

Week 17. Preparing your remaining coursework

Undergraduates have one further piece of coursework to do: an essay on a relevant subject of your choice (2500-3000 words, by 1 May). It counts for 50% of your marks for the ½-cu.

Postgraduates:

- MA Phonetics, MA Linguistics, MSc: one further essay, for credit. as for undergraduates
- MA MEL optional essay for practice.

All: think carefully now about the topic of your longer essay. Please make a short presentation (4 or 5 minutes will do) to the class about your proposed topic.

Here are some ideas:

- Estuary English (see website <http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/estuary/>)
- London accents and provincial accents in England/the UK
- The accent of Birmingham (/Newcastle on Tyne /Belfast /New York...)
- Contemporary developments in British accents
 - many interesting articles in Foulkes P. and Docherty G. (eds.), 1999, *Urban Voices*, London, Arnold
 - useful recordings and commentaries in CD with Collins B. and Mees I., 2003, *Practical Phonetics and Phonology*, London, Routledge
- Sociolinguistic investigations into Australian (...) English
- Vowel systems in English accents (Wells, *Accents of English*, ch. 2)
- Systemic differences and realizational differences
- /r/ in English accents
- American and British pronunciation models
- Generational changes (my grandma's accent compared to mine...)
- Historical developments as reflected in contemporary accents
(Do some people really still speak Elizabethan English?
Why do Australians sound like Londoners?)

Analysis of spoken material you have collected could be very welcome.

Useful websites:

http://www.alt-usage-english.org/audio_archive.shtml

<http://classweb.gmu.edu/accent/>

<http://www.ku.edu/~idea/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/routesofenglish/storysofar/series3.shtml>