Central and Northern accents

THE N**O**RTH

REMEMBERS

SHAKESPEAREAN

ENGLISH

○ They share some common phonological features like:

1. Vowel sound [ʊ] in 'but'
2. Vowel sound [æ] in 'dance'
3. Velar nasal plus (e.g. [sɪŋ**g**ə]
4. HappY tensing

○ They also share some common morpho-syntactic features like:

1. Frequent use of progressive forms (e.g. **I'm liking** this!)
2. 'be' used as auxiliary verb for perfect tenses (e.g. I**'m** already come from uni)
3. Double modal verb (e.g. I **should could** do it)
4. Resumptive pronouns in relative clauses (e.g. That's the man whom I saw **him** yesterday)
5. Neither inversions, nor auxiliary verbs in questions (e.g. What you want?; You like it?)

○ They can be divided into: 1. Upper-northern, 2. Lower-northern, 3. Central-western and 4. Central-eastern accents (see following slides)

22

Upper-northern accents

1. Vowel sound [ʊ] in 'but'
2. Vowel sound [æ] in 'dance'
3. Velar nasal plus (e.g. [sɪn**g**ə]
4. HappY tensing

- Newcastle (Tyneside) – Geordie accent

- One of the most ancient accents (Vikings)

- Northumbrian gurr = uvular /r/ = almost like French and German (today is getting lost)

- Monophthongizations /eɪ/ = [eː] and /əʊ/ = [ɔː]

- /ɜ:/ is replaced by [ɔː] (e.g. shirt and short can't be distinguished)

- /aɪ/ is usually [ɛɪ] (e.g. right = [rɛɪt])

- The cluster <al> is pronounced [aː] (e.g. 'walk' → [waːk])

- Glottalization of /p, t, k/ in word endings (e.g. Pit = [pɪʔ])

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dwl5xuWCI7c

23

Lower-northern accents

1. Vowel sound [ʊ] in 'but'
2. Vowel sound [æ] in 'dance'
3. Velar nasal plus (e.g. [sɪ**g**ə]
4. ~~HappY tensing~~

- Rhotic accents

- No happY tensing

- /ʊ:/ in words like 'book' or 'cook', instead of /ʊ/

- [y:] (French 'u' or German 'ü ') in words like 'boot', instead of /ʊ:/ (e.g. moon = [my:n] instead of /mʊ:n/)

- /aɪ/ is often realized as [a:] or [ae] (e.g. bye → [ba:] or [bae])

Dr. Fabio Ciambella
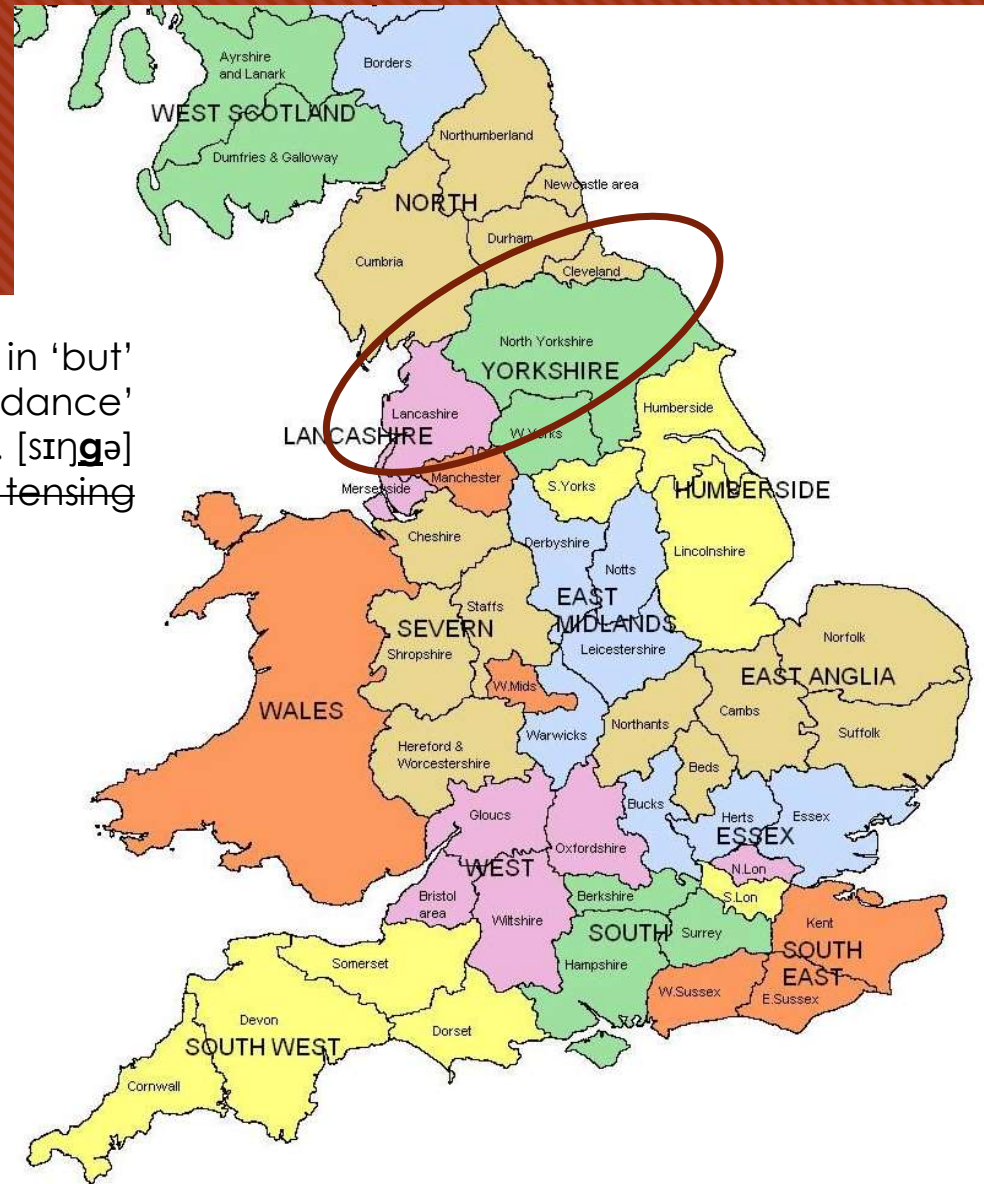
Central-western accents

Merseyside (Liverpool – Scouse accent):

- No distinction between /eə/ ('hair') and /ɜ:/ ('her') → [e:] (so 'hair' and 'her' are indistinguishable)
- /ð/ is pronounced as [d] in initial position (e.g. 'that' → [dœt])
- /pʰ, tʰ, kʰ=x/ are deeply aspirated, so words like 'lock' or 'chicken' are pronounced like [lɒx] and [tʃɪxən] (a kind of German ach-laut, or Spanish jota)

Lancashire (Manchester):

- Rhotic
- Monophthongization /eɪ/ = [e:]
- No happY tensing

1. Vowel sound [ʊ] in 'but'
2. Vowel sound [œ] in 'dance'
3. Velar nasal plus (e.g. [sɪŋgə]
4. HappY tensing (not in Man)

Western Midlands (Birmingham – Brummie accent). It shares some characteristics with the north and some with the south:

- HappY tensing sometimes pronounced as [əɪ]
- Monophthongization /eɪ/ = [e:]
- H dropping
- Glottal /t/ is common among young people

Central-eastern accents

Dr. Fabio Ciambella

Central Midlands (Leicester):

- No velar nasal plus
- No happY tensing
- Glottalised /p, t, k/ in word endings
- No yod-dropping

1. Vowel sound [ʊ] in 'but'
2. Vowel sound [æ] in 'dance'
3. Velar nasal plus (e.g. [sɪŋgə])
4. HappY tensing
5. No monophthongisation

North-eastern Midlands (Lincoln):

- No yod-dropping

East Midlands (Nottingham):

- Yod-dropping

26

English as a global language

There are two factors which contributed to the spreading of English as a global language:

1. The British empire (with its peak in the late XIX century)
2. The rise of the US as the world's first economic power in the XX century (70% of English native speakers are American)

Kachru's 3-circle model of English as a global language (1988 and ff.)
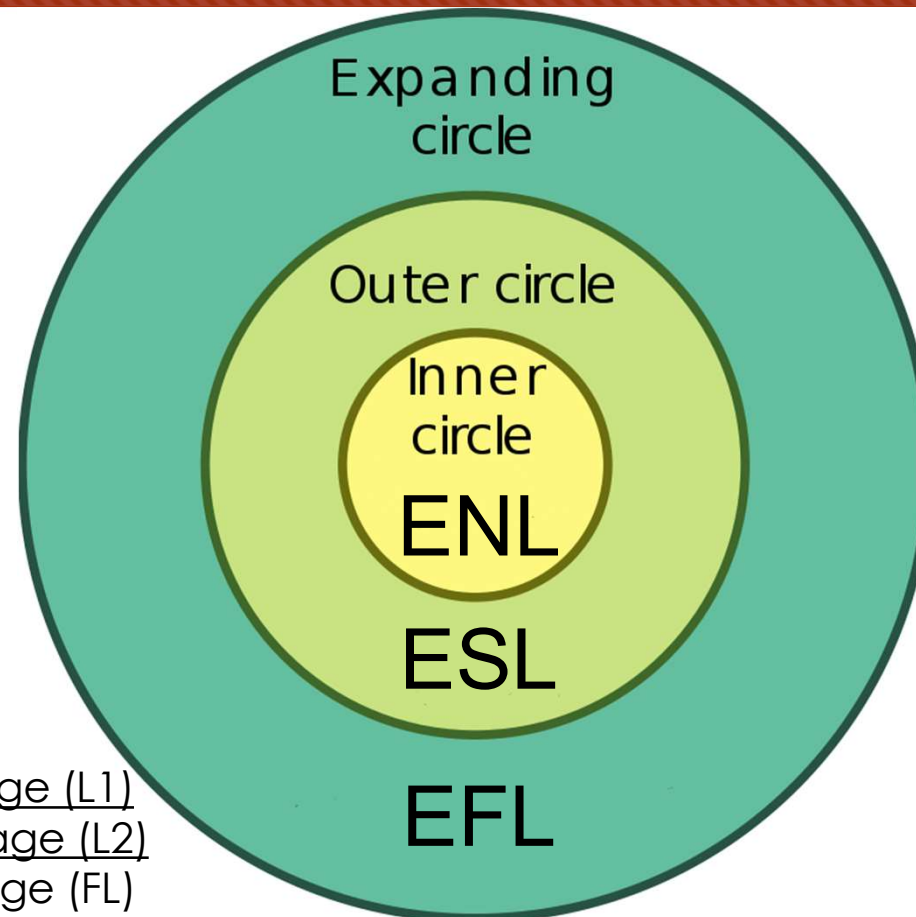
ENL: English as a native language (L1)

ESL: English as a second language (L2)

EFL: English as a foreign language (FL)

28

Varieties of English as a Native Language (ENL or inner circle)

'English' types		'American' types
AusEng EngEng NZEng SAEng WEng	IrEng	CanEng USEng

ScotEng

Given the two parameters used to classify English as a global language, the varieties of English as a Native Language follow two 'modeles': British English and American English. As you can see from the table above, Irish English is in the middle because it shares features of both for historical reasons. Instead, Scottish English is something completely separated: it doesn't share so many features either with British English or American English (that's why it's out of the table).

29

ENL common/distinctive features

Key
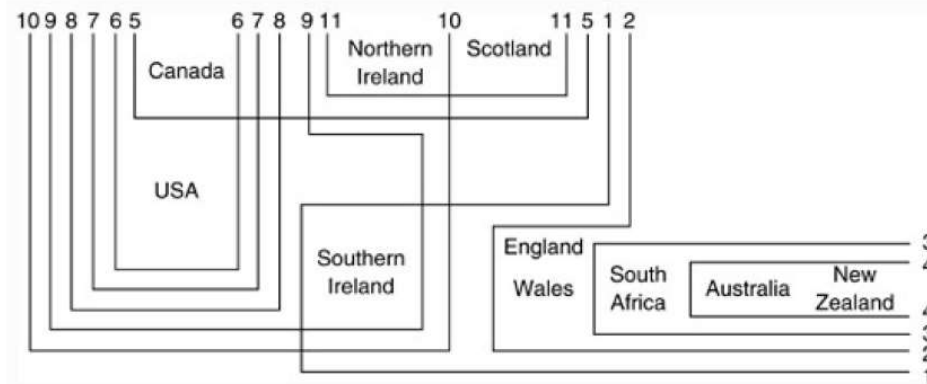
1 /ɑː/ rather than /æ/ in *path*, etc.
2 absence of non-prevocalic /r/
3 close vowels for /æ/ and /ɛ/, monophthongization of /ai/ and /ɑu/
4 front [aː] for /ɑː/ in *part*, etc.
5 absence of contrast of /ɒ/ and /ɔː/ as in *cot* and *caught*
6 /æ/ rather than /ɑː/ in *can't*, etc.
7 absence of contrast of /ɒ/ and /ɑː/ as in *bother* and *father*
8 consistent voicing of intervocalic /t/
9 unrounded [ɑ] in *pot*
10 syllabic /r/ in *bird*
11 absence of contrast of /ʊ/ and /uː/ as in *pull* and *pool*

30