

**Week 5. Cockney (iii): and Estuary English**

1. Vocabulary: *area, dustman, bloomer...*
 rhyming slang *use your loaf, titfer, on his tod, butcher's, to rabbit...*

2. Grammar: (Many of the following points apply to popular English widely in England, not just to Cockney.)

multiple negation	<i>I ain't never done nothing</i>
verb morphology	<i>You seen 'im! - I never! They done it. You was.</i>
reflexive pronouns	<i>'E'll 'urt 'isself. That's yourn.</i>
demonstratives	<i>them books</i>
adverbs without -ly	<i>Trains are running normal. The boys done good.</i>
prepositions	<i>down the pub, up her nan's, out the window, off of</i>
possessive pronouns	<i>Where's me bag?</i>

3. Proposed definition of **Estuary English**: Standard English spoken with a non-RP, London-influenced accent. Some claim EE is due to replace RP as the educated accent of England.

4. EE arguably **differs** from Cockney (i) in using standard grammar and (ii) in **lacking**

v /h/ dropping (in content words)	<i>'hænd ɒn 'hɑ:t ('ænd ɒn 'ɑ:?)</i>
v TH fronting	<i>θɪŋk (fɪŋk), 'fɑ:ðə ('fɑ:və)</i>
v MOUTH vowel monophthong	<i>mæʊθ (ma:f), dəʊn (da:n)</i>
v T glottalling within a word before a vowel	<i>'bʌtə ('bʌʔə), 'wɔ:tə ('wɔʊʔə)</i>

5. EE **agrees** with Cockney, but differs from RP, in having (perhaps variably)

v tense vowel in HAPPY	<i>'hæpi, 'kɒfi, 'veəriəs</i>
v T glottalling finally (etc.)	<i>'teɪk ɪʔ 'ɒf, 'ðæʔ 'ɪz, 'pʌʔni</i>
v vocalization of preconsonantal/final /l/	<i>'miɒk ɔ̄bɒtə, 'dʒentə/'dʒenʔli</i>
v yod coalescence in stressed syllables	<i>'tʃu:zdʌɪ, rɪ'dʒu:ɪs, 'stʃu:dənʔ</i>
v (?) diphthong shift in FACE, PRICE, GOAT	<i>fʌɪs, praɪs, ɡʌʊʔ</i>
v (?) striking allophony (phoneme split?) in <i>sold</i>	<i>sɒʊ(ʔ)d, 'rɒʊlə</i>

References

- Coggle, Paul, 1993. *Do you speak Estuary?* London: Bloomsbury.
 Hughes and Trudgill, *English accents and dialects*, especially 4.I.
 Rosewarne, David, 1994b. 'Pronouncing Estuary English'. *English Today* 40.10.4 (Oct. 1994), 3-7.
 Rosewarne, David, 1984. 'Estuary English'. *Times Educational Supplement*, 19 (October 1984).
 Rosewarne, David, 1994a. 'Estuary English: tomorrow's RP?'. *English Today* 37.10.1 (Jan. 1994), 3-8.
 Wells, J.C., 1982. *Accents of English*, esp. vol. 2, section 4.2 (pages 301-334). Cambridge: CUP.
 Wells, J.C., 1994. 'Transcribing Estuary English'. *SHL* vol. 8: 261-267. UCL P&L.

also (non-technical)

- Barltrop R. and Wolveridge J. 1980 *The Muvver Tongue*. London: Journeyman Press.
 Franklin, J. 1961. *A dictionary of rhyming slang*. London: Routledge Kegan Paul.
 Wright P. 1981 *Cockney Dialect and Slang*. London Batsford. etc.

NB 9 November 1998 — reading week. Next lecture: 16 November.