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A QUESTION OF CLASS:

MORPHOSYNTACTIC CHANGES IN TYNESIDE ENGLISH

Outline

- Framework
- Speech community and data
- Variables and method
- Results
- New study (PhD)

Framework: dialect 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 leads to levelling in another part
 - Finding: no (substantial) connection
 - → my hypothesis

Studies

- Jensen (2008) and Jensen (2009)
 - Variables: (do + NEG) and (you)
 - Real and apparent time study
 - Corpora:
 - TLS (1960s)
 - PVC (1990s)
 - NECTE2 (2007-2008)



Data

TLS, PVC, NECTE₂

Tyneside Linguistic Survey (1960s) - TLS

- 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
4	5	4	6	5	6	4	3

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

- 18 interviews averaging 60 minutes in length. Relaxed conversation between two friends or relatives (self-selected) 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

Newcastle Electronic Corpus of Tyneside English 2 (2007-2008) - NECTE2

- 12 interviews, informal style, minimal participation of the fieldworker, dyad of closely acquainted speakers, 60mins

Young (17-24)			
WC		MC	
Male	Female	Male	Female
6	6	6	6

Real and apparent time comparisons

- Jensen (2008): real and apparent time comparisons
- Jensen (2009): real time comparison

TLS	Old (1880-1920)	Young (1920-1944)		
PVC		Old (1910-1950)	Young (1970- 1975)	
NECTE ₂				Young (1986-1990)



Variables + method

(do + NEG) and (you)



Variable (do + NEG) - Beal (1993, 2004)

- Auxiliary *do* = *div* (negated: *divn't*)
- Auxiliary *div* is unique to Tyneside, occurs in both positive (rare) and negative statements and tag questions.
- *Divn't* does not occur in the third person singular which is always *doesn't*
- *Div* never used as a main verb
 - *what div I like to do in my spare time well...* (TLS28, male, old, WC)

Variable (do + NEG) - Beal (1993, 2004)

- The standard form *don't* and local form *divn't* are used consecutively by speakers
 - *you know and I divn't suppose he ever come back I don't suppose he ever showed his face in Newcastle again* (PVC02b, male, old, MC)
 - *and that you know and this pott singer I divn't care for that fellow I like to hear it sometime but as for watching it on television I don't care much for that you know* (TLS14, male, old WC)
 - *nar I divn't knar I really don't know* (NECTE2, male, young, WC)

Variable (you) - Beal (1993, 2004)

- Tyneside second person pronouns

	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* (PVCoga, 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.



Method

Syntactic and semantic equivalence of standard and vernacular forms assumed.

- **(do+NEG)**

- Intralinguistic:

- Grammatical number
- Grammatical person
- Tense
- Standard/vernacular.

- Extralinguistic:

- Class
- Gender
- Time of collection
- Age (only Jensen 2008)

- **(you):**

- Intralinguistic:

- Syntactic position
- Referential number
- Standard/vernacular

- Extralinguistic:

- Class
- Gender
- Time of collection
- Age (only Jensen 2008)



Results

(class and change over time)



Results – overview

- Contrary to Watt (2002), no levelling was found in the morphosyntactic variables.
- Increase of vernacular forms, especially among young, working class, male speakers.
- Substantiates claim made by Cheshire, Kerswill, and Williams (2005): direction and rate of change affects different aspects of language in different ways.

Results – (do + NEG)

- Frequency table

	N (total)	N (stand.)	% (stand.)	N (vern.)	% (vern.)
TLS	1054	975	92.5%	79	7.5%
PVC	1659	1599	96.4%	60	3.6%
NECTE2	1383	1302	94.1%	81	5.9%

Results – (do + NEG)

- Class

TLS (N=1054)	WC	MC
Standard (N=975)	51.1%	48.9%
Vernacular (N=79)	55.7%	44.3%
Significance	$X^2=0.624, df=1, N.S.$	
PVC (N=1659)	WC	MC
Standard (N=1599)	37.7%	62.3%
Vernacular (N=60)	78.3%	21.7%
Significance	$X^2=40.047, df=1, p<0.001$	
NECTE2 (N=1383)	WC	MC
Standard (N=1302)	46.4%	53.6%
Vernacular (N=81)	90.1%	9.9%
Significance	$X^2=58.365, df=1, p<0.001$	

Results – (do + NEG)

- Real and apparent time comparisons

TLS (N=1054)	Old (1880-1920)	Young (1920-1944)		
	8.02%	7.04%		
PVC (N=1659)		Old (1910-1950)	Young (1970-1975)	
		1.99%	4.54%	
NECTE2 (N=1383)				Young (1986-1990)
				5.9%

Results – (do + NEG)

- Statistical real time analysis, TLS+PVC

(N=2713)	TLS	PVC
Standard (N=2574)	37.9%	62.1%
Vernacular (N=139)	56.8%	43.2%
Significance	$X^2=19.947, df=1, p<0.001$	

- Statistical real time analysis, young PVC+NECTE2

(N=2440)	PVC young	NECTE2
Standard (N=2311)	43.7%	56.3%
Vernacular (N=129)	37.2%	62.8%
Significance	$X^2=2.071, df=1, N.S.$	

Results – (you)

- 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%

Results – (you)

- Class

TLS (N=2165)	WC	MC
Standard (N=2157)	53.5%	46.5%
Vernacular (N=8)	62.5%	37.5%
Significance	$X^2=0.262, df=1, N.S.$	
PVC (N=3954)	WC	MC
Standard (N=3905)	45.8%	54.2%
Vernacular (N=49)	61.2%	38.8%
Significance	$X^2=4.659, df=1, p<0.05$	
NECTE2 (N=2403)	WC	MC
Standard (N=2329)	45.5%	54.5%
Vernacular (N=74)	89.2%	10.8%
Significance	$X^2=54.943, df=1, p<0.001$	

Results - (you)

- Real and apparent time comparisons

TLS (N=2165)	Old (1880-1920)	Young (1920-1944)		
	0.48%	0.27%		
PVC (N=3954)		Old (1910-1950)	Young (1970-1975)	
		0.38%	1.81%	
NECTE2 (N= 2403)				Young (1986-1990)
				3.1%

Results - (you)

- 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	$X^2=8.013, df=1, p<0.005$	

Results – summary

(do + NEG)

- Class
 - WC speakers use more vernacular variants in all 3 corpora (TLS not statistically significant)
- Change over time
 - 1960s TLS speakers use more vernacular forms than 1990s PVC speakers (loss of local forms)
 - 2007-2008 NECTE2 speakers use more vernacular forms than 1990s young PVC speakers (revitalisation of local forms very recent)

(you)

- Class
 - WC speakers use more vernacular variants in all 3 corpora (TLS not statistically significant)
- Change over 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)

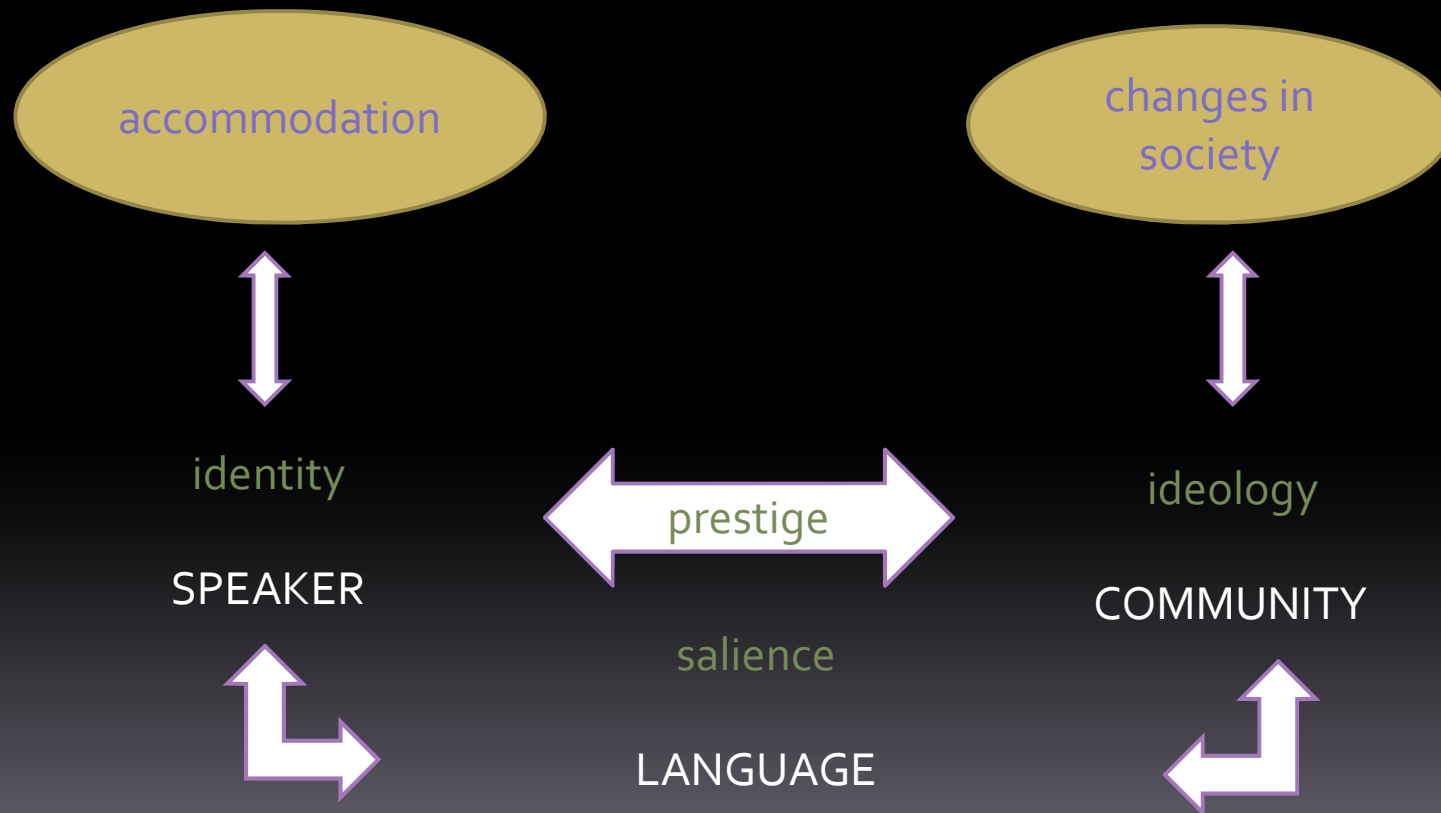
Results – the bigger picture

- Revitalisation of local vernacular forms to signify local identity.
- Socio-economic changes in Newcastle
 - 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)
 - 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)
- The linguistic construction of a local identity in north-east England:
 - Sunderland (Burbano-Elizondo 2006)
 - Middlesbrough (Llamas 2006)



New study - PhD

Models of factors in language change (Jensen 2009)



Salience

- According to Kerswill and Williams (2002), salience is “a notion which seems to lie at the cusp of language internal, external and extra-linguistic motivation [] which we can provisionally define rather simply as a property of a linguistic item or feature that makes it in some way perceptually and cognitively prominent.” (*ibid*: 81).
- They argue that “while language-internal factors play a part, it is in the end sociodemographic and other extra-linguistic factors that account for the salience of a particular feature” (*ibid*: 81) and that extra-linguistic factors are “ultimately the cause of salience” (*ibid*: 105) as these directly influence speaker behaviour.



■ THANK YOU

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