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Changes on Tyneside: urban regeneration vs. vernacular revival

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- Introduction
 - Speech community
 - Socio-historical changes and 'culture-led regeneration'
 - Language commodification and enregisterment
- Studies
 - Changes in Tyneside English
 - Data
 - Variable and method
 - Results
- Summary

Outline

- ▶ Newcastle upon Tyne located on the north bank of the river Tyne, Gateshead on the south bank.
- ▶ In recent years often denoted as NewcastleGateshead
- ▶ Major social changes in the region in recent years: change from coal mines and ship yards to 'cultural capital of the North'

Introduction – speech community

- The north of England, and Newcastle as a case in point, is often thought of and portrayed in mainstream media as backwards and working-class (Lancaster 1995).
- Newcastle/Gateshead's past was filled with heavy industry and coal-mining and it is only recently that it is re-defining itself as a cultural centre with much more to offer than derelict mines and shipyards. Development of and changes to the Quayside can be linked to the development of and changes in regional identity. (Miles 2005)

Introduction – socio-historical changes

- Northern identity is closely tied to a sense of place but also marred by an awareness of the questionable place of the location within the social landscape of England (Wrightson 1995) which seem to persist despite the recent 'culture-led regeneration' (Watt 2002)
- However, the recent 'culture-led regeneration' of the town focusing on more 'middle-class values', such as modern art and classical music (Miles 2005), seems to contradict the stereotype of 'backwards and working-class'.

Introduction – 'culture-led regeneration'

- Where will the Tynesiders anchor their identity if the place they have identified with is being changed and no longer represent values that are familiar to them?
 - →Revitalisation of local vernacular forms to signify local identity.
- **Enregisterment:** the identification of a set of linguistic norms as a linguistic repertoire differentiable within a language as a socially recognised register which has come to index speaker status linked to a specific scheme of cultural values (Agha 2003, Beal 2009).
- **Commodification:** social and linguistic stereotype of 'Geordie' entrenched in the community.
 - Embrace of 'commodified' dialect by Tyneside speakers.
 - Enregisterment of stereotypical linguistic features which become meaningful to the vernacular speakers → performance of local identity.

Introduction – commodification and enregisterment

- Levelling – definition:
 - Loss of marked local vernacular items, replacement by regional or standard forms. The outcome is convergence of regional dialects toward each other and/or the standard. (Kerswill 2003, Trudgill 1986).
- Watt (2002)
 - Study of phonological levelling in Tyneside English
 - Variables (FACE and GOAT)
- Cheshire, Kerswill, and Williams (2005)
 - Expectation: levelling in one part (phonology) leads to levelling in another part (morphosyntax)
 - Finding: no (substantial) connection
- Urban development and “culture-led regeneration” emphasising middle class values and a lack (or loss) of what (used to?) characterise Newcastle leads to a linguistic move towards less localised varieties (i.e. levelling).
- My suggestion: revival of vernacular morphosyntactic forms and construction of Tyneside linguistic identity in the face of external changes

Studies – changes in Tyneside English

- **Pilots:**

- Jensen (2008) and Jensen (2009)
- Variables: (do + NEG) and (SECOND PERSON PRONOUN)
- Change over time (real+apparent) + investigation of intra- and extralinguistic constraints on possible variation and change (X² testing)
- Corpora:
 - TLS (1960s)
 - PVC (1990s)
 - NECTE2 (2007-2008) (only used in Jensen 2009)

- **Current work:**

- Variables: (do+ NEG), (FIRST PERS PRONOUN), (SECOND PERS PRONOUN)
- Real time study, focus on change over time only (ANOVA)
- Corpora:
 - TLS (1960s)
 - PVC (1990s)
 - NECTE2 (2007-2009) (expanded selection)

Studies

- 37 interviews, guided conversation between one interviewer and one informant, approx. 30mins. "Question-answer" format.

WC				MC			
Young (16-40)		Old (41-80)		Young (16-40)		Old (41-80)	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
3	5	5	6	5	6	4	3

Tyneside Linguistic Survey (1960s) - TLS

- 18 interviews averaging 60 minutes in length. Relaxed conversation between two friends or relatives (36 informants) with minimum input from the interviewer.

WC				MC			
Young (16-20)		Old (41-80)		Young (16-20)		Old (41-80)	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
5	5	1	3	6	4	7	5

Phonological Variation and Change in Contemporary Spoken English (1990s) - PVC

- 24 interviews, informal style, minimal participation of the fieldworker, dyad of closely acquainted speakers (48 informants), 60mins

WC				MC			
Young (17-34)		Old (35+)		Young (17-34)		Old (35+)	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
8	6	6	7	9	6	0	6

Newcastle Electronic Corpus of Tyneside English 2 (2007-2009) - NECTE2

- EARLIEST POSSIBLE AND LATEST POSSIBLE BIRTHDATES FOR THE SPEAKERS IN EACH CORPUS, DIVIDED BY AGE GROUP

Corpus and years collected	Younger speaker birthdates (age 17-34)	Older speaker birthdates (age 35+)
TLS 1965-1970	1925- 1968	1895- 1934
PVC 1991-1994	1954- 1977	1911- 1953
NECTE2 2007-2009	1967- 1990	1923- 1966

Overview of data

- Tyneside second person pronouns (Beal 1993, 2004)

	Subject	Object
2 nd person singular	ye/(yous)	you
2 nd person plural	yous	yous/(yees)

- *You*s seems to be taking over in the singular subject position. I found no tokens of *yees*.
 - *it's just yous were good weren't you oh apart from that time yous collapsed* (PVC09a, male, young, MC)
- Overlap in forms between Tyneside English and Standard English singular object position
 - In the coding of data, all occurrences of *you* were labelled as Standard English.

Studies – (SECOND PERSON PRONOUN)

Pilots

- Manual extraction and coding
 - Intralinguistic:
 - ❖ Syntactic position
 - ❖ Referential number
 - ❖ Standard/vernacular
 - Extralinguistic:
 - ❖ Class
 - ❖ Gender
 - ❖ Time of collection
 - ❖ Age (only Jensen 2008)
- Chi-square test in SPSS

Current study

- Extraction using R, manual coding for standard/vernacular and time of collection (corpus) only.
- 20 tokens per speaker randomly chosen and vernacular score calculated on the basis of these
- ANOVA (between subjects) carried out in SPSS

Studies - method

- Frequency table

	N (total)	N (stand.)	% (stand.)	N (vern.)	% (vern.)
TLS	2165	2157	99.6%	8	0.4%
PVC	3954	3905	98.8%	49	1.2%
NECTE2	2403	2329	96.9%	74	3.1%

- Real and apparent time comparisons

TLS (N=2165)	Old (1880-1920)	Young (1920-44)		
	0.48%	0.27%		
PVC (N=3954)		Old (1910-50)	Young (1970-75)	
		0.38%	1.81%	
NECTE2 (N= 2403)				Young (1986-90)
				3.1%

Studies – results from pilots

- Statistical real time analysis, TLS+PVC

(N=6119)	TLS	PVC
Standard (N=6062)	35.6%	64.4%
Vernacular (N=57)	14%	86%
Significance	$X^2=11.467, df=1, p<0.001$	

- Statistical real time analysis, young PVC+NECTE2

(N=4775)	PVC young	NECTE2
Standard (N=4658)	50%	50%
Vernacular (N=117)	36.8%	63.2%
Significance	$X^2=8.013, df=1, p<0.005$	

Studies – results from pilots

- Summary of results (extralinguistic constraints)
 - **Time:** 1990s PVC speakers use more vernacular forms than 1960s TLS speakers (low frequencies). 2007-2008 NECTE2 speakers use more vernacular forms than 1990s young PVC speakers (clear revitalisation of local forms)
 - **Gender:** Statistical analyses for TLS and PVC not significant. Females use more vernacular features in PVC (females as innovators), males use more vernacular features in NECTE2
 - **Class:** WC speakers use more vernacular variants in all 3 corpora (TLS not statistically significant)

Studies – results from pilots

- Between subjects ANOVA

Groups	N
NECTE2	47
PVC	36
TLS	35

- Statistically significant difference in vernacular scores between the three groups of speakers: $F(2,115)=7.1$, $p=.001$.
- Effect size (partial eta squared): 0.110 (large effect).
- Post-hoc comparisons (Bonferroni + Tukey HSD) revealed that the mean score for the NECTE2 speakers was significantly different from those of the two other groups. (NECTE2+PVC: $p=.007$, NECTE2+TLS: $p=.004$).

Studies – results of ANOVA

- Thank you

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