

## Week 15. Australian (i)

Read *Accents of English* vol. 3, 592-605, and references; there is a brief summary in P.Trudgill and J.Hannah, *International English*, §2.2. More extensive: Barbara M. Horvath, *Variation in Australian English*, CUP 1985; P.Trudgill, 'Koinéization in colonial English' ch. 4 in *Dialects in Contact*, Oxford: Blackwell 1986.

### 1. Southern Hemisphere English (Australia, New Zealand, South Africa)

Early 19c. settlement. English-English-oriented.

Phonologically very close to RP, but phonetically rather different.

2. Australian English. Remarkable geographical homogeneity. Variation is mostly social/stylistic or rural/urban. Broad — General — Cultivated (nearest to RP).

### 3. Origins:

- 'Mixing bowl'
- 'SE English with the RP brakes taken off?'
- Trudgill's 'koinéization'.

### 4. Vowel system (as a system) = that of RP.

4.1 Weak [ɪ - ə]: [ɪ] only before velars (*classic, running*), otherwise [ə]

*rabbit* rhymes with *abbot*, *valid* with *salad*

*boxes* is homophonous with *boxers*, *founded* with *founded*

4.2 The vowel in *happy* can be identified with /i:/ (can be diphthongal [əi])

### 5. Vowel realization

5.1 Raised /æ e ɪ/ ('pancake vocalism') in TRAP, DRESS, KIT

NZ: /ɪ/ is central, [ə] *fish and chips*

5.2 Shifted diphthongs in FLEECE, FACE, PRICE (like Cockney)

5.3 Fronted quality in GOOSE, MOUTH, GOAT [ʊ:, æʊ, ʌʊ]

5.4 Fronted quality in PALM-START [a:]

5.5 Monophthongs in NEAR [ɪ:] and SQUARE [e:]

5.6 Rounded vowel in NURSE [ø:] (even more so in NZ)

5.7 No smoothing