

SEW2 Abstracts

Ulrike Altendorf

Caught between Aristotle and Miss Marple ... - a proposal for a perceptual prototype approach to 'Estuary English'

'It reminds you, I suppose, of countless village tragedies?' said Sir Henry.

'Not tragedies,' said Miss Marple. 'And certainly nothing criminal. But it does remind me a little of the trouble we are having with the district nurse.'

(Agatha Christie, *The Blue Geranium*)

Thirty years after the term was coined by David Rosewarne (1984), linguists have not come anywhere near to agreeing on a linguistically sound definition of the concept of 'Estuary English'. One could therefore argue that it was time to lay it to rest, together with other buzz words from 1980s, such as 'Essex men' or 'street cred'. However, there are at least two reasons for not doing so. For one, 'Estuary English' seems to have come to stay (see e.g. Deterding 2005, Eitel 2006, Hickey 2007, Kristiansen 2008). The second reason for not giving up on the concept yet is its rather "annoying" habit of raising theoretical and methodological questions which I consider more important than the concept itself. The most important of these questions is of epistemological nature and concerns the categorization of linguistic experience.

In this paper, I will argue that Estuary English is a perceptual prototype that defies linguistic analysis in terms of Aristotelian categories. As a perceptual prototype Estuary English is similar to a "village parallel", as used by the famous amateur detective Jane Marple. Estuary English was after all also conceived and popularized by linguistic laypeople who reacted to what they perceived as a recurring pattern. David Rosewarne with his background in applied linguistics was able to identify attributes with high cue validity, such as T Glottalling and L Vocalization, but did not establish a truly Aristotelian category. This is what linguists set out to do in his wake but found quite impossible.

In support of the perceptual prototype hypothesis, I will present data from an on-going project in perceptual dialectology with about 200 participants from all over England. Asked to rate the recordings of three young middle-class speakers from three south-eastern towns with regard to how typical they thought they were of 'Estuary English', these speaker-listeners were remarkably consistent in their response. Almost everybody considered the speaker from Canterbury to be least typical of Estuary English. As to the speakers from London and Colchester, the data analysed so far shows an interesting north-south divide with speakers from the north favouring Colchester and speakers from the south London. Should this impression persist, we may be looking at an in-group vs. out-group prototype effect.

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Avelino Corral Esteban

An account of information structure in Cornish English, Irish English and Welsh English

This study attempts to give an account of the interaction between syntax, semantics and pragmatics in the different word order patterns exhibited by Anglo-Cornish, Irish English and Welsh English, varieties of English influenced to a greater or lesser extent by Celtic languages. Although English has an unmarked surface word order SVO, it very commonly displays word orders other than the canonical one to assign salience or prominence to some constituent of the sentence. However, unlike Standard English, which makes a wider use of prosodic devices than structural ones, the English varieties spoken in these areas show a clear predilection for the use of word order shifts or special syntactic devices, such as fronting or clefts, instead of prosodic means. Thus, this paper considers the derivation of each of these constructions, which is believed to be attributed to Celtic substratum influence (Filppula 1997 & 1999), and seeks to find out both the similarities and differences between these two types of constructions from the point of view of the framework of Role and Reference Grammar (Van Valin, 1993, 2005; Van Valin and LaPolla, 1997) with the aim of explaining their structure as well as finding where the syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic features converge. Accordingly, this paper shows the remarkable role that the interplay between several syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic features plays in the formation of these grammatical constructions, which leads us to verify the close relationship that exists not only between the two types of construction but also between them and relative clauses. Finally, the results obtained in this paper will enable us to tackle the long-standing issue of whether these constructions share the same origin or not.

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Margaret Deuchar and Charles Wilson

Extralinguistic factors influencing the pronunciation of English by Welsh-English bilinguals

The aim of this study is to determine which extralinguistic factors have the greatest influence on the choice of Welsh English vs. RP variants of selected variables.

Previous work describing the pronunciation of Welsh English (e.g. Wells 1982) has shown that its segments differ from standard English in ways including the use of monophthongs instead of diphthongs and the variable realization of non-pre-vocalic (r). Bourhis, Giles & Tajfel (1973) found evidence that the choice of Welsh pronunciation may be a marker of Welsh national identity. Coupland (1980) found the choice of standard vs. nonstandard variants to be linked to class and style but they did not look at Welsh-influenced variants. In a recent study Morris (2013) found that extralinguistic variables influencing the choice of variants included home language, area of residence (whether predominantly Welsh-speaking or not), gender and style.

In the current study sociolinguistic interviews were conducted in English with 41 Welsh-English adult bilinguals aged between 19 and 73. A word list was also elicited to obtain speech in a more formal style. At the end of each sociolinguistic interview a questionnaire was administered to obtain information about extralinguistic factors.

Words containing the following linguistic variables in the data were transcribed: non-pre-vocalic (r) and the GOAT, FACE, PRICE, STRUT, and BATH vowels (Wells 1984: 378-84). The results of the transcription allowed each variable to be labelled as either 'standard' (RP) or 'Welsh' (Welsh English).

Extralinguistic information from the questionnaire data included area of upbringing and residence, gender, age, national identity, age of English and Welsh acquisition, language of parents, and language attitudes.

The extralinguistic information was converted into variables, e.g. gender (male vs. female), area of residence (north vs. south), predominant language of social networks (north vs. south) to be correlated with the linguistic variables outlined above using Rbrul (Johnson 2009). Following a quantitative analysis using Rbrul (see Johnson 2009) we predict that factors such as northern residence, Welsh-speaking parents, and

positive attitudes to Welsh will be shown to favour the choice of Welsh rather than standard variants.

María Fuencisla García-Bermejo Giner, Javier Ruano García, Pilar Sánchez García

South-Eastern Dialects in Late Modern English

After the literary representation of southern speech in *The Second Shepherds' Play* by the Master of Wakefield, Kentish and southwestern English little by little became associated with comic characters. Stereotypical south-western features such as the voicing of initial fricatives, the occlusivization of interdental fricatives or the use of *ich, cham, chill*, etc. were given to low-class characters, often regardless of their regional provenance (See further García-Bermejo Giner 2013, Wakelyn 1988).

Because of their apparent closeness to the standard language, south-eastern dialects were scarcely used either for characterization purposes or as the focus of linguistic studies until the Late Modern English period. The aim of this paper is a description of some interesting traits found in their literary representation as well as of Joseph Wright's sources for those counties in *The English Dialect Dictionary* (1898-1905).

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Sophie Holmes-Elliott

The gender gap: adolescent peaks in a male-led change, TH-fronting in southeast England

Research into the incrementation of language change provides evidence for what Labov (2001:454) labels the adolescent peak. Adolescents use higher rates of incoming innovations than young adults, and higher rates than children who start out by modelling their caregivers (Kerswill, 1996; Smith et al, 2007). Adolescent peaks have been observed across a range of different types of change, in both phonological and morphosyntactic features (Labov, 2001; Tagliamonte & D’Arcy, 2009), supporting the claim that an adolescent peak is a ‘general requirement of change in progress’ (Labov, 2001:455). Adolescent peaks may be further affected by gender. Labov (2001:456-61) found that peaks were only present in the gender leading the change: only females showed peaks in female-led changes and males in male-led changes. However, in contrast to this, Tagliamonte & D’Arcy (2009:82) found adolescent peaks for both males and females in the female-led changes they studied.

In this paper I contribute to research on the impact of gender on adolescent peaks in TH-fronting , as in (1); a male-led change which has been demonstrated to be undergoing rapid spread in dialects throughout the UK (e.g. Foulkes & Docherty, 1999).

1. Well their dad was one of thirteen [fʌtɪn] I think [fɪŋk] her mum was one of nine, yeah, like as I say she's Catholic [kəθəlɪk] (Matt, 46)

An analysis of over 2,500 tokens from an age and gender stratified corpus of Southern British English (SBE) speakers revealed that the adolescent peak was present for both males and females. So for this feature in SBE there was no gender gap with regards to the presence of a peak. However, in line with previous work (Labov, 2001; Tagliamonte & D’Arcy, 2009), further inspection of the peaks revealed that gender and the stage of the change, i.e. whether the change is new and vigorous or nearing completion, interacted to affect the size and magnitude of the peak. Thus, although both males and females demonstrate a peak, a gender gap is still visible in apparent

time. As well as providing an analysis of incrementation in a male-led change (so far relatively understudied) this research contributes more broadly to our understanding of the s-curve nature of language change, particularly the dynamic impact of gender during the propagation of change.

David Hornsby

Koinéization or vestigial variation? A bastion of northern English in East Kent

Since its birth in 1926, the Kent village of Aylesham has been largely synonymous with the coal industry to which it owes its existence. The neighbouring Snowdown colliery was the principal employer from the late 1920s until closure in 1987, providing jobs for workers recruited initially from other UK coal fields (notably the North-East, Yorkshire, Scotland, the north and east Midlands, South Wales and Somerset), and for subsequent generations.

The disparate origins of the first Ayleshamers account in large measure for their distinctive speech. The ‘Aylesham accent’ attracts frequent comment in East Kent, and differs significantly from urban south-eastern English varieties: many Ayleshamers for example have no TRAP-BATH split. The question therefore arises of whether these differences do in fact amount to a distinct focused koiné, or rather to residual use of different heritage dialect forms by second- and third-generation Ayleshamers. On the basis of evidence gathered in a pilot study, this paper will argue that an Aylesham koiné can indeed be identified, containing some shared features from the input dialects, and interdialect forms which were present in none. We will argue that this new dialect must have emerged among the second generation of Ayleshamers, and was supported by the village’s social and geographical isolation, and the peculiarly solidaristic, proletarian nature of the small, embattled mining community that Aylesham was, and to some extent remains.

Stephen Howe

Emphatic yes and no in East Anglian dialect: *jearse* and *dow*

This paper looks at emphatic *yes* and *no* in East Anglian dialect.

In a variety of East Anglian English, non-emphatic forms for ‘yes’ and ‘no’ are, as in much of English, *yeah* and *no*. However, emphatic forms are *jearse* and *dow*.

This East Anglian dialect thus has a four-form ‘yes’–‘no’ system, with *yeah*–*jearse* and *no*–*dow*. The paper will examine the origins and use of *jearse* and *dow*, neither of which is recorded in the Oxford English Dictionary or the Survey of English Dialects.

The author will also compare other forms for ‘yes’ and ‘no’ in English, including the standard *yes* and informal *yeah*, non-emphatic *un*, and regional or archaic *aye*, *yea* and *nay*, as well earlier ‘yes’–‘no’ systems in English.

The paper will conclude by briefly reviewing ways of answering in the affirmative or negative in other languages.

Jonathan Roper

Illustrative Quotations in the EDD: Some Wealden Examples

The Rev. John Coker Egerton, Rector of Burwash, wrote an attractive, anecdotal study of his parish and parishioners that was published under the title *Sussex Folk and Sussex Ways: Studies in the Wealden Formation of Humanity* (1884). When Joseph Wright was compiling the *English Dialect Dictionary* in the following two decades, he made much use of Egerton’s work. Indeed, it was the Sussex authority he drew on the most for illustrative quotations after the local dialect glossaries themselves. This paper looks at *EDD* citations of Egerton for what they can tell us about both Wright’s practice as a lexicographer and the characteristics of local English at the Sussex-Kent-Surrey border in the late nineteenth century.

Hanna Rutkowska

Stylistic devices in an Early Modern English manual of good manners

This presentation discusses the results of a case study examining the choice and interaction of stylistic devices employed in Francis Segar and Robert Crowley's manual of good manners for children, entitled *The schoole of vertue*, issued between 1582 and 1687 by several London publishers. The study is based mainly on the edition published by H. Denham in 1582 (STC 22136), but where applicable, references are made to the later editions of the same book.

The schoole of vertue was designed to convince its readers that particular patterns of behaviour were worth following and socially beneficial. In order to enhance the attractiveness, persuasiveness and mnemonic qualities of the text, several stylistic devices are employed, including, e.g. rhymes, acronyms, as well as binomials and multinomials, e.g. *children and youth*, *dutie and obedience*, *simple and base*, *soft and tender*, *diseases and paine*, and *exhort, correct, and reprehend*. Syntactic parallelism in the analysed manual extends also over phrases and clauses containing semantically related elements, e.g. "Vertue to follow, and vice to eschue" and "It dulleth the wit, and hurteth the braine". Another frequently used rhetorical device consists in addressing the reader directly with the second person singular pronoun, in imperative constructions (e.g. "Let reason thee rule" and "Flie ever sloth and ouer-much sleep"), thus creating an ambiance of emotional closeness, characterising the relationship between the master and the pupil.

It is generally agreed that repetitive patterns (especially binomials) are typical of formal registers, and particularly plentiful in legal and literary texts in Early Modern English (see e.g. Nevalainen 1999, and Adamson 1999), but the present study shows that similar rhetorical devices were also readily employed in the less formal and elevated style of manuals of good behaviour, which enjoyed increasing popularity in England in the period under consideration.

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