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NETWORKS

SCIENTIFIC REPORT - GRANT N° 4791

1. Research context for the visit

The visit to Manchester was planned in the context of the LVTI (Langue, Ville, Travail, Identité/Language, Town, Work, Identity) project. Details of that project are as follows:

Language, urban life, work and identity in Manchester

Coordinated by Jacques Durand and Anne Przewozny-Desriaux (CLLE-ERSS, Toulouse 2 Le Mirail).

Researchers involved in the project: Inès Brulard-Carr, Basilio Calderone, Jacques Durand, Hélène Giraudo, Daniel Huber, Amélie Josselin-Leray, Steven Moore, Anne Przewozny-Desriaux, Corinne Ratier, Nathalie Rossi, Jean-Michel Tarrier. Associate external members: Béatrice-Akissi Boutin, Philip Carr, Sylvain Detey, Lidia Philippe, Monika Pukli.

The phonology group within the French CNRS (Centre National de Recherche Scientifique/National Centre for Scientific Research) team CLLE-ERSS, based at the University of Toulouse II, has initiated a collaborative project aiming at an interdisciplinary sociolinguistic survey of Greater Manchester, in the North of England. A parallel project is being set up in Toulouse, in the South of France, under the coordination of Professor Jacques Durand (Senior Member of the Institut Universitaire de France) and Hélène Giraudo (CLLE-ERSS). At the core of our ultimately comparative project is a large survey of Greater Manchester speech using the methodology of the PAC project (La Phonologie de l'anglais contemporain/The Phonology of Contemporary English) which is coordinated by Professor Philip Carr (University of Montpellier 3), Professor Jacques Durand (University of Toulouse 2) and Dr. Anne Przewozny-Desriaux (see Carr, Durand & Pukli 2004, Durand & Pukli 2004). We intend to study a minimum of sixty speakers, using the methodology of the PAC project (<http://www.projet-pac.net/>). This involves the recording of informants in four different contexts, using a technique which has already been successfully applied in a wide variety of locations around the world: the reading aloud of two lists of words, the reading aloud of a written text, formal conversation and informal conversation. For the sister Toulouse project, we will use the PFC project (La phonologie du français contemporain/The Phonology of Contemporary French: see Detey, Durand, Laks & Lyche 2010, Durand, Laks & Lyche 2005,

Durand, Laks & Lyche 2009). This project is coordinated by M.H. Côté (University of Ottawa), J. Durand (University of Toulouse 2) B. Laks (University of Paris 10) and C. Lyche (University of Oslo) and has the same overall structure as the PAC project. For the LVTI project, the classical PAC protocol is extended in a variety of directions summarized below.

(1) Collaboration with sociologists specializing in urban centres and work issues. We will take advantage of the formal interviews to put a small number of questions to informants relating to urban life, work, identity and language. It is hoped that our interviews will be complemented by other interviews and possibly questionnaires devised by sociologists which will constitute a large data base shared by researchers from different disciplines.

(2) Collaboration with interactionists. We have already established strong links with the CLAPI research group in Lyon and in particular Lorenza Mondada and Véronique Traverso. These colleagues are specialized in the study of language interaction and have extensive experience in filming informants. One of our objectives is to video a number of informants from the most formal situation in the PAC and PFC protocols (the reading aloud of lists of words) to more “natural” or “ecological” situations (such as interpersonal interactions in the home and in the working environment).

(3) Collaboration with sociolinguists. Our PAC informants will be selected with as much social diversity as possible and, if achievable, from clearly differentiated districts within Greater Manchester (Manchester and Salford) with which speakers identify (Salfordians do not consider themselves to be Mancunians, and nor do Mancunians consider themselves to be Salfordians). In addition to the PAC protocol, it is intended that recordings will be made of informants for whom the reading aloud task is difficult or arguably inappropriate. Other methods of observation and linguistic study of urban centres will also be explored (e.g. recordings in public places such as railway stations, airports, and shops).

(4) Collaboration with psycholinguists working in language development. We intend to apply the PAC and PFC protocols to children in primary and secondary schools and complement these with other recordings or psycholinguistic tasks.

(5) Collaboration with specialists in the teaching of English (or French) as a native or foreign language. Teachers of English have great experience in observing and studying different language situations and recordings made in Manchester for this purpose would supplement the data obtained in (1) to (4).

Our ambition therefore is to create a large interdisciplinary database which will be shared across disciplines and will offer comparative data on urban centres in the United Kingdom and France to start with. Within PFC and PAC, our policy has been to make the data available to other researchers (subject to ethical considerations) via our website.

2. Description of the empirical work carried out during the visit

Four researchers visited Greater Manchester during the week beginning the 16th of May 2012: Philip Carr, Jacques Durand, Steven Moore and Anne Przewozny-Desriaux. Durand's visit was funded by the Institut Universitaire de France, while Carr, Moore and Przewozny-Desriaux were funded by the European Science Foundation. Our work was hosted by Professor Paul Rowlett of Salford University.

15 recordings were made on Monday 16th – Thursday the 19th of May. A final debriefing meeting took place on Thursday the 19th of May.

Recordings were made using Edirol R-09HR 24 bit/96kHz digital recorders, supplied by the CLLE-ERSS laboratory at the University of Toulouse 2. Each recording lasted approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. The LVTI protocol was strictly adhered to in each recording, so as to ensure uniformity of data-collection methodology. All informants were natives of Manchester or Salford.

Each recording was subsequently subdivided into separate digital sound files for the different tasks (the words lists, the written passage, the formal interview and the informal conversation). These were labeled and transferred to computer for subsequent analysis, and storage on the PAC website's database.

Coding and annotation software is being designed in the CLLE-ERSS laboratory for subsequent analysis of the data. The data will form the basis for our own future conference papers and publications, and for graduate dissertations at Masters and PhD level.

Steven Moore's specific contribution to the ESF-funded fieldwork was as follows. Moore took part in three LVTI recording sessions involving six interviewees, at the School of Humanities, Languages, and Social Sciences of Salford University. In each session two interviewees were recorded, one by Moore, one by his co-fieldworker. This enabled the team to begin by recording the interviewees together without the presence of a fieldworker, thus encouraging a more natural and uninhibited level of communication. Following this, on each occasion he then recorded one of the interviewees alone, following the LVTI protocol, and having previously explained in detail the aims of the project and the logic of each constituent part, in order to put the interviewee completely at ease. The entire process in each case took between one and a half to two hours. The interviewees were all born and raised in the Manchester and Salford areas, in accordance with the aims of the LVTI project, and Moore was responsible for interviewing one student and two administrative workers, all attached to Salford University, in an age-range between 24 and 30.

Following the recording sessions, Moore made some initial analysis of the recordings he had carried out, in order to see to what extent certain phenomena might be present which he is currently studying in recordings made in the West Midlands, to the south of this area. These phenomena include the presence of a FOOT/STRUT merger, T to R, h-dropping, glottalling, and the presence or absence of a BATH/TRAP merger. His findings will subsequently be compared to those of the other members of the team, and he hopes that this will help him determine whether the West Midlands urban conurbation may justifiably be considered part of the linguistic north of England.

3. Issues to be investigated during the analysis of the data

One of the issues in the current sociolinguistic literature is whether dialect leveling (Watt & Milroy 1999, Williams & Kerswill 1999) is taking place in the UK (and in France), with regional variation among accents and dialects dying out, leading to greater uniformity of speech across both countries. The question relates to perceived sense of regional identity, one of the topics of our project. Related to this is the question of changes in the way regional varieties of English and French are perceived. For regional varieties of English in the UK, work by Wilhelm (2011) suggests that, over the space of a single generation, the Manchester accent has come to be perceived as a prestigious local norm in the North of England. If this is correct, then leveling of accents in the direction of London English may be counterbalanced by the emergence of new prestigious regional accents. Related to this is the sense of regional identity relating to the North/South divide in England, and the sense of local identity in cities such as Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle.

One of our aims is therefore to establish to what extent we can find, in the speech of younger speakers, typical North of England pronunciation features, such as 'T-to-R' (Carr 1991, Docherty *et al* 1997, Watson & Clark, in press), absence of the FOOT/STRUT split (Wells

1982) and the occurrence of a low front vowel in words of the lexical set BATH (Wells 1982). We also aim to establish whether, and to what extent, features of London English are present in younger speakers from the Greater Manchester area. These features include 'TH-Fronting' (Wells 1982), I-vocalisation (Wells 1982) and 'H-Dropping' (Wells 1982).

Another aim is to investigate the possible links between sense of regional identity and accent modification, both conscious and unconscious. Preliminary work in this area has been carried out in the context of the influence of Received Pronunciation (RP) in the speech of politicians and political journalists in the Westminster Village, whose Standard Scottish English speech has been modified in the direction of RP (Carr & Brulard 2006, in press). An issue here concerns social class: accent modification towards London English is a working class feature (Stuart-Smith, Timmins & Tweedie 2007), whereas modification towards RP is predominantly middle class. We will therefore be examining potential class-based accommodation patterns in the speech of our Greater Manchester informants.

4. Expected results and publications arising from the visit

After the initial visit, further recordings will be made by Philip Carr in late May 2012, and phonetic analysis of the recordings will be carried out of all the data collected. These will include acoustic analysis of the digital data, using the PRAAT software. We will link these analyses to work in sociolinguistics and sociology, focusing on phonetic accommodation in social context, matters of social identity and the possible neural mechanisms which play a rôle in accommodative social behavior.

We also expect to present our findings at the following conference: The 2013 PAC conference, Université of Aix/Provence, The 21st Manchester Phonology Meeting, May 2013; L'Association pour l'anglais oral, Paris 2013...

We plan to publish our results in a variety of places, including the following: the journals *Language Sciences* and *English Language and Linguistics*; the following volume: Carr, P., Brulard, I., Durand, J, Moore, S., Przewozny, A. (eds.) *Variation in English Phonology: a resource book* (to be submitted to Oxford University Press).

Conferences 2012

- Moore, S. "A Survey of Black Country English in the context of the PAC project – the questions raised." Colloque international *Du français et de l'anglais aux langues du monde : Variation, structure et théorie du langage*, du 28 juin au 1 juillet 2012, Université Paul Valéry-Montpellier III.

Other conferences and talks linked to the PAC and LVTI programmes in 2012

- Moore, S. "Black Country English and the PAC project". *PAC International Conference 2012: The Phonology of Contemporary English – Variation and Change*. Toulouse: 29th February - 2nd March 2012
- Moore, S. Poster: "The PAC project in the West Midlands". *PAC International Conference 2012: The Phonology of Contemporary English – Variation and Change*. Toulouse: 29th February - 2nd March 2012

Publications 2012

- Moore, S. “La RP, accent de référence de l’Angleterre : continuité et changements”. I. Brulard, et al. (eds.). *La Prononciation de l’anglais : variation et structure*, Toulouse : Presses Universitaires du Mirail : in preparation for May 2012.
- Moore, S. “L’anglais du Black Country, Angleterre”. I. Brulard, et al. (eds.). *La Prononciation de l’anglais : variation et structure*, Toulouse : Presses Universitaires du Mirail : in preparation for May 2012.
- Moore, S. “The Changing Face of RP”. A. Przewozny, S. Moore, G. Turcsan (eds.). *The Complete Guide to the PAC Project, Camets de Grammaire*. CLLE-ERSS, University of Toulouse II – Le Mirail : in preparation for summer 2012.
- Moore, S. “RP as a reference accent: past, present and future”. Carr, P., Durand, J. Przewozny, A. (eds.) (in preparation). *Varieties of Spoken English: a source book*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Moore, S. “The accents of the English West Midlands”. Carr, P., Durand, J. Przewozny, A. (eds.) (in preparation). *Varieties of Spoken English: a source book*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Moore, S. “‘Ow we spake. Language and Identity in the Black Country.’ (in preparation).

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