Changing English in a changing world

Unit 6
Inner Circle Varieties 4

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Australian English

• Australian English
• Sydney English
Australian English

**Southern Hemisphere Englishes**
Australian English
NZ English
St Helena English
Falkland Islands English
South African English

**Antipodean Englishes**
Australian English
NZ English

(Kirkpatrick, 2007)
Australian English

History:

Linguistic homogeneity: (McIntyre, 2005)
• 90% of immigrants from Britain (London and Ireland) (Görlach, 1997)
• initial colony Sydney; settlers sailing from New South Wales around Australia
• (1) dialect levelling (Irish E, SE English, Scots)
• (2) Cockney majority
• RP considered the norm till 1940s
• AE established as the norm with distinctive features
Australian English

AE varieties

1. Sociolinguistic continuum
   (Mitchell and Delbridge, 1965; Horvath, 1965, p. 90)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1965</th>
<th>1985</th>
<th>Sociolect</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cultivated</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>general</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>broad</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>1</td>
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2. "Others"
   • Ethnic varieties: Italian, Greek, etc. since WWII
   • Aboriginal Australian English
Australian English

Pronunciation: Broad accent:
(Kirkpatrick, 2007, p. 71)

1 diphthongs /ai/ and /ei/ both /ai/
mate and might sound similar

2 epenthetic schwa:
/filəm/, /nouwən/
Australian English

Australian Question Intonation = Uptalk = High Rising Terminal contour
(Denison and Hogg, 2006, pp. 41-42)

interrogative intonation for declaratives
• widespread in AUS, NZ, also in UK, USA;
• youth;
• females.

Sociolinguistic meaning: gender marker;
Discourse meaning: topicalisation, emphasis, deference, politeness, tentativeness, desire for approval, prompting (verification of understanding).
Australian English

Lexis

1 adjectives in special sense: informality

*huge* ‘great’
*top* ‘great’

(Kirkpatrick, 2007, p. 73)
Australian English

Lexis

2. Clipping (trunkation to a trunkated stem) plus diminutive suffix (-ie, -y, -o) – sign of informality (Kirkpatrick, 2007, p. 74)

arvo afternoon
journo journalist
aussie Australian
barbie barbecue
pollie policeman
Australian English

**Syntax**

1 *she* for *it*

*She’ll be right pro It ‘ll be (all) right*

2 sentence-final tag *but* and *though but*: informal marker of emphasis

*I’ll finish her this arvo, *but*.

3 adjective *good* used as an adverb pro *well*

*They played as *good* as before.*

(Görlach, 1991; Kirkpatrick, 2007, p. 74)
Australian English

Syntax

4 Third conditional: if-clause: *had have* + past participle

*If they *had have realised* it earlier...*

5 Analogical use of *less* with countables for *fewer*

*less people, less windows*

(Kirkpatrick, 2007, p. 75)
Australian English

Pragmatics

1  Greeting convention
   Good day, how are you going, mate?

2  first names used for address

   (Kirkpatrick, 2007, pp. 81-82)
Sydney English

Sydney sociolects (Horvath, 1985)

Two principal components / axes along which to differentiate Sydney speakers:
- (PC1) non-English accented vs Australian English accented speakers
- (PC2) continuum of traditional Australian English accents

Two major Sydney speech communities:
- Core: predominantly non-ethnic, middle class, upper working class
- Peripheral: predominantly ethnic, lower working class
Sydney English

**Sydney sociolects**

5 phonological variables:
/i:/, /ei/, /ai/, /ou/, /au/

(Horvath, 1985)
Sydney English

**Sydney sociolects**

Core speech community: 4 sociolects

using quantitatively varying mixes of broad, general and cultivated accent variants: lower end vs upper end

(Horvath, 1985)
Australian English

- Meanwhile Fry and Laurie in Australia
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bV3tfauw3vQ
Australian English


