LANGUAGE HISTORY – IRISH ENGLISH

- Ireland ("Eire-land") was never invaded by the Romans, escaping direct romanization, but after the fall of the Roman Empire became a focus of Christian culture, using Latin for both religious and scholarly purposes

- 1155: invasion by the Anglo-Normans

  - development of Anglo-Irish (written accounts survive from the 19th century)

  - Irish remained strong, regained territory/speakers, English only in a steadily shrinking area around Dublin ("The Pale"); very few speakers in the 15th century

- 16th century: The Plantations

  - re-energized British occupation, lands confiscated, establishment of colonizing settlements ("plantations") of English loyal supporters of the Crown

  - revolts against the Protestant Ascendancy

  - English gains more and more influence at the expense of Irish, develops to Irish English (1800: 50% Irish monolinguals, 1900: 21,000; 2000: 0% (100,000 bilingual))

- Irish English characterized by Irish influence on one hand and strong conservatism (none of the innovations happening in either British or American English) on the other hand
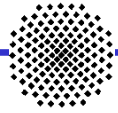
LANGUAGE HISTORY – ULSTER ENGLISH

- historical province of Ulster larger than present political Northern Ireland
    - counties Donegal, Monaghan, Cavan in Republic of Ireland, English spoken there similar to Northern Ireland, however with a high share of Irish speakers
    - other provinces: Connaught, Leinster, Munster

- "Plantation of Ulster" in 1609 brought a great number of Scots-speaking colonists from south-west Scotland and some from the north and west Midlands
    - due to being the most rebellious province, Ulster was most heavily "planted"
    - the area remained cut off from the rest of Ireland by a belt of Irish-speaking areas

- Ulster English made up of contributions from 17th century English, Scots and Irish Gaelic
    - some rural dialects are still distinguishably Scots (in the north) or Hiberno-English (in the south) in type
    - urban speech, particularly that of Belfast, represents an amalgam which can no longer be unscrambled
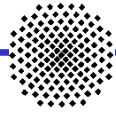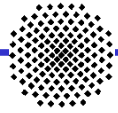
IRISH ENGLISH - PHONETIC/PHONOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS I

- liquids:
  - /l/ is strikingly clear in all environments: "pull" as [pʰʊl], "milk" as [mɪlk]
  - /ɹ/ is strongly retroflex [ɻ] except before a stressed vowel (where it is a postalveolar approximant [ɹ]) or after /t d/ where it is a voiceless postalveolar fricative [ɹ̥] : "where" [ʍeːɻ], "farm" [faːɻm], but "red" [ɹɛd] and "tree" [tʰɻ̥iː]
  - near complete range of vowel oppositions before [ɻ]: "earn" [ɛɻn], "urn" [ʊɻn] (Dublin [ʌɻn]), "pair" [pʰeːɻ], "per" [pʰɛːɻ], "beer" [biːɻ], "fir" [fɪɻ], "horse" [hɔːɻs], "hoarse" [hoːɻs], thus no vowel /ɜ/ in Irish English

- monophthongs:
  - historical /æ/ realized as /a/ as in modern RP: "man" [man] (except Dublin)
    - use of /a/ instead of /ɛ/ in "many" and "any"
  - historical /ɑ/ realized as /aː/: "calm" [kaːm] such that a minimal pair based on quantity difference is created: "Sam" [sam] vs. "psalm" [saːm]
  - RP vowel /ɒ/ unrounded as /ɑ/ as in GA: "lot" [lɑʈ]
  - /ʌ/ is realized more centralized, slightly rounded [ɵ] or [ɔ̈] ("fun" [fɔ̈n])
  - unstresssed /ɪ/ becomes /ə/: "rabbit" [ɹabəʈ] (rhymes with "abbott"), "roses" [ɹoːzəz], "refer" [ɻəfɛːɻ]
   - other vowels retain full form when unstressed, e.g., "accept" with initial [a]

IRISH ENGLISH - PHONETIC/PHONOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS II

- diphthongs:

    - /əʊ/ and /ɛɪ/ monophthongized to /oː/ and /eː/ respectively ("low" as /loː/, "way" as /weː/)

    - /aɪ/ stereotypically as /ɔɪ/, especially strong in rural and southern areas, thus no difference between "tie" and "toy"
        - in Dublin this neutralization only in informal popular speech, but then as /ɑɪ/

    - /aʊ/ with a backer starting point /ʌʊ/

- obstruents

    - dental stops instead of dental fricatives: "thin" as [t̪ɪn], "they" as [d̪eː]

    - postvocalic /t/ realized as a slit fricative [t̞]: "bottom" [bɑt̞əm], "hit" [hɪt̞], but not preconsonantal ("meat exports" with [t̞], but "meat sales" with [t])
        - tapping of /t/ intervocalically after stressed vowels in Dublin working class on the rise

    - no H Dropping, strong aspiration of initial /p t k/

    - retains voiceless labial fricative /ʍ/ in wh-words

    - Western Ireland:
        - bilabial fricatives /ɸ β/ replace /f ʍ v/: Irish Ó Faoláin anglicized as Whelan/Phelan
        - /s z/ palatalized to /ʃ ʒ/ before consonants: "west" [wɛʃt̞], "wisdom" [wɪʒdɒm]
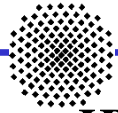
IRISH ENGLISH – LEXICAL/GRAMMATICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- characteristic vocabulary and idioms
  - Irish words: "boxty" (mashed potato) from "bacstaidh", "banshee" (fairy woman) from "bean sidhe", "kitter" (clumsy person) from "citeóg", "mass" (faith, respect) from "meas" ("I've no mass in them things now."), "smig" (chin) from "smeig"
  - Irish influence on meaning (English word takes over semantic range of Irish equivalent): "destroy" as "spoil" from Irish "mill" ("He has the child destroyed with presents"), "drowned" "drenched" from Irish "báite" ("You're drowned child.")
  - translated idioms: "She's as light on her foot as a cat at milking"
  - other typical words: "backward" (shy), "doubt" (strongly believe), "bold" (naughty)
- characteristic grammatical (morphological and syntactic) features
  - "fronted it"-constructions ("It's a lovely girl she is now")
  - "after" + "-ing" to indicate recently performed action ("I'm after doin' it")
  - unstressed "and"-like word introduces questions ("An' do you like it?") from Irish question particle (present tense): "An maith leat e?" ("Do you like it?")
  - less restricted use of progressive forms: "I'm seeing it", "It's belonging to me"
 - avoidance of the Present Perfect: "How long are you here?"
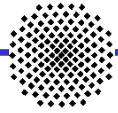
ULSTER ENGLISH - PHONETIC/PHONOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS I

- very distinctive intonation
  - rises routinely used in statements and commands: mostly abrupt steep rise followed by high plateau (not gradual rise as in most other accents of English)
  - falls only in echo questions, exclamations or before rises: falls go only down to middle of pitch range not low end

- monophthongs
  - Scottish Vowel Lengthening Rule + added Ulster Lengthening
    - all vowels are short unless followed by a morpheme boundary, a voiced fricative or /ɹ/ ("fish" [fɨʃ], "lose" [lʉːz], "fair" [fɛːɻ], "shoe" [ʃʉː])
    - /ɨ/ (Belfast /æ̈/ "thing" as [θæ̈ŋ]) and /ʌ/ are always short ("fun" [fʌn])
    - Ulster Lengthening: /e ɛ a ɔ/ are long in any monosyllable closed by a consonant other than /p t k tʃ/ ("raid" [ɻeːd], "ten" [tʰɛːn], "cloth" [kʰl̥ɔːθ])
      - as a consequence all vowels must be short before /p t k tʃ/
  - opposition /ɛ/ - /a/ neutralized with adjacent velar ("beg", "bag" as /bɛːg/)
  - no opposition /uː/-/ʊ/: long /ʉː/ ("choose" [tʃʉːz]), short /ʉ/ ("doom" [dʉm])
    - fronted when following /j/: long /yː/ ("few" [fjyː]), short /ʏ/ ("mule" [mjʏl])
    - lowered and centralized to /ø/ before /ɹ/: "cure" ([kjøːɻ])
  - vowels before /ɹ/ are merged (to /ɛː/ in Belfast, to /əː/ in the Hiberno- English South) – in the Scots-descended North some oppositions are retained ("turn" [tʰʌɻn], "learn" [lɛɻn]) also opposition ("horse" [hɔːɻs] – "hoarse" [hoːɻs])
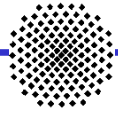
ULSTER ENGLISH - PHONETIC/PHONOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS II

- diphthongs
  - /ɛɪ/ monophthongal /e/ in most of Ulster
    - two allophones in Belfast: open long monophthong in open syllables: "day" [dɛː], centring diphthong in closed syllables: "face" [feːəs]
  - in Belfast /ɛ ɑ ɔ/ tend to be very open and front when occurring as a short allophone and give the impression of a three-way neutralization to [a] (forms with underlying /ɛ/ slightly raised): "pet", "pat", "pot" [pʰat] – long allophones manifest centring diphthongs: "bed" [bɛˑəd], "man" [mɔˑən], "doll" [dɔˑəl]
  - /aʊ/ produced as /əʉ/ ("how" [həʉ])
    - in Belfast very variable and an important social marker
  - /aɪ/ produced as /æɪ/
    - in Scots-descended dialects split into [əi] before voiceless consonants ("like" [ləik]) and [aːe] before vowels ("riot" [ɹaːeət])
- consonants
  - strongly rhotic (retroflex approximant); clear /l/ in all positions (not Belfast)
  - /ʍ/ retained in wh-words, but dental fricatives never produced as dental stops
  - consonant cluster /ŋg/ always reduced to /ŋ/: "finger" as [fæ̈ŋəɹ] (stigmatized)
  - Belfast: tapping of /t/ intervocalically after stressed vowels quite common
  - palatal /k/ and /g/ before front or open vowels: "cab" [cɛːb], "get" [ɟɛt]
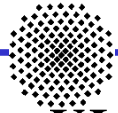
ULSTER ENGLISH – LEXICAL/GRAMMATICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- characteristic vocabulary and idioms
  - words shared with Scots: "brae" (hill), "firnenst" (in front of), "ava" (at all), "lum" (chimney), "ken" (know), "bairn" (child), "nor" (than), "oxther" (armpit)
  - words also known in parts of Scotland: "boke" (to vomit), "gunder" (to shout), "hoke" (to poke around, to dig into), "skite" (to slap, to splash), "whither" (to hesitate), "throughother" (untidy, messy)
  - idioms also used in SSE: "I doubt he's not coming", "That's me away"
  - "I'm not at myself" = "I'm not feeling well"
  - "It would take you to be there" = "You have to be there"
  - "to get" + "-ing"-form = "to be allowed" ("He's gets doing it")
- characteristic grammatical (morphological and syntactic) features
  - negation as in Scots with preceding "no" ("Do ye no ken the man?") or clitic "-nae/-ny" ("I didnae think he would come." / Ye canny mean it")
  - demonstratives "thon" / "thonder (like old-fashioned English "yon" / "yonder")
  - use of "whenever" to refer to a single occasion ("Whenever my baby was born …")