



SOCIOLINGUISTICS – KEY CONCEPTS

Dott.ssa Gloria Cappelli

DEFINING SOCIOLINGUISTICS

- *Excuse me Professor, may I ask you a question?*
- *Mark, I have a question for you...*
- *Hey dude, tell me something...*

Sociolinguistics is unavoidably all around us.

Accents, dialects, “correct” English/Italian, etc.



DEFINING SOCIOLINGUISTICS

Sociolinguistics investigates the **interplay between language and society**, and focuses on how we vary our language use in **different social contexts**, synchronically and/or diachronically.

- ➔ **Variationist sociolinguistics**
- ➔ **Historical sociolinguistics**

Please see *Introducing English Language* sections A-D09



KEY CONCEPTS

STEREOTYPES, MARKERS, INDICATORS (Labov 1972)

Please see *Introducing English Language* sections A-D09




ENGLISH OR ENGLISHES?

WHAT IS ‘ENGLISH’?

- Scuba-diving is different **from** snorkeling
- Scuba-diving is different **to** snorkeling







- **Ebonics [African American English]**
- Cf. *I am your teacher for today*



WHAT IS 'ENGLISH'?

• **He** and **I** went shopping
• **Me** and **him** went shopping

More correct

Acceptable - common

Had they a good day?

Did they **have** a good day?






7

WHAT IS 'ENGLISH'?

Southern England: **girl**

Northern England: **lass**

What are they?

cookies
biscuits






8

WHAT IS 'ENGLISH'? SOME QUESTIONS...

- Is there just **one** 'English'? Or are there **more**?
- Is English the sum of all the words/phrases contained in a dictionary, together with a grammar, or does it include all the **accents** and **dialects** of the English-speaking world?
- Is only '**correct**/'**standard** English included in our definition of English?

What we are used to thinking of as a **unified** object, 'English', in fact has fuzzy boundaries and is not easy to define.

9

WHAT IS 'ENGLISH'?

- The boundaries depend crucially on whose **perspective** we take (cf. educationist's, politician's, linguist's).
- Descriptive linguists would see all the linguistic forms cited above as belonging to 'English'. For them, there is no 'good' or 'bad' English, but a distinction between **standard** and **non-standard**, **formal** and **informal** language.

10

GLOBAL ENGLISH

- **First language** for more than **300 million people** throughout the world
- **Second language** by **many millions** more.

One in five of the world's population speaks English with a good level of competence.

The number of people speaking English as a second language will **exceed the number of native speakers**.

11

GLOBAL ENGLISH

- This could have a dramatic effect on the evolution of the language: in the process of being absorbed by new cultures, English develops to take account of **local language** needs, giving rise not just to new vocabulary, but also to **new forms of grammar and pronunciation**.
- At the same time, however, a standardized 'global' English is spread by **the media and the Internet**.

12

GLOBAL ENGLISH



David Crystal, *English as a Global Language* (CUP, 2002)

13

GLOBAL ENGLISH



- In Crystal's account, "Global English" is more or less shorthand for **English in use around the world** in the latter half of the twentieth century, with a particular acknowledgement of local dialects (Englishes).
- A contemporary phenomenon driven by both British imperialism and the ascension of the US economy after WWII.

14

GLOBAL ENGLISH

Another definition:

- Cf. Jean-Paul Nerrière's **Globish**: "not a language" in itself, but a subset of standard English grammar, and a list of 1500 English words that non-native English speakers adopt in the context of international business.

15

GLOBAL ENGLISH

- **Global English**: the term 'global' became popular in the nineties and began to have rather strong political implications. In relation to English, however, it does not have a particularly negative meaning, but simply refers to the **planet spread** of the language, to the recognised role it has in most countries.
- There is also another more derogatory interpretation according to which 'global' refers to the 'killer' role E. has towards 'weaker' languages.

GLOBAL ENGLISH

Two fallacies with the idea of "Global English" :

- 1. that Global English has been **severed from (regular?) English** to such an extent that it has become a **benign and neutral means of international communication**, without all of the anxieties about cultural imperialism;
- 2. that Global English **has been stripped of all of the ambiguities and complexities of (regular?) English**.

GLOBAL ENGLISH - ISSUES

If a language becomes an international language it then loses, at least in part, its specificity → **deculturalisation**.

- English therefore lost partly its association with the Anglo-American world and its original sociocultural background (**cultural imperialism?**)
- International English as a **continuum of different varieties**: the *New Englishes*.
- Variability is linked with a smaller degree of 'correctness', but also with a higher degree of 'acceptability'

GLOBAL ENGLISH: DIFFERENT NAMES FOR SIMILAR PHENOMENA

- **World English:** it encompasses all the aspects of the language: dialects, contact varieties, standard and substandard varieties, written and oral varieties. It describes the great spread of English.
- **International English:** this label has to do with 3 main conditions: 1. the transnational spread of the language; 2. the tendency towards standardisation; 3. the use of English as a lingua franca (used, e.g., in diplomacy, academic conferences, business meetings, chat-rooms, forums).

ENGLISH AS A LINGUA FRANCA

ELF

A common language, needed when individuals who speak different, mutually unintelligible languages come into contact with one another.

“Let-it-pass principle” (Firth 1996)

ACRONYMS AND TERMINOLOGY YOU MIGHT FIND IN THE READINGS

ENL = English as a Native Language (also ‘English as a Mother Tongue’)
“the language of those born and raised in one of the countries where English is historically the first language to be spoken” (Jenkins 2003: 14).

ESL = English as a Second Language
“the language spoken in a large number of territories such as India, Bangladesh, Nigeria and Singapore, which were once colonised by the British” (Jenkins 2003: 14).

EFL = English as a Foreign Language
“English of those for whom the language serves no purposes within their own countries” (Jenkins 2003: 14).

21

ACRONYMS AND TERMINOLOGY YOU MIGHT FIND IN THE READINGS

ESP = English for Special Purposes (e.g. English for science and technology, medicine, etc.)
“Within such domains, English proficiency may be similar regardless of which circle speakers come from” (Jenkins 2003: 17).

EIL = English as an International language (also ‘English as a Lingua franca’)

RP = Received Pronunciation

Lingua franca = ‘a language that is adopted as a common language between speakers whose native languages are different’ (OED 1998).

22

ACRONYMS AND TERMINOLOGY YOU MIGHT FIND IN THE READINGS

Spanglish = ‘hybrid language combining words and idioms from both Spanish and English’ (OED 1998).

Code mixing = ‘blending English with another language, e.g. Spanglish in the US’ (Jenkins 2003: 15).

Code switching = ‘switching back and forth between English and another language’ (Jenkins 2003: 15).

L1, L2, L3 = first language, second language, third language (in the field of language acquisition).

23

ACRONYMS AND TERMINOLOGY YOU MIGHT FIND IN THE READINGS

Pidgin = ‘a grammatically simplified form of a language, typically English, Dutch or Portuguese, with a limited vocabulary, some elements of which are taken from local languages, used for communication between people not sharing a common language. Pidgins are not normally found as native languages, but arise out of language contact between speakers of other languages’ (OED 1998).

Creole = ‘a mother tongue formed from the contact of a European language (especially English, French, Spanish or Portuguese) with local languages (especially African languages spoken by slaves in the West Indies) usually through an earlier pidgin stage’ (OED 1998).

24

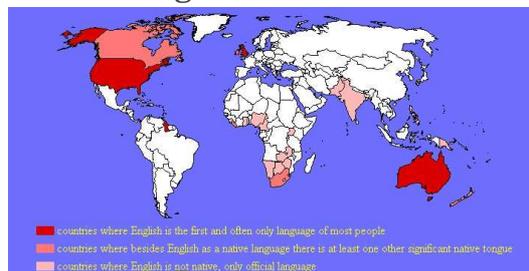
“WORLD ENGLISHES”

The main regional standards of English are **British, US and Canadian, Australian and New Zealand, South African, Indian, and West Indian**. Within each of these regional varieties a number of highly differentiated local dialects may be found.



World Englishes

UK, USA, Alaska,
Bahamas, Bermuda,
Guyana, Australia



Canada, Ireland, Guinea,
South Africa, New Zealand

Ghana, Namibia, Nigeria, India, 26
Pakistan, Papua New Guinea,
Philippines, Zambia, Zimbabwe



World Englishes

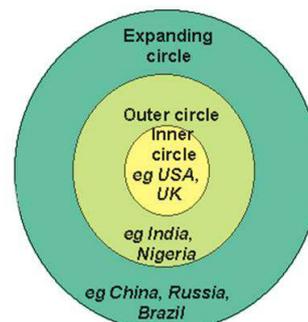


Whereas the English-speaking world was formerly perceived as a hierarchy of parent (**Britain**) and children (**‘the colonies’**), it is now seen rather as a **family of varieties**.

The English of England, the original source of all the World Englishes, is now seen as **one** of the ‘family’ of world English varieties, with its own peculiarities and its own distinctive **vocabulary** (but differences also affect **pronunciation, grammar, spelling, punctuation, idioms, formatting of dates and numbers**).

27

Kachru’s three-circle model of world Englishes (1992)



World Englishes



- Increased world-wide communication through radio, TV, the Web, and **globalization has reduced the tendency to regional variation**.
- This can result either in some varieties becoming extinct or in the acceptance of **wide varieties** as “perfectly good English” everywhere.

29

World Englishes



Standardisation (process of becoming a recognized and teachable standard) through **codification** (grammar books, dictionaries).

Uncomfortable control upon the natural process of language evolution.

Euro-English?

Prestige? Usually standard varieties have more social, political and economic power attached to it.

30

Accent and dialect



Accent = ‘a distinctive **mode of pronunciation** of a language, especially one associated with a particular country, area or social class’ (OED 1998).

Dialect = ‘A particular **form of a language** which is peculiar to a specific region or social group’ (OED 1998).

31

Accent

Accent does not refer to content

- it simply refers to **pronunciation**: your accent is the way you pronounce English when you speak it;
- **everyone** has an accent;
- it **may** signal **where** speakers are from;
- **Standard English has nothing to do with pronunciation**: most people who speak Standard English do so with some form of regional accent;
- it can be a very powerful indicator of **social status**.

32

Dialect

Dialect does not refer to content

- It has to do with **word choices, syntactic ordering and grammatical forms**;
- The most prestigious dialect in Britain is Standard British English, originally a southern dialect of English which has become the form used in most print media, law and education;
- Standard British English can be pronounced in **any accent**: RP, Northern British, etc. (e.g.: *It's very dirty* can be pronounced in different ways depending on the accent, but in the Yorkshire dialect the same sentence could be expressed as *Tha's right mucky*).

33

Accent and dialect

In **principle** any dialect can appear in any accent. In practice some accents tend to accompany certain dialects.

Dialects **do not suddenly change from area to area**; accents and dialects that are geographically close to one another tend to be similar in form, gradually varying the further you travel away from them (**dialect chains**).

34

STANDARD ENGLISH: DEFINITIONS

The **dialect** of educated people throughout the British Isles. It is the dialect normally used in writing, for teaching in schools and universities, and heard on radio and television.
(Hughes & Trudgill 1979)



STANDARD ENGLISH: DEFINITIONS

The variety of the English language which is normally employed in writing and normally spoken by ‘educated’ speakers of the language.

The variety of the language that students of English as a Foreign or Second Language are taught when receiving formal instruction.

The term **“Standard English”** refers to **grammar and vocabulary (dialect) but not to pronunciation (accent)**.
(Trudgill & Hannah 1994)

36

Standard English: What it isn't

Trudgill (1999):

- **It is not a language:** it is only one variety of a given English;
- **It is not an accent:** in Britain it is spoken by 12-15% of the population, of whom 9-12% speak it with a regional accent;
- **It is not a style:** it can be spoken in formal, neutral and informal styles:

a) *Father was exceedingly fatigued subsequent to his extensive peregrinations.*

b) *Dad was very tired after his lengthy journey.*

c) *The old man was bloody knackered after his long trip.*



Standard English: What it isn't

- **It is not a register:** Register refers to lexis in relation to a subject matter (e.g. the register of medicine, cricket, etc.).

Register is 'a variety of a language or a level of usage, as determined by degree of formality and choice of vocabulary, pronunciation and syntax, according to the communicative purpose, social context and standing of the user' (OED 1998).

38

Standard English: What it isn't

- **It is not a set of prescriptive rules:** it can tolerate certain features which, because many rules are grounded in Latin, prescriptive grammarians do not allow: e.g.,

a) *I've bought a new car which I'm very pleased **with**.* (cf. *with which I'm...*)

b) *Generosity is a showy virtue, which many persons are very fond **of**.* (cf. *of which...*)

c) *He's taller than **me**.* (cf. *than I*)

39

Standard English: What it is

1. Standard English is a **dialect** which differs from others in terms of **prestige**;
2. Standard English **does not have** an associated **accent**;
3. Standard English **does not** form part of a **geographical** continuum – it is a social dialect;
4. One standard form is **not superior** to another.

40

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES ARE NOT IN STANDARD BRITISH ENGLISH?

- We don't want to do that.
- He don't ~~✗~~ it to do that.
- They always bel~~✗~~e very nice to me.
- They always seem very nice to me.
- I'm very sorry – I'm ~~✗~~id we haven't got none left.
- I'm very sorry – I'm afraid we've got none left.
- I know what I have to do.
- I know ther~~✗~~work what I have to do.
- We done ~~✗~~ quite recently.
- We've done that quite recently.



CONVERT THE FOLLOWING NON-STANDARD SENTENCES INTO STANDARD BRĒ

- I don't want none of that. I don't want any of that.
- Them tapes aren't no good. Their tapes are not good.
- He give it to me last night. He gave it to me last night.
- It weren't John I seen. It wasn't John I saw.
- They done what they was supposed to do. They did / they were
- That's the one what I want. That's the one that I want.
- We always goes there on Saturdays. We always go...



Main varieties of Standard English

- 
- British English
- VS
- 
- American English
- **Standard British English**
 - Standard British English is normally written and spoken by educated speakers in England and, with minor differences, in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

43

Main varieties of Standard English

- 
- British English
- VS
- 
- American English
- **General American**
 - General American (a term coined by George P. Krapp in 1924) is a very conservative variety (cf. *gotten* 'get' and *fall* 'autumn'), most prestigious for the US middle class, and devoid of marked regional features. It is the reference model for many Asian countries, Latin America and Scandinavian countries.

44

TYPES OF WORLD ENGLISHES: US ENGLISH

- US English is of course particularly influential, on account of America's **dominance of cinema, television, popular music, trade, and technology, including the Internet**. Many terms that enter an Oxford dictionary from the US quickly become established in British English: some examples from the last ten years or so are *geek*, *nerd*, and *24/7*.

US English

- The first innovations of US E. concerned **loanwords** or **calques** from indigenous languages: *hickory*, *moccasins*, *skunk*, *squash*, *totem*, etc.;
- or derived from **contact** with other languages, e.g. Dutch, *boss*, *coleslaw*, *cookie*, *Santa Claus*, *sleigh*, *Yankee* (f. Jan Kees, a sort of Mario Rossi); French, *prairie*, *chowder*; or Spanish, *ranch*, *corral*, *lasso*.

US English

- **Adaptations** from the languages of immigrants, e.g. Western Africa, *voodoo*, *juke*, *zombie*; German, *dumb*, *noodle*, *snorkel* and the suffixes *-fest*, *-burger*.
- **Meaning extensions**: *creek* from 'insenatura' to 'ruscello'.
- Recently the **spread of technical terms** which originated in specific scientific domains such as industry and technology.

US English

- Many **US equivalent words for British terms** are familiar: *sidewalk* for *pavement*, *cookie* for *biscuit*, and *vest* for *waistcoat*.
- Other differences are more subtle. Some words have a slightly different **spelling**, e.g. *dollhouse* (US)/*doll's house* (Brit.), *math* (US)/*maths* (Brit.), *tidbit* (US)/*titbit* (Brit.), *learned* (US)/*learnt* (Brit.).
- Some American **constructions** are strange to British ears, e.g. *I just ate*, *teach school* (= 'to teach in a school, college'), *She appealed the decision* (rather than *against the decision*), and *a quarter of ten* (rather than *a quarter to ten*).

Differences between British and American English

<u>British English</u>	<u>American English</u>
Trousers	Pants
Chips	French fries (cf. crisps)
Fizzy drink	Soda
Lift	Elevator
Film (flick)	Movie
Pavement	Sidewalk

49

Standard American vs. Standard British English: Lexis

- The **same word** sometimes has **different meanings** in the two varieties: e.g.,
 - pants**
 - mad** = 'crazy' (British English), 'angry' (American English);
 - mean** = 'not generous, tight-fisted' (British English), 'angry, bad-humoured' (American English);
 - rubber** = 'tool used to erase pencil markings' (British English), 'condom' (American English).

50

Standard American vs. Standard British English: Lexis

Different words are often used for the **same idea**: e.g., *lorry* (UK) vs. *truck* (US);

More examples:

British English

Flat
Sweets
Bill
Lift
Autumn
Ground floor

American

Apartment
Candies
Check
Elevator
Fall
First floor

51

Standard American vs. Standard British English: Grammar

American English

He just **went** home.
Do you **have** a problem?
I've never really **gotten** to know...
Her feet were sore because her shoes **fit** badly.
It's important that he **be** told.
He looked at me **real strange**.

British English

He's just **gone** home.
Have you **got** a problem?
I've really never **got** to know...
Her feet were sore because her shoes **fitted** badly.
It's important that he **should be** told.
He looked at me **really strangely**.

52

Standard American vs. Standard British English: Grammar

Prepositions: There are also a few differences in preposition use including the following:

American English

on the weekend
on a team
Please write **Ø** me soon

British English

at the weekend
in a team
Please write **to** me soon

53

Standard American vs. Standard British English: Grammar

Articles: A few 'institutional' nouns take no definite article when a certain role is implied: e.g., at sea (as a sailor), in prison (as a convict), and at/in college (for students).

British English

in hospital (as a patient)
at university (as a student)
in future

American English

in **the** hospital
at **the** university
in **the** future

54

Standard American vs. Standard British English: Grammar

In British English **numbered highways** usually take the definite article (e.g. **the** M25, **the** A14), whereas in America they usually **do not** (I-495, Route 66). Southern California is an exception, where **the** 5 or **the** 405 are the standard.

Dates usually include a definite article in UK spoken English, such as **the** 11th of July, or July **the** 11th, whereas American speakers say July 11th.

55

Standard American vs. Standard British English: Spelling

American English

color, humor
center, theater
realize, criticize
catalog
check (issued by a bank)
traveler

British English

colour, humour
centre, theatre
realise, criticise
catalogue
Cheque
traveller

56

Standard American vs. Standard British English: Pronunciation

Standard American is **RHOTIC** whereas Standard British is **NON-RHOTIC**.

RHOTIC

'r' is always pronounced:
in initial position (red);
between vowels (very);
before consonants (part);
in final position (four).

NON-RHOTIC

'r' is pronounced only:
in initial position (red);
between vowels (very);
never before consonants (part);
never in final position (four).

57

Standard American vs. Standard British English: Pronunciation

cot, dog, lost, stop...
[ɑ] like in father in Am.E. vs. [ɒ] in Br.E.

fast, after, last...
[æ] in Am.E. vs. [ɑ] in Br.E.

duty, tune, new...
American [u:] vs. British [ju:] when 'th', 'd', 't' or 'n' are followed by 'u' or 'ew'.

58

Standard American vs. Standard British English: Pronunciation

In Am.E., 't' and 'd' both have a very light voiced pronunciation [d] between vowels – so writer and rider can sound the same. In Br.E. 't' and 'd' are quite different.

Unstressed '-ile' pronounced [ɪ] in Am.E. vs. [aɪl] in Br.E.: e.g., fertile, hostile.

59

Canadian English

Canadian English is subject to the conflicting influences of **British** and **American** English.

- In **vocabulary** there is a lot of **US** influence: Canadians use *billboard*, *gas*, *truck*, and *wrench* rather than *hoarding*, *petrol*, *lorry*, and *spanner*;
- But, on the other hand, they agree with the **British** in saying *blinds*, *braces*, *porridge*, and *tap* rather than *shades*, *suspenders*, *oatmeal*, and *faucet*.

Canadian English

Traces of British English are also found in **spelling**:

- French-derived words that in American English end with *-or* and *-er*, such as *color* or *center*, retain British spellings (i.e. *colour*, *centre*); *travelled* as in Br.E. (cf. Am.E. *traveled*).
- In other cases, Canadians and Americans differ from British spelling: e.g., *curb* and *tire* (cf. Br.E. *kerb*, *tyre*); *realize* (cf. Br.E. *-ise*).
- **Pronunciation**: *adult* and *composite* (stress on the first syllable, like in Br.E.); *either* and *neither*

Australian and New Zealand English

Very similar vocabulary: both enriched by **words and concepts from the hundreds of indigenous languages** that pre-dated European settlers, only about fifty of which continue as first languages.

The line between formal and informal usage is perhaps less sharply drawn in Australasian English than it is elsewhere: suffixes such as **-o** and **-ie**, giving us expressions such as *arvo* ('afternoon'), *reffo* ('refugee'), and *barbie* ('barbecue'), are freely attached to words even in more formal contexts.

South African English

South Africa has 11 official languages: English, Afrikaans (descended from Dutch), Zulu, Xhosa, and other largely regional African languages.

English is the first language of only about 10 per cent of the population, but the second language of many others.

Influence of the **English of native Afrikaners** on 'standard' English of white South Africans: e.g. informal usages as the **affirmative no**, as in '*How are you? - No, I'm fine*' and the **all-purpose response *is it?***, as in '*She had a baby last week - is it?*'.

Indian English

(Far from straightforward role)

Together with Hindi it is used across the country, but it can also be a speaker's first, second, or third language, and its features may depend heavily on their ethnicity and caste.

The grammar of Indian English has many distinguishing features, e.g. the use of the **present continuous tense**, as in '*He is having very much of property*', and the use of ***isn't it?*** as a **ubiquitous question tag**: '*We are meeting tomorrow, isn't it?*'.

Indian English

- inclusions of intrusive particles such as *in* or *of* in idiomatic phrases.
- verbs are also used differently, with speakers often dropping a preposition or object altogether: '*I insisted immediate payment*'
- double possessives – '*our these prices*' (instead of the Br.E. '*these prices of ours*')

West Indian/Caribbean English

Linguistic model for the Commonwealth Caribbean: Standard British English
US television, radio, and tourism has made American English an equally powerful influence.

The many varieties of Creole, influenced by West African languages, are also productive. A characteristic usage is that of the objective pronoun where British English would use the subjective or possessive, as in ***me can come an go or he clear he throat.***

Regional variation within standards

○ What varies?

○ Variation in language is pervasive at every linguistic level:

- **Phonetics/Phonology:** pronunciation
- **Syntax/Morphology:** grammatical structure
- **Lexis/Semantics:** vocabulary and meaning
- **Pragmatics:** discourse

ACCENT

DIALECT

67

'RP' - Received Pronunciation

'The **standard form of British English pronunciation**, based on educated speech in southern England, widely accepted as a standard elsewhere' (OED 1998).

It has its origins in the **south-east of England**. Associated with Public Schools as well as with Oxford/Cambridge Universities and with members of the upper-middle and upper classes. Considered a **prestigious accent**, but actually used by perhaps only **3% to 5%**.

68

'RP' - Received Pronunciation

'RP' spread via the Army and the Imperial Civil Service throughout the Empire:

↓
model for English-language instruction throughout British territory

The **BBC** was responsible for the spread of RP and until the late 1990s the national news was still read by RP speakers.

69

Features of RP

1. **non-rhotic:** work, farm, bark, here, there, more, poor, bother
2. **'r' pronounced only if followed by a vowel sound:**
 - 1) bridge, from, marry, brother
 - 2) mother vs. motherer and father
 - 3) there vs. thereare
 - 4) far vs. faraway
3. **intrusive 'r':** the idea(r) of, I saw(r) it happen

70

Features of RP

4. The 'a' vowel pronounced as [æ] (man) vs. flat 'a' pronunciation of the north of England. A northerner saying *bat* sounds a bit like a southerner saying *but*;
5. The 'a' sound in words like *class*, *past*, *last* is **elongated**.

71

Estuary English

Term '**Estuary English**' coined in 1984

The form of the English language common in the **south-east of England**, especially along the **river Thames and its estuary**;

It is a **hybrid of RP and a number of south-eastern accents, particularly from the London and Essex area**;

It is adopted as a means of 'blending in', i.e. sounding **more working class or more sophisticated**;

72

Estuary English

It may, now and for the foreseeable future, be **the strongest native influence upon RP**;

It describes the speech of a far larger and currently more linguistically influential group than RP speakers;

It is popular in English society because it obscures sociolinguistic origins;

This accent lays **'between Cockney and the Queen'** (Sunday Times).

73

Features of EE

1. On the level of sounds, it is a **mixture of 'London' and general RP forms**;
2. **the use of 'w'** where RP uses 'ɹ' in the final position or in a final consonant cluster:
milk = miwk;
3. **the use of glottal stop** instead of 't':
Ga'wick, Sco'land, trea'ment, ne'work;

74

Features of EE

1. process of **shedding /j/** (now established in RP as well!):
 - a) after 'l': e.g., *absolute, lute, revolution*
 - b) after 's': e.g., *assume, consume, suitable*;
2. process of **/j/ coalescence**: e.g., *Tuesday* = *chusday*, *reduce* = *rejuice*;
3. **certain vocabulary items**:
 1. *cheers* instead of *thank you* or *goodbye*;
 2. *basically* is used frequently;
 3. *there you go* rather than *here you are*;

75

Cockney English and its features

Popular speech of **London**; traditional **East End working-class dialect**.

Its features include:

1. **dropped 'h'**, as in *'ouse* (*house*), *'arf* (*half*);
2. **th-fronting**: *thin* ► *fin* (unvoiced 'th')
brother ► *bruvver* (voiced 'th');

[FRONTING because *f* and *v* are pronounced further forward in the mouth than unvoiced 'th']

Words like *that*, *those* and *they*, with a voiced 'th' sound at the beginning of the word, have **not** changed in the same way.

76

Cockney English and its features

3. **glottal stops** instead of 't' sound ► momentarily closing of vocal cords: *ci'y*, *wa'er*, *A li'le bi' of bread wiv a bi' of bu'er on i'*;
4. use of **rhyming slang**: e.g. *stairs* ► 'apples and pears', *wife* ► 'trouble and strife'
He's quite Piccadilly ('silly')
Sometimes with some part dropping:
I'll have a Winona (← *Winona Ryder* 'cider')
I'm Calvin thanks (← *Calvin Klein* 'fine')

77

RP, EE AND COCKNEY

RP _____ Estuary English _____ Cockney
▼ ▼
Standard British English Popular London speech
BBC English
"Queen's English"
Oxford English
▼
Model
Reference accent

