



**HAL**  
open science

# Analyser et transcrire les variétés d'anglais oral à l'agrégation externe d'anglais

Daniel Huber

► **To cite this version:**

Daniel Huber. Analyser et transcrire les variétés d'anglais oral à l'agrégation externe d'anglais : Atelier : Enjeux en vue de la préparation à l'épreuve de phonologie. Master. France. 2018. cel-02074795

**HAL Id: cel-02074795**

**<https://univ-tlse2.hal.science/cel-02074795>**

Submitted on 20 Mar 2019

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

# ***Analyser et transcrire les variétés d'anglais oral à l'agrégation externe d'anglais***

## **Atelier : Enjeux en vue de la préparation à l'épreuve de phonologie**

*16 February 2018  
Toulouse*

**Daniel HUBER**  
Maître de conférences  
Université de Toulouse 2–Jean Jaurès  
Laboratoire CLLE-ERSS (UMR5263)



[daniel.huber@univ-tlse2.fr](mailto:daniel.huber@univ-tlse2.fr)



# Ideas for discussion

- digraphs and *neons*
- LOT and CLOTH in GA
- suffixes and endings
- Iambic Reversal in compound adjectives

# Digraphs and *neons*

# Digraphs and neons

**first thing to teach and make learners realize:**

**it is not the pronunciation that's wrong, it's the way we spell**

# Digraphs and neons

What would be wrong with /ɪ'nʌf/?

# Digraphs and neons

What would be wrong with /ɪ'nʌf/?

What's less trivial is that it corresponds to the spelling **<enough>**

# Digraphs and neons

What would be wrong with **/bɪəd/** or **/wɪəd/**?



# Digraphs and neons

What would be wrong with /bɪəd/ or /wɪəd/?

What's less trivial is the alternative spellings of the same vowel: *beard* versus *weird*

# Digraphs and neons

nothing strange in the pronunciation of  
**/kwaɪət/** and **/kwaɪə/**

## Digraphs and neons

nothing strange in the pronunciation of  
/kwaɪət/ and /kwaɪə/

but a near-total mismatch in spelling:

*quiet* and *choir* (they only share <i>)

## Digraphs and neons

there are **2 main reasons** for this discrepancy btw pronunciation and (standard) spelling:

-'English' pronunciation has **changed through time** and is changing

-English, like French by the way, has a very **long uninterrupted written tradition**

## Digraphs and neons

'English' pronunciation has **changed through time** and is changing

the vowels in ***meat* [ɛ:]** and ***meet* [e:]** were audibly different when these words acquired their current spelling

=> at the time a different spelling made perfect sense

# Digraphs and neons

'English', like French by the way, has a very **long uninterrupted written tradition**

=> conservatism

=> absorption of various writing traditions

# Digraphs and neons

## conservatism

**to maintain the cultural access to earlier documents, it is not a bad idea to stick to the spelling of those documents**

**=> *meat* and *meet* are still spelt as if they had different pronunciations**

# Digraphs and neons

absorption of various writing traditions

*Germanic tradition:*

letter doubling to encode long sounds (mainly vowels) : **ee**, **oo**, **aa**



# Digraphs and neons

absorption of various writing traditions

*Latin tradition:*

**qu,**

the spelling of Greek words

=> spelling of Greek words: **ph**antom versus **f**antasy, **rh**ythm, **ch**orus, **arch**itecture, **ch**oir

# Digraphs and neons

absorption of various writing traditions

*French (Romance) tradition:*

the idea of using digraphs

(ou/ow, au/aw, **th**, **ch**, **gh** > then **sh**)

instead of using diacritics **ø**, **ö**, **ü**, **ä**

or ligatures like **æ**, **œ** (which were used in OE)

# Digraphs and neons

**These phenomena reinforce the wide-spread perception that English has a complicated writing system and hence pronunciation**

# Digraphs and neons

*quietly, neon, Leo, riot*

# Digraphs and neons

*quietly, neon, Leo, riot*

*these words do not have a digraph because  
the vowel letters do not function as a unit*

# Digraphs and neons

*riot*

<io> is never a digraph in English

***/'raɪət/*** is syllabified as ***/'raɪ.ət/*** with  
compression possible [***'raət***]

# Digraphs and neons

*neon, Leo*

there is indeed *people* where <eo> does encode a vowel, /i:/

=> this example is, however, isolated (unique example)

=> eo does not function as a digraph

# Digraphs and neons

*neon, Leo*

**/'ni:ɒn/ /'li:əʊ/ are syllabified /'ni:.ɒn/ /'li:.əʊ/**

**ne|on and Le|o**

**perfectly regular**



# Digraphs and neons

*quietly*

**<ie> is a regular digraph before consonants:**

***/i:/ chief, relieve/relief, thief, hygienic, field, fiend, priest***

***/ɪə/ as in pier, tier***

# Digraphs and neons

*quietly*

**/'kwaɪət/ is syllabified as /'kwaɪ.ət/ with  
compression possible ['kwaət]**

**similar explanation in: *diet***

**(*chaos* too, with a different letter group)**

**LOT and CLOTH**

# LOT and CLOTH in GA

**Wells 1982: LOT realized with /ɑ:/ in GA**

**stop, pot, sock, notch, Goth,**

**rob, odd, cog, dodge,**

**Tom, con, doll,**

**solve, romp, font, copse, box,**

**profit, possible, proverb, bother, rosin,**

**honest, ponder.....;**

**swan, quality, yacht, wasp, watch, squabble, waffle...;**

**knowledge, acknowledge.**

# LOT and CLOTH in GA

**Wells 1982: LOT realized with /ɑ:/ in GA**

**Both LPD and EPD are unanimous:**

**All these words *invariably* have /ɑ:/ in GA**

*(with cog only in EPD and watch in both also recorded with /ɔ:/ as a secondary GA variant, though...)*

# LOT and CLOTH in GA

**Wells 1982: CLOTH realized with /ɔ:/ in GA**

**Most of these words are recorded with /ɑ:/ as a secondary (or even *only* or *main!*) variant in LPD 2008 and EPD 2011**

(colour coding in following slides is according to LPD 2008)

# LOT and CLOTH in GA

**Wells 1982: CLOTH realized with /ɔ:/ in GA**

**a) off, cough, trough, broth, froth, cross, across, loss, floss, toss,**

**fosse, doss,**

**soft, croft, lost, oft, cost, frost,**

**often, soften, lofty,**

**Australia, Austria, Austen, Austin,**

**gone;**

# LOT and CLOTH in GA

**Wells 1982: CLOTH realized with /ɔ:/ in GA**

**a) off, cough, trough, broth, froth, cross, across, loss...**

**-all** are recorded with **a secondary variant in /ɑ:/ in LPD**

(except **fosse**, **doss** where /ɑ:/ is the **only** recorded variant in both EPD and LPD)

**-all** are recorded with an older **variant in RP in /ɔ:!** (except *across*, *floss*, *loft(y)* while *gone* has non-RP §gɔ:n/§gɑ:n)

**-EPD:** practically **all have /ɑ:/ only:** *cough*, *trough* and the group *Aust-* have /ɔ:/ too, and the latter have a variant in /ɔ:/ in RP as well)



# LOT and CLOTH in GA

Wells 1982: CLOTH realized with /ɔ:/ in GA

b) moss, boss, **gloss**, **joss**, Ross,  
long, strong, wrong, gong, song, thong, **tongs**, throng,  
accost, coffee, coffer, coffin, offer, **office**, **officer**, **glossy**,  
**foster**, Boston, **Gloucester**, sausage;  
**wash**;

# LOT and CLOTH in GA

Wells 1982: CLOTH realized with /ɔ:/

b) moss, boss, gloss, joss...

-*all* are recorded with a variant in /ɑ:/ in LPD

-*none* are recorded with an older variant in RP in /ɔ:/ (except *Gloucester*, which is in LPD but not in EPD)

-*foster*, *joss*: /ɑ:/ is the *only* recorded variant in both EPD and LPD

-EPD *consistently has* /ɑ:/ for all these words, with /ɔ:/ as secondary in the *-ong* words, *coffee*, *coffer*, *Boston*, *wash*, *sausage* and as main variant in *coffin*)

# LOT and CLOTH in GA

## Wells 1982: CLOTH realized with /ɔ:/ in GA

c) origin, Oregon, oratory, orator, orange, authority,  
borrow, categorical, correlate, coroner, coral,  
florid, Florida, florist, florin, historic(al),  
horrid, horrible, majority, horrify, horror,  
metaphoric(al), morrow,  
Morris, moral, Norwich, porridge, rhetorical, sorrel, moribund, ...;  
sorrow, tomorrow, sorry,  
Laurence/Lawrence, laurel, laureate,  
quarrel, quarry, warrant, warren, warrior, Warwick.

# LOT and CLOTH in GA

## Wells 1982: CLOTH realized with /ɔ:/ in GA

c) origin, Oregon, oratory, orator, orange, authority,

-**all** are recorded with a **secondary variant in /ɑ:/ in LPD** (except *authoruity*)

-**EPD does not record /ɑ:/ for any of these** (except: *sorry*, those in *-orrow*, which only have /ɑ:/ (*morrow*: /ɔ:/ too); those in *-au/aw*, *Florida*, the group /wɒ/ in RP, which have secondary /ɑ:/ in GA

-**none** are recorded with an older **variant in RP in /ɔ:/** (except *florist*, which is in both LPD and EPD, *moribund* has secondary /ɔ:/ only in EPD, and *laureate* which has /ɔ:/ first in RP and only /ɑ:/ in GA in LPD but has /ɔ:/ first in EPD)

# LOT and CLOTH in GA

## The LOT and CLOTH sets

-show **considerable variation** between /ɑ:/ and /ɔ:/ in GA

-are recorded with different main variants and amount of variation in the **dictionaries**

> The general tendency is **towards /ɑ:/** in all these words but much less so in words where the vowel is before /r/

# Suffixes and endings

# Suffixes and endings

## Grotesque – picturesque

**=> in *picturesque* one can assume it is a suffix because its morphological (and semantic) relation to *picture* is clear and felt by native speakers**

# Suffixes and endings

## Grotesque – picturesque

**=> this is not the case in *grotesque* because there is no morphologically related word today (its relation to *grotto* is etymological, no semantic link anymore)**



# Suffixes and endings

**Grotesque – picturesque**

**for practical teaching purposes:**

**=> whenever a word ends in *-esque*, it is expected to be final stressed, whether this element is semantically active or not**

# Compound adjectives

# Compound adjectives

**Main message:**

**-you can't always simply rely on your past experience of listening to English when it comes to discussing fine points of stress placement**

**-this is particularly true for cases of iambic Reversal**

# Compound nouns

*flattened [cigarette butts]*

# Compound nouns

## *flattened cigarette butts*

<b>lexical stress</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>compound stress</b>	<b>n/a</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>phrasal stress</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>

# Compound adjectives

***[white-haired] man***

# Compound adjectives

*white-haired man*

**lexical stress**

**1**

**1**

**1**

# Compound adjectives

*white-haired man*

<b>lexical stress</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>compound stress</b>	<b>[2</b>	<b>1]</b>	<b>n/a</b>



# Compound adjectives

*white-haired man*

lexical stress	1	1	1
compound stress	[2	1]	n/a
phrasal stress	[2	3]	1

# Compound adjectives

*white-haired man*

lexical stress	1	1	1
compound stress	[2	1]	n/a
phrasal stress	[2	3]	1

[half-masked] smile

[white-coated] consultant

[black-suited] crowds

# Compound adjectives

*user friendly* in COCA (Contemp. Corpus AmE)

This adjective is expected to show lambic Reversal before a noun

*user 'friendly*

*'user friendly appli'cations*

# Compound adjectives

*user friendly* in COCA (Contemp. Corpus AmE)

150 tokens

19 tokens from speech (13%)

=> 17 are used predicatively

# Compound adjectives

*user friendly* in COCA (Contemp. Corpus AmE)

=> 2 are before a noun:

'And out of those five, which do you think is the most *user friendly site*?'

*user friendly | smart things*

# Compound adjectives

**high-'fibre/'fiber in COCA**

**200 tokens**

**=> 198 followed by nouns like *diet, foods, fruits, breakfast, cereal(s), options***

# Compound adjectives

**high-'fibre/'fiber in COCA**

**200 tokens**

**=> 2 tokens that were used predicatively:**

**for a dessert that's sweet, high-fiber and  
virtually fat-free**

**...that the food you choose are high-fiber**

# Compound adjectives

**high-'fibre/'fiber in COCA**

**200 tokens**

**=> only 10 tokens came from speech (5%)**

**=> NONE had high-fiber predicatively**