have a good time. (SEE) / They hadn't a good time. (SSE)*

Variation within SEE, e.g.:

SOUTH

*I haven't got it.
She gave it to the man.
I want it washed.*

NORTH

*I've not got it.
She gave it the man.
I want it washing.*

Grammatical differences: non-stand. British dialects and Standard English

1. Multiple negation

Most E. dialects: I didN'T have NO dinner. She couldn'T get NONE Nowhere.

Other aspects of negation

NO / any He went out without NO shoes on.

AIN'T / aren't, isn't, am not I ain't coming. It ain't there. We ain't going.

AIN'T / aux. haven't, hasn't I ain't done it. He ain't got it.

I AREN'T, I AMN'T / I'm not

Scottish dialects: He's NO coming. I've NAE /ne/ got it. I canNAE go.

2. Past tense of irregular verbs

see/seen/seen or see/see/seen, give/give/give, come/come/come, go/went/went,
write/writ/writ, draw/drawed/drawed

DO: gram. distinction for the past tense - full verb p.t. DONE, aux. p.t. DID

E.g.: You DONE lots of work, DIDN't you?

NEVER as past tense negative

I NEVER done it. (= I didn't do it.) I NEVER! (= I didn't!)

3. Present tense verb forms

The absence of 3rd p.sg. 's': She LIKE him. He DON'T want it.

-s in all pers. (e.g. S. Wales): I LIKES it. We GOES home. You THROWS it.

4. Relative pronouns

Standard English: WHO (humans), WHICH (non-humans), THAT (both)

Non-standard dialects, e.g.:

That was the man WHAT/WHICH/AS/AT/ done it. That was the man done it.

WHOSE / WHAT + det. That's the man WHAT HIS son done it.

5. Personal pronouns

ME / US (NE English): Do US a favour.

YOU / (eg. Yorkshire) informal, sg THOU , formal and/or plural YOU

Strong / weak forms: YOU/EE, HE/ER (subject), 'N (object), SHE/ER, WE/US, THEY / 'M, e.g.:

YOU wouldn't do that, would EE?

WE wouldn't do that, would US?

6. Reflexive pronouns

Following 'myself, yourself': HISSELF, ITSELF, THEIRSELVES

7. Comparatives and superlatives

MORE + -ER: She's MORE roughER than he is.

MOST + -EST: He's the MOST roughEST. (cf. Shakespeare: The most unkindest cut of all.)

8. Demonstratives

THOSE /THEM, (Scottish dialects) THEY - Look at THEM / THEY animals!

9. Adverbs

Most non-standard dialects: no distinction between formally related adj. and adv., eg. slow/slowly: He ran SLOW. They done it very NICE. (Also: He'll do it very GOOD.)

10. Unmarked plurality

Nouns of measurement: a hundred POUND, twenty MILE, five FOOT (cf. standard 'five foot' or 'five feet')

11. Prepositions of place

It was AT London (=in). He went UP the park (=to). I got OFF OF the bus (=off

the bus).

12. Lexical features

No distinction between TEACH/LEARN, BORROW/LEND:
(the title of a book on Scouse, by Frank Shaw: *Lern yerself Scouse*)

They don't LEARN you nothing. Can I LEND your bike?

Some idiomatic examples from: Lern Yerself Scouse:

I don know a blind werd e says.

(= I don't understand him.)

Give yer chin a rest. / Purra zipper on.

(= Shut up.)

Ee's got both legs in one knicker.

(= He's playing (football) badly.)

I avent ad a road through me fer a week.

(= I am constipated.)

Regional Accent Differences

1 The vowel /ʌ/

- In northern accents and Midlands, /ʊ/ retained instead

Homophony: *put/putt, could/cud*; rhyming of: *good/blood, hood/mud*

Exc.: some words with /ʌ/ in RP have /ɒ/ in N accents: e.g. *one, none, tongue*

Many northern speakers: /u:/ for RP /ʊ/ in *look, took, cook*,
distinguishing between *book/buck* as /u:- ʊ/

Many speakers in Wales, W England, Midlands: schwa for /ə/ and /ʌ/, e.g. in
butter, another

2 The vowels /æ/ and /ɑ:/

S England: /æ/ → /ɑ:/

a) before voiceless fricatives (e.g. *path, laugh, grass*; but not in e.g.: *daffodil, Catherine, maths, gas, mass* etc.)

b) before n/m + C (e.g. '*plant, dance, branch, demand, example*');
but not in e.g.: '*pant, romance, mansion, band, camp*')

(Variability in RP : *photograph, plastic, transfer* etc.)

Midlands and N of England, /æ/ retained, mostly as [a] for words above

/ɑ:/ pronounced in words with mute <l/r>, e.g. *palm, part*, and also e.g. in *can't, banana* etc.

Some Welsh and Irish accents (+many Australian accents) have

-/ɑ:/ for PATH words

-/æ/ for DANCE words

Scottish and Northern Irish accents: no /ɑ:/ at all, homophony: *palm/Pam*.

/æ/ is realized as [æ], [a], or [ɑ].

3 Final /ɪ/ (*city, money, coffee*; unstressed *me, he, we*)

South of England, parts of Midlands, South of Ireland: [i]

Scottish accents: [e], e.g. *hazy* / 'heze/

Most Northern English accents: [ɪ]

4 Vowels /u:/ and /ɔ:/

Scottish and Northern Irish accents neutralize /ʊ u:/ and /ɒ ɔ:/, e.g. in *pull/pool, cot/caught*.

5 Diphthongs /eɪ/ and /əʊ/

SE/SC England: 'long mid diphthonging'.

Length of glides increases North → South (/eɪ/ → /æi/; /ɔʊ/ → /æu/).

N and SW of England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland: monophthongs,
e.g. *gate* /ge:t/, *boat* /bɔ:t/.

6 Post-vocalic /r/ (*bar, bark*)

Pronounced in SW English, in Scottish and Irish accents (as in GA)

Dying out in England and Wales.

Linking and intrusive /r/ - used in 'non-rhotic' accents

Rhotic accents: no words with final /ə/, so: problem with e.g.

America, china, banana, algebra.

Scottish accents: /æ/ e.g.: 'china' / 'tʃaɪənæ/

Parts of SW England: /r/ (Southampton) or /l/ (Bristol),

e.g.: *banana* /bə 'nænər/, *America* /ə 'merɪkəl/.

Realizations of /r/: [ɹ] SE England (as in RP); flap [ɾ] (Scotland, Wales, Northern England; retroflex [ɻ] in SW of England; labio-dental or uvular in some parts of England.

7 Glottalization and glottaling

Most British regional accents: [ʔ] more widely used than in RP.

Replaces word-final and word-medial /t/, e.g. in 1-5

(where: 1 is the most frequent, 5 the least frequent environment):

1 t+C: that man,

2 t+syll. n: button,

3 t+init. V: that apple,

4 t+syll. l: bottle,

5 t+V: better

NE of England, East Anglia, Northern Ireland:

glottalization of /p t k/ between Vs, e.g. *flipper*, *city*, *ticker*

8 Velar nasal /ŋ/

a) In -ing, most non-RP speakers: /-ɪn/ (e.g. *singin'*, *walkin'*)

b) Western central England (Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool) <ng> is /ŋg/, e.g.: *singer*, *thing*.

9 /h/ dropping

England (except NE part) and Wales: /h/-less: *art/heart*, *arm/harm* homophonous.

10 /j/ dropping

First dropped after /r/ (*rude*, *rule*), then after /l/ (e.g. *allude*, altern. in RP still with /j/).

Currently: disappearing after /s/: *super*, *suit* - RP: 72% without /j/, cf. *assume* - RP 84 %, *presume* - RP 77 % with /j/.

Parts of Northern England: dropped after /θ/ ('*enthuse*')

London (as in GA): dropped after /n/ (*news*), and /t,d/ (*tune*, *duke*)

E and S Midlands and East Anglia: dropped after all Cs, e.g. in *pew*, *view*, *few*, *queue*, *music*, *human*.

EXERCISE:

Identifying regional origins of speakers with the following pronunciation features:

1. a speaker with the same V in 'foot' and 'food'

2. a speaker with a monophthong and /h/ in 'hate', and with no /r/ in 'fair'

3. a speaker with /g/ in 'bang', /i/ in 'party'

4. a speaker with non-RP pronunciation of the Vs in 'grass' and 'half', and with a diphthong in 'lake'

5. a speaker with
 - a) /r/ but no /h/ in 'hurt'
 - b) a monophthong in 'gate'
 - c) /g/ in 'sing'

