Changing English in a changing world

Unit 5
Inner Circle varieties 1

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British Isles: London

- Cockney
- London Jamaican
- Multicultural London English
Cockney

History

• traditional working class dialect of London
• Middle English period (1100-1500): southern type dialect: City’s East End, Southwark
• important dialect: Historically, from 15th century: pronunciation innovations radiating from London areas; e.g., non-rhoticity
• highly stigmatised by outsiders

(wikipedia/Cockney)
Cockney

1  **Traditional Cockney dialect areas:**
   Bethnal Green, Whitechapel, Spitalfields, Stepney, Wapping, Limehouse, Poplar, Clerkenwell, Aldgate, Shoreditch, Hoxton, Bow

2  **South of the Thames:**
   Borough, Bermondsey, Penge, Peckham

3  **Second half of 20th century: migration into Essex and outer Greater London:**
   Essex: Basildon, Harlow
   Greater London: East Ham, Stratford, West Ham

(wikipedia/Cockney)
Cockney features

Pronunciation

- glottal stop: *letter* /leʔʔə/
- H-dropping: *help* /elp/
- TH-fronting: *thin* /fɪn/
- DH-fronting: *brother* /brovə/
- L-vocalisation: *mill* /miu/
- monophthongisation: *south* /saːf/
- rising /ai/ to /oi/; /ei/ to /ai/: *lice* /lois/, *race* /rais/

(Eitler, 2006)
Cockney features

1 Syntax:

• Multiple negation/Negative concord
  \textit{It ain’t no better}.

• Regularisation: \textit{were} pro \textit{was}

• Regularisation: \textit{ain’t} for \textit{isn’t}, \textit{aren’t}, \textit{can’t}, \textit{don’t}, etc.

• Regularisation: \textit{innit} for all negative tags:
  \textit{isn’t it?}, \textit{wasn’t it?}, \textit{were you}?

(Eitler, 2006)
Cockney features

1 Lexis: Cockney Rhyming slang

Dole Adrian Mole I'm on the old Adrian Mole.
Sauce Air Force Do you wan't any Air Force on yer chips?
Stunner Air Gunner Cwar! She's a right Air Gunner!
Fit Brad Pitt Cor, she’s Brad Pitt

http://www.cockneyrhymingslang.co.uk
London Jamaican

Jamaican Patois speakers
• adolescents born in Britain,
• of Caribbean heritage,
• engaging in acts of identity by looking at their Caribbean roots. (Holmes, 2008)

Jamaican Patois for identity construction
• symbolic of ethnic identity,
• has covert prestige,
• images of solidarity,
• ”deliberately, oppositionally and nonlegitimately different” from other British varieties (Wardhaugh, 2010, p. 82; Holmes, 2008)
London Jamaican

recreolisation =

creole (closer to standard variety than a pidgin from which it has developed) morphs back towards earlier and broader creole forms

(Jenkins, 2006; Romaine, 1988, pp. 188-203; Sebba, 1997, pp. 43-44)
London Jamaican

Grammatical features
(Sebba, 1997; cited in Jenkins 2006, pp. 100-101)

• interchangeable use of pronouns: *mi, l pro I, me; i, im pro he, she, it, him, her, its*, etc.;
• use of present tense for both present and past: *I se, (I say / I said)*;
• elimination of tense suffixes: *-s, -ed, -t* and participle endings *ing, -ed, -en, -t*;
• negation with *no*: *no like i*: ‘I don’t like it.’
London Jamaican

Phonological features
(Sebba, 1997; cited in Jenkins 2006, pp. 100-101)

• substitution of /th/ and /dh/ with /t/ and /d/: dis, bret;
• dropping of word-final consonants: bulleh ‘bullet’;
• realisation of the vowels /o/ and /oː/ as /aː/: klaat ‘cloth’;
• labialisation when /b/ is followed by certain vowels: boys /bwoiz/
• lack of weak vowels, especially schwa: rappa pro rapper, da pro the.
London Jamaican

Further features of Jamaican Creole
(Sebba, 1997; cited in Jenkins 2006, pp. 100-101)

• lack of inversion in question forms: *im did phone you?*
  ‘Did he phone you?’;

• absence of the copula *dis party well rude*;

• no /h/-dropping;

• hypercorrect /h- addition: *haccent, heasy*

• use of the suffix *dem*, added to a noun to indicate plurality *man-dem* ‘men’, large quantity: *kaan-dem* ‘lot of corn’.
London Jamaican

Lexis

- yard ‘house’
- buff ‘attractive’
- butters ‘ugly’
- nuff ‘very’
- wicked ‘awesome’
- blood ‘mate’

(Holmes, 2008, pp. 190-191)
Multicultural London English

Minority (=Non-Anglo) ethnic speakers:
(Cheshire et al., 2008)
lead (inner-London) innovations, regardless of which minority they belong to = MLE;

Local Anglo speakers: using a combination of
  ▪ less marked variants of the inner-London (=MLE) features,
  ▪ more traditional London features (=Cockney),
  ▪ features of wider south-eastern supralocalisation (=Estuary English=EE).
Multicultural London English

Pronunciation (Kerswill, 2011)

MLE

Jamaican, West African, Bangladeshi, Indian, anyone ESL: monophthongisation

/hoːm/ ‘home’, /fe:s/ ‘face’

vs

Original London Jamaican Creole / Patwa

/fies/ ‘face’ besides /feːs/, /hoʊm/ ‘home’ besides /hoːm/
Multicultural London English

Pronunciation

MLE speakers vs Anglo-Londoners:
(Cheshire et al., 2008, *passim*)

- less /h/-dropping: retention of /h/ as an innovative feature in ethnic speakers;
- less /θ/-fronting (= /f/ pro /θ/): Asian, Afro-Caribbean and L2 speakers use more /θʰ/;
- /d/-stopping (/d/ pro /dh/): *more in ethnic speakers* of Afro-Caribbean and Asian origin.
Syntax

some of the South Eastern levelling changes present (Kerswill, 2011):

regularisation

+ I was, you was, he was,

- I weren’t, you weren’t, he weren’t
Multicultural London English

Syntax/Discourse Marking: Quotative Strategy

**THIS IS + SUBJECT** (Cheshire et al., 2008, p. 18) putting “the speaker into focus” and contributing ”to the construction of a narrative that is a performance”
Characteristics of innovators and leaders of change (Cheshire et al., 2008, p. 16):

- **Ethnicity**: multi-ethnic;
- **Social network score**: high social network score;
- **Social network type**: friendship networks extend beyond the college grounds;
- **Social network role**: brokering: import-export;
- **Personality type**: dominant characters in their peer groups;
- **Social practice**: rapping and MCing, highly valued resources in contemporary youth culture.
Contents

• Irish Englishes
• Dublin Englishes
Irish English

The Gaeltacht (Irish Gaelic) areas:

- West Donegal
- West and South Connacht
- West Galway
- West Kerry
- West Munster

For the exact areas and percentages of Irish speakers on the basis of the Census of Ireland, 1961, see Filppula (1999, p. xvii)
Irish English

The main dialect divisions in Ireland
(for the exact areas see Fennell (2001)):

• South-west and West
• Forth and Bargy (archaic, died out in 19th century)
• East coast dialect area
• Ulster Scots
• Mid-Ulster English
Irish English

English in Ireland = Hiberno-English

3 main varieties (Fennell, 2001, p. 200):

1. **Rural Irish English**: most conservative and gaelicised variety, countryside and west

2. **Urban Irish English**: more mixed in character, due to contact with outsiders, preserving more Anglo-Norman features in the big cities

3. **a. Educated Irish English**: more influenced by Standard English, still with some rural characteristics

   **b. Modern Educated Irish English**: influenced by the media, RTE, Dublin-educated teachers.
Irish English

1. Retention of historical /r/ postvocalically in all positions;
   (Hickey, 2011a, pp. 7-8)

2. “clear” /l/ (palatal /l/) in all positions
   (RP has a velar /l/ postvocically in full and fill);
   (Hickey, 2011b)

3. contrast between /hw/ and /w/:
   which and whether are not homophonic with witch and weather;
   (Hickey, 2011b)
Irish English

Monophthongs or near-monophthongs
/eæ, oæ/ for diphthongs /ei, ou/:
face, take, bait and goat, go, boat; (Hickey, 2011a, pp. 7-8)

5 Replacement of the voiceless and voiced interdental fricatives by stops
t, d in thin and then; (Hickey, 2011a, pp. 7-8)

Retention of vowel distinctions before /r/:
vowels in bird, learn, beard, and turn are contrastive
(Hickey, 2011a, pp. 7-8)
Irish English

7 Lenition of alveolar stops /t/ /d/ to fricatives (= fricativisation) intervocalically and pre-pausally: city [si(h)i], meat [mi:(h)]
(Hickey, 2011b)

8 Neutralization of the contrast of /i/ and /e/ before /n/: pin and pen, kin and Ken, are homonyms;
(Hickey, 2011b)

9 Use of the reflexive pronoun:
And it's himself that told me...
(Hickey, 2011a, pp. 7-8)
Irish English

10 “after perfect” / ”hot news” perfect / immediate perfective:
(Hickey, 2011a, pp. 7-8)

She’s after spilling the milk.
I'm after doin’ it already.

for more standard

She’s spilt the milk.
I've done it already.
Irish English

11 Resultative perfective:

*She’s the housework done*

(Object-Verb word order)

(Hickey, 2011a, pp. 7-8)
Irish English

12 Habitual aspect, expressed by do + be or bees or inflectional -s in the first person singular (Hickey, 2011a, pp. 7-8)

a) She *does be* reading books.
b) They *bees* up late at night.
c) I *gets* awful anxious about the kids when they’re away.

13 Greater range of the present tense:
   *I know him for more than six years now.*
   (Hickey, 2011a, pp. 7-8)
Dublin English

1. Local Dublin English: LDE
   Strongest identification with traditional conservative Dublin life

2. Non-local Dublin English
   Spoken by those not wishing for a narrow, restrictive identification with popular Dublin culture
   a. Mainstream Dublin English
      larger, more general section
   a. Fashionable Dublin English
      its speakers reject an association with low-prestige Dublin

(Hickey, 1999)
Dublin English

Areas of high and low social prestige (Hickey, 1999)
Liffey: East-West central axis, Dublin Bay, suburbanisation since 1960s

South of the Liffey: Mainstream + Fashionable DE
residentially more desirable
within south: cline of prestige:
Dublin 4: Ballsbridge, Donnybrook: highest status
RTE studios centre, University College Dublin in Belfield

North of the Liffey: Local DE
• city centre, less desirable: WC Liberties district
• Ballymun: only suburban high-rise flats, social problems
Dublin English

Local Dublin English
(Hickey, 1999)

1. fricativisation of /t/ and /d/
T-lenition: /t/ → /h/ → zero
motorway: /mɔːtewe/ → /mɔːhewe/ → /mɔːwe/

2. post-sonorant stop deletion
DE feature vs Southern Irish English
*bend, belt* as /ben/, /bel/

3. no h-dropping
Dublin English

Local Dublin English (Hickey, 1999)

4. No rhoticity or weak rhoticity

- Middle class DE (mainstream and fashionable DE): more rhotic than LDE:
  - dissociation from local DE
  - dissociation from British English Standard E

- Just like in NYC: Rhoticity is prestigious as traditional local lower class speech is non-rhotic
Dublin English

1. Avoidance strategies to maximally differentiate fashionable DE from local DE
   (Hickey, 1999)
   1. **FDE**: local DE back rounded vowel /ʊ/ replaced by unrounded front /i/ /sinde/ Sunday
   2. **FDE rhoticity vs weakly rhotic or non-rhotic LDE**

2. Avoidance of RP target, too
   (Hickey, 1999)
   **FDE**: definitely **not towards** British English standard **RP either**:
   non-adherence to South East British speech:
   (1) no TH-fronting, (2) no glottalling,(3) no /h/ deletion
Task

Task for Unit 6
Watch the following video and identify features characteristic of Australian English:

• Meanwhile Fry and Laurie in Australia
• http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bV3tfauw3vQ
References


References


References