BBN–ANG–141 Foundations of phonology
11. Accents of English

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facts about dialects

there is no linguistic value difference between dialects

the prestige of standard dialects is sociological/historical: linguistically no dialect is clearer, purer, or more logical than any other: there is no criterion to select the "right" form of *latter* from among the forms latə, ɬatə, lætə, lɛtə, laɾə, laɻə, laʔə, lasə, latɚ, latər, or other combinations

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the difference between language and dialect

is unclear; mutual intelligibility ($\approx$) could be a criterion, but it is not a transitive relation: $A \approx B \;\&\; B \approx C \not\Rightarrow A \approx C$
ie if speakers of dialect A understand speakers of dialect B and speakers of dialect B understand speakers of dialect C, it doesn't follow that speakers of dialect A understand speakers of dialect C
Max Weinreich: *a shprakh iz a dialekt mit an armey un flot*
'a language is a dialect with an army and a navy'

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in fact, no two people speak language in exactly the same way (everybody speaks their own IDIOLECT), but linguists are interested in systems, not individual incidences

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Jamaican Creole: jʊ mɔ̈s ˈnjam ɪ ˈaːf

types of accent differences

- irregular: involving individual lexical items

	SSBE	GA
what	wɔt	wət
Whatton	wɔtən	wɑːtən
want	wɔnt	wɑːnt
wander	wɔndə	wɑːndɚ
wash	wɔʃ	wɑːʃ

- regular: involving (almost) all of items in its scope
  - systemic
  - realizational
  - distributional

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SSBE /ɔ/ is generally GA /ɑː/, but in *what* it is GA /ə/

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realizational accent differences

a realizational difference between accents does not involve the phoneme systems of the two accents, eg

- SSBE /ɛj/ and /əw/ is Scottish Standard English /e/ and /o/: *gate* SSE /get/, *goat* SSE /got/

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in themselves, these changes do not change phoneme inventories: the system remains unchanged (cf Saussure's chess analogy: the rook may be replaced by a piece of rubber, the game does not change)

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CLOTH	ɔ	oː
THOUGHT	oː	oː

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	SSBE	SSE
TRAP	a	a
PALM	ɑː	a
LOT	ɔ	ɔ
THOUGHT	oː	ɔ
FOOT	ʉ	y
GOOSE	ʉw	y

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Saussure: if the rook and the knight become indistinguishable, the rules of the game changes

systemic accent differences

	CUBE	GA
NORTH	oː	ɔr
FORCE	oː	or
THOUGHT	oː	oː
CURE	oː	ʉr

	CUBE	GA
Mary	ɛː	ɛ
marry	a	ɛ
merry	ɛ	ɛ

	CUBE	SSE
berth	əː	ɛ
birth	əː	ɪ
burst	əː	ə

distributional accent differences: yod after consonant

	RP	oSBE	CUBE	GA	EAnglia
pure	j	j	j	j	∅
beauty	j	j	j	j	∅
few	j	j	j	j	∅
music	j	j	j	j	∅
new	j	j	j/∅	∅	∅
Tuesday	j	j	ʧ	∅	∅
duke	j	j	ʤ	∅	∅
thuja	j	j	∅	∅	∅
lewd	j	∅	∅	∅	∅
suit	j	∅	∅	∅	∅
Zeus	j	∅	∅	∅	∅
chew	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅
Jew	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅
rule	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅
cube	j	j	j	j	∅

distributional accent differences: r

	GA	NewE	SBE	S US
rat	r	r	r	r
era	r	r	r	∅
tar	r	r	∅	∅
art	r	∅	∅	∅

distributional accent differences: word-final nasal+plosive clusters

	SNBE	SSBE	SSE
lamb	m	m	m
long	ŋg	ŋ	ŋ
land	nd	nd	n

nonnative accents

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- the term Hunglish and its counterparts are often used to denote a dialect (not only an accent), and they are often used pejoratively

Hunglish

Hunglish is useful for an effective Hungarianization of English loanwords: it replaces sounds not occurring in (standard) Hungarian by others which do, eg

- SSBE /ɛj əw/ become HE /eː oː/ (like in SSE!): *Shakespeare's Globe* → *sékszpír glóbja*; mergers: *laud=load*, *law=low*, *called=cold*, etc

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- SSBE /w/ becomes HE /v/: *William* → *viliem*; mergers: *veil=whale*, *vine=wine*, etc

ólDÓ prájMErili inTENdid for inKORpöréting INglis LÓNvördz önd NÉMZ in hanGEriön TEKSZTSZ, disz KÁJND öv pröNANsziÉsön kön iFEKtivli bí JÚZD tu köMJÚnikét vid INglis SZPÍkörz. di EKszönt iz KLÍRli NÓtiszöbli hanGEriön, bat ökSZEPtöböl öt dö szém TÁJM. ÓLszó, der iz nó NÍD tu MEmörájz ól dóz FENszi ÁJpíéj SZIMbölz!

diszól tőnötivträn szkripsön ejmzötprö vajdiŋömó fejföl reprizön tejsönöv karönt sztändöd britis inglisprö nönszi ejsön, sztil jüuziŋdökön vensönzövhön gērijön szpeliŋ. ijcs wődbi ginzwidö sztreszt szilöböl. nöutdöt töutölijpri szajszträn szkripsönizim poszöböl.