Standards and Accents

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Standards and Accents

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Australian English
Introduction

- English is the native language of all native-born Australians
- AusE more similar to the accents of present-day England than North American English
- Distinctive accent different from any spoken in England
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### Differences between BrE and AusE:

- Formal style of AusE comes closer to BrE than AmE
- More slang words and abbreviations in AusE
- Some names for places and objects are influenced by Aboriginal terms (e.g. “Boomerang”, “Kangaroo”)
• Common shortenings are for example:
  • Afternoon => arvo
  • Barbecue => barbie

• Regional variations in pronunciation and accent exist, but...

• Very small compared to those of British and American English
Varieties of AusE - Accents

- Cultivated (spoken by 11%)
- General (spoken by 55%)
- Broad (spoken by 34%)

- Reflect the social class and/or educational background of the speaker

- AusE varieties do not occur in regional aspects
Cultivated Australian English (CAE)

- Similarities to British Received Pronunciation
- Often mistaken for it
- This is that the speech is mocked as sounding "affected", "snobby" or "aloof"
General Australian English

- Stereotypical variety
- Used by the majority of Australians
- Dominates the accents found in contemporary Australian-made films and television programs
- Shorter vowel sounds than Broad Australian English
Broad Australian English

- Archetypal and most recognizable
- Familiar to English speakers around the world
- Less common than General Australian English
- Recognizable by a certain nasal drawl and the prevalence of long diphthongs
**RP As A Class Marker**

- Arose ~1850 in the great public schools
- Just one accent among others
- Yet, no regional indications ("privileged accent")
- The accent of a social class
- Stands above the other accents socially
- "accent bar"
- People are divided by the way they talk
General Tendencies

- /au/ -> /ai/
  - <mouse> and <mice> sound the same
- Intrusive r
  - <law officer>
- /uə/ -> /ɔː/
  - <poor, sure> etc.
- /ou/ -> /ɔː/
  - floating and flirting sound the same
Standards and Accents

U-RP (Upper Class RP)

- /æ/ -> /ɛæ/, /ɛɛæ/
  - <that man> - /ðɛæt meæn/
- Smoothing <do it> - /du it/
- Nasal release of plosives, little aspiration
- Tapped r
- “General plumminess in the voice”
  - Mellow, affected, unnatural
## Adoptive RP

- Adults who didn't speak RP as children
  - Quasi-RP
- For social circumstances
- Intrusive r is regarded as 'wrong' and left out
- /hw/ in <where, wheel> etc. is avoided
Near-RP

- Only few regionalisms
- The regional influence on RP can't be localized
- This group of accent types would be considered as “well-spoken” or “educated” by most people
- Some varieties of AusE or South African English are local varieties of Near-RP
Estuary English

- Heartland lies in the banks of the Thames and its estuary
- Term first used in 1984
- Well-established in the media, politics, business circles, etc.
- May replace RP as most influential accent
- “Between Cockney and the Queen”
Standards and Accents

Estuary English related to other accents
Differences Estuary - RP

- Final /l/ -> /U/ or /w/
  - <Faulty> and <forty> sound the same (/fɔ:Uti/)
  - They are an example of non-RP homophones

- Glottaling of alveolar plosives /t/ and /d/
  - Yet not as frequent as in Cockney

- Prepositions are stressed a lot more in Estuary

- Slight Americanization in vocabulary
Standard Filipino English
Standard Filipino English

- spoken in the Philippines

- Philippines:
  - more than 7,000 islands
  - estimate population: 90.5 million
  - around 171 different languages
  - official languages: Tagalog and English
from Colonial Language into Official Language

- Spain colonialism in the 16th century:
  - Spanish became the official language
- Spanish-American War of 1898
  - arrival of English language
  - English teaching in schools
  - 1935 constitution makes English an official language, alongside Spanish
- In 1946: Tagalog the official native language
- 1973 Constitution:
  - Tagalog/Filipino and English as the two official languages of the Philippines
Areas of English Usage

- **Education**
  - School subjects not only in Tagalog, but also in English (e.g. Science and Math)
  - beside Tagalog, no other regional language in school

- **Job/Profession**
  - if you want a good job, you need to learn English
  - international and local business: English is used as first language
  - smaller jobs also require English skills
Areas of English Usage

- **Media**
  - movies and television programmes
  - Commercials and news (radio and TV)
  - most of the books, newspapers, magazines and comics
  - Children-programmes, e.g. cartoons

- **Religion**
  - sermons are held in English
  - prayers, the bible in English
Standard Filipino English Pronunciation

- Filipinos often ignore or change some pronunciations
  - /f/ into /p/:
    - family: [pamili]
    - fish: [pɪʃ]
  - dental fricatives into alveolar plosives
    - /ð/ -> /d/, e.g. then: [dɛn]
    - /θ/ -> /t/, e.g. thing: [tɪŋ]
  - /v/ into /b/:
    - view: [bjuː]
  - Rhotic r, but an alveolar flap instead of American retroflex
    - really: [rɛli]
Status of English in the Filipino Society

- English skills can often tell the social status
- English has a high status in the Philippines
- the higher your social status, the better English you speak
English in the Upper-Class Society

- people from upper-class are mostly fluent English speakers
- still with certain Filipino accents, but sound more American than speakers in lower classes
- some prefer English over Tagalog (or their regional language) as 1st language
- can afford the best universities in the country or send their children to college in the States
English in the Middle-Class Society

- often good English skills (depends on education)
- often have a stronger Filipino accent, even if they are fluent in English
- first language is usually Tagalog (or a regional language), English is only the second or the third
- speaking like native English speakers could be taken as 'showing off'
English in the Lower-Class Society

- Those who can’t afford education barely understand/speak English, or even Tagalog (unless Tagalog is their regional language)
- But they can learn some English from media or friends
- Some go to school for a few years and gain some first basic knowledge
- Mostly broken English or an erroneous form of English (bamboo English)
Standard Filipino English: General Definition

“Standard Filipino English is the type of English which educated Filipinos speak and which is acceptable in educated Filipino circles.”
(Llamson, T.)
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The End