



Week 10. Liverpool (Scouse)

1. Northernisms

- [ʊ] in STRUT words
- [a] (= /æ/) in BATH words
- [g] in *sing, singer*

2. Irish features

- stopping of /θ, ð/
- opening (lenition) of /t/
- clear /l/ (also northern)

3. Other striking Scouse characteristics

- (af)rication of plosives
- /eə/ merged with /ɜ:/ *fare=fur*
- [ou, eu] for GOAT
- intonation

Read Knowles, G., 1978, 'The nature of phonological variables in Scouse', in Trudgill, P. (ed.), *Sociolinguistic Patterns in British English*. London: Edward Arnold.

See also Wells, *Accents of English*, vol. 2 *The British Isles*, sections 4.4 (esp. 4.4.10, Merseyside) and 5.3 (Ireland).

Also <http://www.dur.ac.uk/dwp.linguistics/resources/DWPVOL8/DWP8Watson.pdf>

BA Half-course unit. Assessed essay (25% of final marks; hand in by 1 February 2006; length approximately 1000 words)

“[Scouse] is an interesting hybrid: on the phonological level, it remains similar to the dialects of neighbouring Northern towns, but phonetically it has been heavily influenced by Anglo-Irish” [KNOWLES]. Discuss and illustrate (from the tape supplied, or otherwise).

Advice: Make sure you understand what Knowles means by ‘on the phonological level’ and ‘phonetically’ (see handout for week 9). Read his article. Consult sources for information about both North-of-England and Irish pronunciation. Either use the tape supplied, or Track 50 from the CD of Collins & Mees *Practical Phonetics and Phonology*, or record a bit of Brookside or some other Scouse material, to find examples of the phenomena you discuss. Include plenty of transcribed examples.