

## Week 8. Historical change (iii)

### British prestige innovations (continued)

#### 1. Recent changes: early twentieth century

- /ɔ:/ → ɒ/ in CLOTH words *cloth, cough, cross, lost, off, often...*
- FORCE merger: loss of /ɔə/ (→ /ɔ:/) *floor = flaw, four = for, source = sauce*
- GOAT fronting: [oʊ → əʊ] *goat, over the road, oh no*
- loss of [ɔ] *obey, November, biological, microphone*
- opening of /æ/ *that bad man*
- replacement of [r] by [ɹ] *very sorry for any errors*

#### 2. Recent changes: mid twentieth century

- loss of /ʊə/ (→ /ɔ:/) *poor, sure, cure, your(s), you're*
- drift from weak /ɪ/ to /ə/ *possible, visible, sanity, carelessness*
- plosive epenthesis *fence, instance, conscience, emphasis*
- yod coalescence before weak V *actual, perceptual, gradual*
- glottalling of /t/ \_C, \_#C *football, witness, atlas, network, quite C*

#### 3. Recent changes: late twentieth century

- weak final [ɪ] → [i] (“/i/”) *happy, coffee, valley; various, radiate*
- backing of /əʊ/ before [ʔ] *told, cold, goal, whole*
- unrounding, fronting of /u:/, ʊ/ *spoon, you, good*
- glottalling of /t/ in envs. \_#V, \_|| *quite easy, not only, right.*
- vocalization of /l/ ([ʔ → ɔ]) *milk, shelf, feel, table, middle*
- yod coalescence before strong V *Tuesday, tune, reduce, duke*
- monophthonging of /eə/ [→ ε:] *fair and square, Mary*
- “uptalk” (HR on statement) *My name’s Mary<sup>1</sup>Smith.*
- s-affricate assimilation (s → ʃ) *\_tr: strong    \_tʃ: student*

**Characteristics of contemporary regional ‘near-RP’ in England:** may typically include (some of)

- No NG Simplification *morpheme-final ŋg                      sing, singer*
- Short vowel in BATH words *æ (not ɑ:) in some words                      ask after*
- Quality of closing diphthongs *(aɪ, aʊ)    price, mouth*  
*(eɪ, əʊ)    face, goat*
- No R Dropping *r non-prevocalic    short war*
- STRUT(-FOOT) *ʊ or ə, for RP ʌ    good luck*
- everything else mentioned on this page