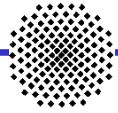


Scottish Standard English and Scots

LANGUAGE HISTORY - SCOTS

- ‘Scoti’: Gaelic speakers in northern Ireland (‘Scotia’ = a Latin name for Ireland)
 - converted to christianity by St. Patrick
 - at around 500 AD they established a colony in northernmost mainland Britain and spread over the Highlands southward, displacing the Pictish language
 - in the Middle Ages Gaelic was still spoken by the majority of Scots
- Scots: Germanic language descended directly from an Anglo-Saxon Northern Dialect of Old English established in the Lowlands (7th century Edinburgh)
 - thus not considered a dialect of English , but a separate language (Aitken, 1998)
 - Scandinavian influence via ME spoken by immigrants from Northern England
 - established in the Lowlands, slowly spread northeast, ‘exported’ to Northern Ireland in the 17th century
 - cultural heyday 1376 - 1560: classic Scots literature (Barbour, Dunbar, Henryson, ‘Blind Harry’) with own spelling conventions, later Burns (18th), MacDiarmid (20th)
 - alternative names: Inglis (13th – 14th century), Lallans (since 16th century)
 - periods: Northern OE 7th to 11th century; Older Scots 1100 – 1700 (Early Scots 1100 – 1450; Middle Scots 1450 - 1700); Modern Scots 1700 - present



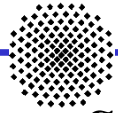


Scottish Standard English and Scots

LANGUAGE HISTORY – SCOTTISH ENGLISH

- Union of the Crowns (1603): James VI King of Scots becomes King of England at the death of Queen Elizabeth
- Union of the Parliaments (1707): Scottish Parliament dissolved into an expansion of the English Parliament, creating a British Parliament
- steady decline of Scots begins in 16th century, by the end of the 17th century English has gained considerable influence in Scotland
 - no Scots bible translation; English as the language of religion and serious thought
 - Scots considered provincial and unrefined
 - after Union English comes to be the official written language of the whole country
- continuum of usage from English with weaker or stronger Scottish accents to Scottish Standard English proper to SSE with Scots influence to urban Scots to rural Scots
- English learned formally in Highlands and northern and western islands (still Gaelic-speaking), thus no Scots influence



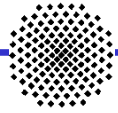


— Scottish Standard English and Scots —

SCOTS – PHONETIC/PHONOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Four dialect groups: Central (Lowlands including Edinburgh and Glasgow), Southern (border districts), Northern (Angus, Aberdeen, Caithness), Island Scots (Shetland and Orkney)
- radically different lexical incidence of vowels: “stone” /*sten*/, “arm” /*εrm*/ is virtually impossible to predict and leads to great differences from English
 - Scottish English /*ʊ*/ splits into 6 different vowels: “book” with /*u*/ (English loan); “bull” with /*ʌ*/ (from Middle English /*u:*/); “foot” with /*ɪ*/ (Northern Middle English fronting of /*o*/), “boot” with /*ø*/ (different development of NME fronting of /*o*/), “lose” with /*o*/ (unchanged from ME), “loose” with /*ʌu*/ (from Old Norse)
- retains Germanic /*x*/: “daughter” /*dɔxtɪr*/, “night” /*nɪxt*/
- allows additional consonant clusters; e.g., /*kn-*, /*vr-*, /*-xt*/
- Northern Scots replaces /*m*/ with /*f*/ or /*ϕ*/: “white” as /*feit*/, “who” as /*fa*/, “what is it called” as /*fustɪ kət*/ (“how is’t ye ca’it”)
- Orkney and Shetland formerly spoke Norn (dialect of (Old) Norse)
 - dental stops instead of fricatives, /*xw*/ for /*kw*/ (“question” as /*xwɛstjən*/)



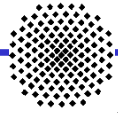


— Scottish Standard English and Scots —

SCOTS – LEXICAL/GRAMMATICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- many Scots words have different roots than their English equivalents such that dialectal comparisons of sound correspondences do not make much sense
- characteristic Scots vocabulary:
 - Germanic words not shared with any form of English: “but and ben” (two-room cottage), “haffet” (cheek), “swick” (to cheat), “skeich” (apt to shy/rear (horse))
 - shared northern words: “bairn” (child), “dicht” (to clean), “speir” (to ask), “thole” (endure), “snell” (severe (weather)), “hauch” (meadow)
 - Scandinavian words: “blae” (blue), “gate” (road), “kirk” (church), “lug” (ear)
 - obscure origins: “skreich” (to shriek), “argybargy” (dispute), “camshauchle” (distorted), “donnert” (dazed, stupid), “bogle” (ghost), “glaik” (trick, deceit)
- some characteristic grammatical (morphological and syntactic) features
 - many irregular noun plurals: “eye”/”een”, “cow”(/ku/)/”kye” etc.
 - more regular verb past forms: “gae”/”gaed”/”gan” (go), “hurt”/”hurtit”/”hurtit”
 - verbless subordinate clauses to express surprise/indignation introduced by “and”:
“She had tae walk the hale lenth o the gate an her seeven month pregant”



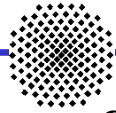


— Scottish Standard English and Scots —

SSE - PHONETIC/PHONOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS I

- strongly rhotic (trilled alveolar /r/ or alveolar tap /ɾ/)
- only partial merger of vowels before /r/: /ɪr/ (“bird”), /ɛr/ (“heard”), /ʌr/ (“word”, “hurt”) is the most common distribution
- monophthongized diphthongs: RP /əʊ/ as /o/ (“go” /gɔ:/); RP /eɪ/ as /e/ (“play” /ple:/); RP /aʊ/ as /u/ (“house” /hu:s/) or /ʌu/ in weaker accent
- dissolved vowel oppositions:
 - no opposition /u:/ vs. /ʊ/, e.g. “pool” and “pull” are homophones with /ʊ/ (equally “fool”/“full”, “look”/“Luke”), “good” and “mood” rhyme
 - some words may have a different vowel due to Scots influence: “foot” as [fɪt]
 - /ɔ/ and /ɒ/ merged to /ɔ/ such that “cot” and “caught” are homophones
 - /ɑ/ and /ɒ/ merged to a single vowel, varying in realization but most often /ɑ/
- stressed RP vowel /ɪ/ often lowered and retracted as /ɛ/ or even /ʌ/ (“fin” = “fun”)
- unstressed vowels often realized as /ɪ/ where RP has /ə/: “pilot” as /pʌlɪt/, “letter” as /lɛtɪr/ or /lɛʔɪr/



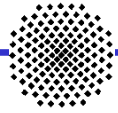


— Scottish Standard English and Scots —

SSE - PHONETIC/PHONOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS II

- Scottish Vowel Lengthening Rule (Aitken's Law)
 - vowels are short unless followed by a morpheme boundary, a voiced fricative or /r/
 - /ɪ/ and /ʌ/ are always short
 - examples:
 - tense vowels stay short if none of the conditions are fulfilled: “bead” /bɪd/, short as “bid” /bɪd/, “lace” /les/ short as “less” /les/, “tote” /toʔ/ short as “pot” /pɔʔ/
 - otherwise the vowels are long: “know” /no:/, “smooth” /smʊ:ð/, “Kerr” /kɛ:r/
 - oppositions are created depending on the occurrence of morpheme boundaries:
 - minimal pairs: “brood” /brʊd/ vs. “brewed” /brʊ:d/; “need” /nid/ vs. “kneel” /ni:d/
 - RP diphthong /aɪ/ undergoes quantity and quality variation under the same conditions: long /aːe/, e.g., in “tied”, “high”, “prize”, “short” /ʌi/, e.g., in “tide”, “like”, “light”, “time” etc.
- non-initial /t/ often replaced by /ʔ/ (“butter” /bʌʔɪr/, “root” /rʊ:ʔ/), use decreases in higher social classes
- phoneme /x/ in Scots (“loch”), but also Greek/Hebrew words spelt with “ch” (“technical”, “patriarch”, “epoch” etc.)
- phoneme /ʌ/, generally velarized [ɫ], weak aspiration (not Gaelic speakers)





Scottish Standard English and Scots

SSE – LEXICAL/GRAMMATICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- characteristic vocabulary and idioms
 - words in English that are of Scottish origin: “caddie”, “collie”, “cosy”, “eerie”, “golf”, “lilt”, “pony”, “raid”, “uncanny”, “weird”, “wraith” etc.
 - words from Scots: “clan”, “dreich” (dull), “haggis”, “kilt”, “wee”, “whisky”
 - “will” replaces “shall” in most contexts (“Will I turn out the light?”)
 - idioms: “How are you keeping?” (How are you?), “That’s me away” (I’m going now), “The back of nine o’clock” (Soon after nine o’clock)
- characteristic grammatical (morphological and syntactic) features
 - passive may be expressed by “get”: “We got overtaken”
 - negation with “not” preferred over contracted forms (“He’ll not come” vs. “He won’t come”)
 - verbs of motion may be elided before adverbs of motion (“I’ll away home then”)
 - “have” behave more like an auxiliary: it contracts more often (“He’d a good time”), doesn’t need “do”-support (“Had you a good time?”)
 - “need” can occur with a past participle as its object (“My car needs washed”)

