

The interaction of /h/-dropping and /r/-dropping in the Lancashire corpus of the PAC Project

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Roadmap

1/ introduction

2/ the corpus

3/ word list data

4/ reading passage data

5/ conversational data

6/ conclusions and prospects

Introduction

for him

fəɹɪm fɔ:ɹɪm or fəhɪm

India has

'ɪndiəɹəz or 'ɪndiəhəz

Introduction

interaction between [ɹ]# and #[h] is related to

loss of /h/ (“h-dropping”)

(Trudgill 1990: 27-28, 50)

Introduction

interaction between [ɹ]# and #[h] is

**complex for speakers who are
variably rhotic**

Introduction

What is **loss of /h/**?

hill, husband, house, happy, whole...

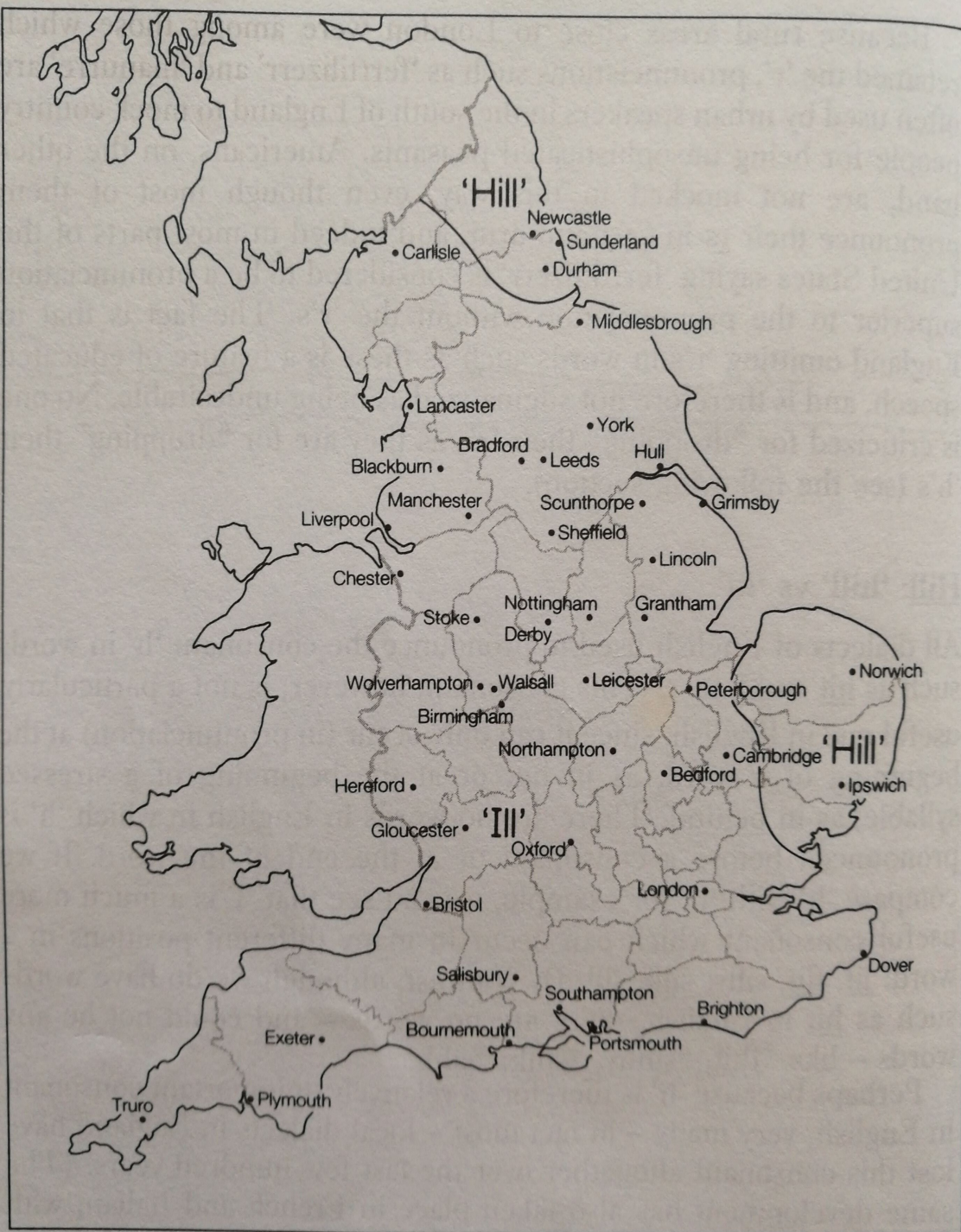
perhaps

hour, honour, honest, heir

harmony, hospital, heresy, homage...

herb

Introduction



Map 6 Hill: 'hill' vs 'ill'

Trudgill (1990: 28)

Introduction

strong: I thought she 'had /'hæd/

weak: Have you arrived? /həv/

Which has been best? /əz/

(Roach 2009)

Introduction

weak: **her** documents /hə/

Take **her** name /ə/

weak: Ask **her** to come /ə/

I've met **her** /ə/

(Roach 2009)

Introduction

how /haʊ/

who /hu:/

(Roach 2009)

The corpus

The PAC Project Protocol

5 tasks (Labov 1966, 1972, 1994, 2001, 2010):

word lists (vowels, consonants)

text passage

interviews (semi-guided and free)

The corpus

The PAC Bolton, Lancashire (UK) corpus

network principle (Milroy 1980, 1987)

9 female informants

1 male informant

(for detailed presentation: Navarro 2013: 195ff)

The corpus

SPEAKER ID LENGTH

MO1f	14:49:00 (889s)
LC1f	17:36:00 (1056s)
MC1f	15:01:00 (901s)
PK1f	14:21:00 (860s)
SC1f	14:36:00 (876s)
LB1f	16:44:00 (1004s)
DK1f	14:39:00 (879s)
MD1f	18:39:00 (1119s)
JM1f	13:22:00 (802s)

total: 139:47:00 (8387s)

2h:19':47''

SPEAKER ID LENGTH

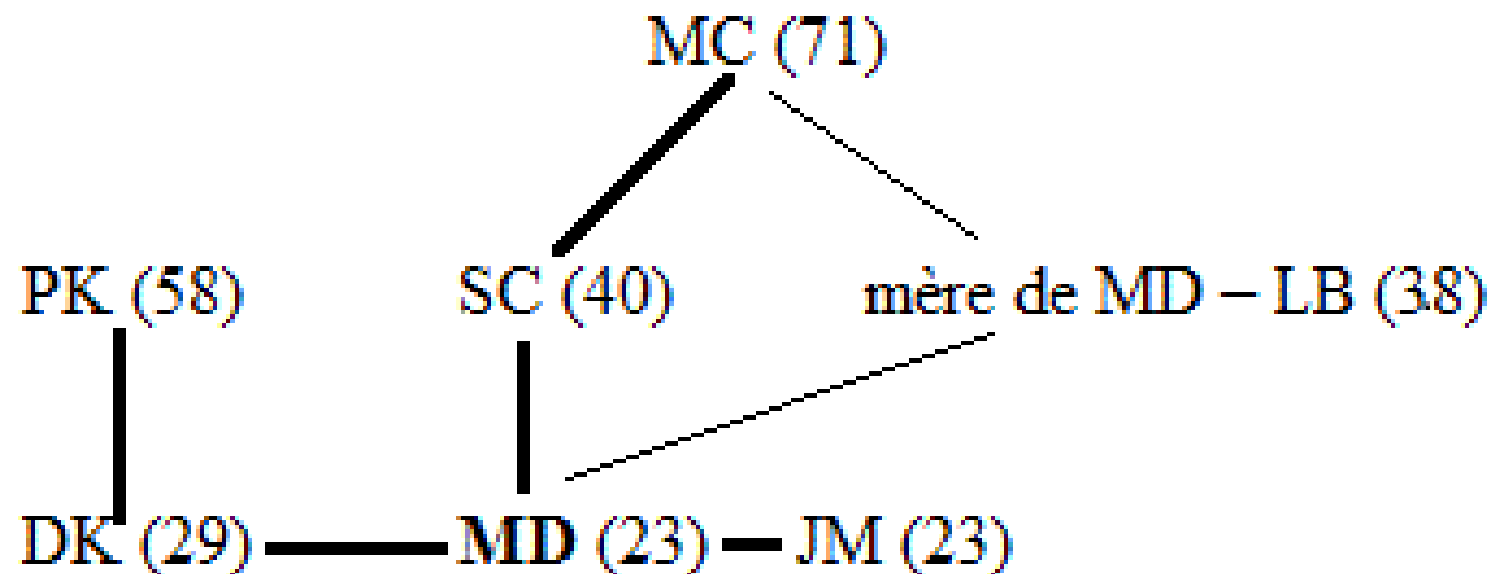
MO1i	38:57:00 (2337s)
LC1i	38:57:00 (2337s)
MC1i	25:40:00 (1540s)
PK1i	18:43:00 (1123s)
SC1i	21:03:00 (1263s)
LB1i	12:31:00 (751s)
DK1i	25:12:00 (1512s)
MD1i	25:12:00 (1512s)
JM1i	17:22:00 (1042s)

159:28:00 (9568s)

2h:39':28''

The corpus

LC (77) – MO (83)



ST (30)

Methodology

- search for words with orthographic <h> in the transcriptions**
- check the preceding phonological context**
- establish what interaction there is between /r/ and /h/ for that speech style for that speaker**

Word list data

Do speakers have /h/ as a phoneme?

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**Are they consistently non-rhotic or
variably rhotic in isolated words?**

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**Are they consistently non-rhotic or
variably rhotic in isolated words?**

BUT: couldn't test interaction btw [ɹ] and [h]

Word list data

consonant list, for testing /h/:

'heart, be'have, 'anyhow

vowel list, items possibly containing /h/:

'horse, 'hoarse, 'here, 'hurry and 'heaven

Word list data

expected distribution of /h/ in RP:

[hV- 'heart, 'horse, 'hoarse, 'here, 'hurry, 'heaven

-'hV- be'have

'[...] [, hV-] 'any, how

> 'hV

Word list data

expected distribution of /h/ in RP:

Cruttenden (1994: 174)

“/h/ occurs only in syllable-initial, pre-vocalic positions”

This would assume “silent” /h/ in words like
neon ['ni:ən] < /'ni:hən/

Word list data

> all informants have /h/ in all the words above

except one speaker

Word list data

SC (f40)

[h]: '*heart*, '*horse*, '*hoarse*, '*here*, '*hurry*

0: *be*'*have*, '*any*, *how*
 '*heaven*

Word list data

SC (f40)

#['/h/V-

where # is a pause and [is a word boundary

Word list data

SC (f40)

'*heaven* ['ɛvn]

“(120) *earth*”: [hɜ:θ]

Cruttenden (2014: 208):

the choice of the article or a [h] or [ʔ] or a weak glottal constriction can cue a **boundary mark**

Word list data

Rhoticity

Word list data

Rhoticity

MO (f83) **50% of the tokens rhotic** realizations

including *for* and *here*

LC (f77) **rhotic realizations** in *moor, bard, pore-poor-pour*

but not in *for* or *here*

MC (f71) **a tiny handful of rhotic realizations** not in *for* or *here*

Word list data

Rhoticity

PK (f58); SC (f40); LB (f38); ST (f30); DK (m29); MD (f23); JM (f23)

consistently non-rhotic

Reading passage data

**any differences in the connected
speech style?**

Reading passage data

lexical words with /h/ in the passage

be'have, be'haviour

*'have, 'hospitals, 'hostels, 'happy,
'high-profile, 'handsome, '(eight)
hundred staff, 'human*

Reading passage data

SC (f40)

No [h] in any of the lexical words:

(*schools*)| '*hospitals*| '*hostels*

a high profile

Reading passage data

LB (f38)

no /h/ in *behave* and *behaviour*

(+ in grammatical words such as *himself* and *have to*)

Reading passage data

LB (f38)

/h/ in '*hospital*, a '*high-profile*...

distribution of /h/:

['/h/V-

where [is a word boundary

Reading passage data

grammatical words

forms of *have* frequently show reduced forms, but:

50% (41 / 80) had **[h]**

across all 10 speakers

Reading passage data

grammatical words

he:

24 / 160 lacked [h], **85%** did have **[h]!**

(13 of which coming from informant SC)

across all 10 speakers

Reading passage data

grammatical words

determiner *his*:

6 / 70 lacked [h], **91,4%** did have **[h]**!

across all 10 speakers

Reading passage data

“for his”

MO (f83) foʊ [h]is?

LC (f77) foʊ [h]is?

MC (f71) foʊ [h]is

PK (f58) for [h]is

SC (f40) foʊ his

LB (f38) foʊ '[h]is

ST (f30) foʊ his

DK (m29) for [h]is

MD (f23) for [h]is

JM (f23) for [h]is

Reading passage data

Why is LB (f38) fo[ɹ h]is relevant?

- she is **not rhotic** in her reading style elsewhere
- variable in her use of /h/ in *his*, but here: [fɔ:ɹ 'hɪz]
- in conversation she has **his**
- > evidence that there is a phonological issue here

Reading passage data

Why is ST (f30) **fo[ɹ ɰ]is** relevant?

[hɪz] everywhere (*in his, of his, at his*)

except in the only case where *his* is preceded by *for*

for: no [ɹ] in *for the other, for sure*

no obligatory linking: *before our*

> [fɔɹɪz] is evidence for actual interaction

Conversational data

SC (f40) has no [h] in her conversation data

*I were quite an **an** **h**appy child*

Conversational data

SC (f40)

SCi: *afte[ɹ] his driving lesson*

SCf: *not having that freedom like we do ove[ɹ] here*

SCi: *be strange not having grandma[ɹ] here.*

Conversational data

all other speakers have /h/ in their phoneme inventory, in lexical and in grammatical words

Conversational data

/ɹ/ is lost before an initial lexical /h/

MO^f (f83): *on your knuckles of your^r [h]ands*

LCⁱ (f77): *back to work/ [h]er^r [h]usband would...*

MC^f (f71): *their^r [h]ouse for tea*

PKⁱ (f58): *go over the top of your^r [h]ob*

Dk^f (m29): *I remember^r [h]ating it*

Conversational data

hundred

LCf (f77) three [h]undred and ninety-nine

LCf (f77) five [h]undred pounds in a will

JMi (f23) fou[r] hundred

Conversational data

who

MOF *for somebody* ~~who~~'d done something

MOF *nobody would say* w[h]o'd done it

Conversational data

who

MO*f* *for somebody* ~~who~~'d *done something*

MO*f* *nobody would say* ~~w~~*[h]*~~o~~'d *done it*

MO*i* *to see his fathe**[r]* ~~who~~ *was in hospital*

Conversational data

him

variably rhotic speakers:

LCi (f77): *it was the makings of ~~h~~im*

LCi (f77): *control ~~h~~im*

LCi (f77): *told ~~h~~im that*

LCi (f77): *Oh I've never [h]eard of '[h]im*

LCi (f77): *it was very sad ~~for~~ [h]im because*

Conversational data

him

Moi (f83) *You could hea[ɹ] h̥im gurgle*

JMi (f23) *offe[ɹ] h̥im*

Conversational data

he

a very neat preference: **[i]** for *he*

MCf that's whe**[r]**e ~~h~~e's been ever since

MOi Septembe**[ɹ]** ~~h~~e's come up to three months

JMi a job whe**[r]**e ~~h~~e did [h]is placement

MDi whethe**[ɹ]** ~~h~~e's like good enough

Conclusions

- loss of /h/ in reading style is rare in *his*, *he*...
- variably rhotic speakers show variably rhotic realizations between [ɹ] and [h] across a boundary and
- they tend to produce more rhotic realizations as formality of speech style decreases
- loss of /h/ in grammatical words increases in younger speakers

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