LONDON

7.8 million people
+ than 275 different nationalities

95% of the world's peoples
Huge variety of languages

Advantages

Multilinguism

Different cultures living together and learning from each other

Disadvantages

Too many languages may create learning conflicts
Why do we find this diversity?

- Too many language changes since 2000 years ago: Old English, Middle English, Modern English.
- Many monarchies
- Different churches: Anglican and Roman
- Literature has enabled today's readers to be aware of their dialects, as we could not record the phonetic changes
Who talks what?

East End
- Working class
- Cockney

West End
- Upper class
- BBC English
- Queen's English
- RP
Hybridisation of English

Due to:

- Different social classes
- Bilingual immigrants who introduce home words in his/her speech
Definition

The term “Cockney” started being used in the 14th century and has been used until the 16th century as characteristic of the working-class East-Enders and their speech.
Parts of London most associated with Cockney

- Aldgate (A)
- Bethnal Green (B)
- Bow (C)
- Hackney (D)
- Limehouse (E)
- Mile End (F)
- Old Ford (G)
- Poplar (H)
- Shoreditch (I)
- Stepney (J)
References to the word Cockney

- *Piers Plowman* (1362), Langland
  → “Cokeneyes” refers to the eggs that are small and misshapen.

- *The Canterbury Tales* (1386), Geoffrey Chaucer
  → “Cokenay” to refer to the mother’s darling. In the 16th century changed to refer the ignorant people of real life.
Lexicographer John Walker concludes:

Four common characteristics of the speech:

- Odd Plurals → pronunciation of words like *fists* and *posts* as a vowel between the *t* and *s*: ‘fistiz’ and ‘postiz’

- “Wery vell” → the pronunciation of *v* for *w* and vice versa.

- A *wh*- problem → failure on the pronunciation of *h* after *w*.

- An initial *h*- problem → the non pronunciation of the initial *h*. *Heart* pronounced as ‘*art*’. 
KEY FEATURES OF COCKNEY
In terms of pronunciation

- /f/ instead of th → I think about thousands of things = I fink about fousands of finks*

- /v/ instead of the voiced th in mid-words → My brother and my mother went to the theatre = My brovva and my movva went to the featre).

- Schwa before /i:/ sound (beet; seat)
In terms of pronunciation 2

- “ah” = ow-sound → about (“abaht”); thousand (“fahzn”).
- Stretching and multiplying vowel sounds → “daown’t” = “don’t”.
- Glottal stops → replace t, p, and k in middle or final positions → but, butter and glottalized ksh as in actually; sounding like “atshellee”.
- Non-rhotic → car-cah; card-cahd. / Linking –r → “draw(r)ing room” and “Sha(r) of Persia”.
- The l-sound → tell and technical = w-sound. “Tell him about the technical college= “Tewwim abah[] the te[]nicaw cowwedge”.”
In terms of grammar

- More or less “general non-standard”

- Double negatives → there aint nuffink like it

- Done and seen for did and saw → I done it yesterday

- Question tags → I’m elpin you now, innI? = I am helping you now, ain’t I? = I’m doing it now.
VOCABULARY AND PLAYWORDS
Borrowings

- **Romany** (gypsies in East London):
  
  *Chavvy* → child
  
  *Mush* → mate, buddy
  
  *Put the mockers on* → to jinx

- **Yiddish** (from the Jews of Europe)
  
  *Gazump / gezumph* → to swindle
  
  *Schemozzle* → a disturbance
Euphemisms

Especially relating to God

- Cor/Gor → God

- Blimey → Blind me

- Gordon Bennett (the name of a 20th century car-racing promoter) → God in heaven
Slang

- Truncation of words:
  
  *Aggro* → aggravation, aggression (now widely used)

  *Rarzo* → a red nose, from raspberry.

- Back-slang:
  
  *Yobbo* → boy

  *Boyo* → backward boy

- Run-together playfully phrases:
  
  *Gawdelplus* → God help us

  *Geddoudovit* → Get out of it
Rhyming slang

- Two part phrase that rhymes with the original word.
- The origin of rhyming slang is uncertain but it probably comes from the thieves' cant of 19th century and became fashionable in West London in the 1930's.
- Clipping off the second part of the sentence is very common and many expressions survive nowadays in the shortened form.
Examples

- *Bristol Cities* → titties. Used as *Bristols*.
- *Would you Adam n Eve?* → Would you believe it?
- *‘E’s left is trouble n strife!* → He’s left his wife!
- *Apples and pears* → Stairs; *‘E went up the apples* → He went up the stairs.
- *Use your loaf!* → loaf of bread = head
- *Are you telling porkies?* → porkies = pork pies = lies
Can you guess the meaning?

'Allo me old china – wot say we pop round the Jack. I'll stand you a pig and you can rabbit on about your teapots. We can 'ave some loop and tommy and be off before the dickory hits twelve.
Hello my old mate (china plate) - what do you say we pop around to the bar (Jack Tar). I'll buy you a beer (pig's ear) and you can talk (rabbit and pork) about your kids (tea pot lids). We can have some soup (loop the loop) and supper (Tommy Tucker) and be gone before the clock (hickory dickory dock) strikes twelve.
ESTUARY ENGLISH
Introduction to Estuary English

- We can find it across the South and the South-East of England.
- The term was coined by David Rosewarne in 1984.
- It is considered a dialect inside London English.
- It is a very common way of speaking among young people in the counties of Essex and Kent (specially among the river Thames).
- Mockney (between Cockney and RP).
- It consists of some variants in phonetics found in the working class.
Characteristics

- It spread to the south of England because of the migration of Londoners during the Second World War.

- Spoken in Basildon, Harlow, Slough, and Milton Keynes.

- Commonly used on the radio.

- Convergence and accommodation with other accents such as RP.
Phonetic changes

- Milk - miwk/ cathedral - cathedwaw
- Vulnerable - vunnerable
- Technical
- Lovely - lovelee
- Give prominence to prepositions and auxiliary verbs.
Phonetic features similar to Cockney

- Use of intrusive r
- Yod coalescence (tuesday)
- Broad a (bath)
- L dropping
- Wholly-Holly split (goal split)
Vocabulary changes

- Cheers → thank you or good bye
- There you go → here you are
- Sorry → excuse me or engaged
Quotation about Estuary English

No accent is intrinsically good or bad, but it has to be recognized that the way we perceive accents does play a role in our attitude to others. Different people have differing perceptions. So there are significant numbers of young people who see Estuary English as modern, up-front, high on 'street cred' and ideal for image-conscious trendsetters. Others regard it as projecting an approachable, informal and flexible image. Whereas RP, Queen's English, Oxford English and Sloane Ranger English are all increasingly perceived as exclusive and formal. —Paul Coggle, 1993
JAMAICAN BRITISH ENGLISH
What is it?

- One of the most important varieties of English spoken by foreign people in London
- Big Jamaican community in Great Britain because it was an English colony.
- Jamaican creole is a mixture of English and Patois, the variety of French spoken in Jamaica.
- Used mainly by young Britain-born people with Jamaican origins.
KEY FEATURES OF JAMAICAN BRITISH ENGLISH
In terms of pronunciation

- **Removal of postvocalic /r/**
  - → court /kə:t/
  - → core /kə:/

- **Use of [ɪn] in present participle instead of [ɪŋ]**

- **Lack of [θ] and [ð]**
  - → think- [tɪŋk] instead of [θɪŋk]
  - → they- [deɪ] instead of [ðeɪ]
  - → brother- [brəvə] instead of [brʌθə]
In terms of pronunciation 2

- **Deletion of word-final** [L]
  → Coal [ko]

- **Reduction of word-final consonant clusters**
  → walks [woks]
  → wax seal [wæksɪl] instead of [wæks sɪl]
  → old man [əu mæn] instead of [əud mæn]
In terms of grammar

- Inflections
  - Usual lack of:
    - Final -s in 3rd person singular
      → He sing= he sings
    - Plural mark
      → Two dog= two dogs
    - Saxon genitive 's
      → The dog leg= The dog's legs
In terms of syntax

- Verbal auxiliaries:
  - Using an “invariant be” to give sense of doing something often
    - → She's tired = She's tired (right now)
    - → She be tired = She's (often) tired
  - It can also express intention
    - → He say he be going = He says he will go
In terms of syntax 2

- Use of auxiliaries to give notion of time
  - He done gone = He has recently gone
  - He bin gone = He has been gone a long time
  - “Bin” is disappearing, but “done” is widely used

- Absence of copular verb
  - She tired = she is tired
  - I leaving = I am leaving
  - That where he is = That's where he is
In terms of syntax 3

- Use of **It's a...** instead of there's a...
  
  → It's a boy in my room name John=
  
  There's a boy in my room called John

- Multiple negation- emphatic
  
  → Nobody don't like a boss hardly= Nobody likes his boss.

- Question transformation
  
  - Yes/no questions- no auxiliary verb shift
    
    → He left?= Did he leave?
  
  - Content questions- remain subject-aux-verb with question tag
    
    → Where the blue can is?= Where is the blue can?
In terms of vocabulary

- Words borrowed from Jamaican Patois:
  → duppy= ghost
  → bulla= cake
- Change of “-tt-” for “-kk-”:
  → bokkle= bottle
  → likkle= little
- But most of the vocabulary is the same as in British English
For your attention!
Bibliography


- Canepari, L. The Pronunciation of English around the World: Geo-social Applications of the Natural Phonetics & Tonetics Method. Lincom Europa. 2010. Deutschland → Cockney pronunciation: page 393