

Symbolic presentation of phonetics

- // - **phonetic transcription**
- /ɔ:/- **cardinal vowel**
- /ɔ:/- **as in *four***
- /ə/- **as in *mother***
- /æ/- **front vowel between open and mid as in *cat***
- /ɪ/- **as in *pin***
- /i:/ **as in *see***
- /i/ **as *happy***
- /ʊ/- **as in *put***
- /h/- **voiceless glottal fricative as in *house***
- /ʔ/- **glottal plosives as in *butter***
- /r/- **as in *red***
- /t/- **voiceless alveolar plosive as in *tea***
- /d/- **voiced alveolar plosive *lady***
- /ʌ/- **cardinal vowel as in *cup***

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The project focuses on the extent which the Yorkshire accent changes after an individual moves away

Abstract

Differences in accents arise due to several factors. Differences in accents are likely to increase, with the pronunciation of vowels, consonants, the stress of syllables, the representations of initial, medial and terminal position with words such as butter, etc. This project focuses on the Yorkshire accent, which has recently gone through some changes such as the development of /ʌ/ from /ʊ/, discussed by Trudgill.

The project will consider the hypothesis: To what extent does the Yorkshire accent change after leaving the county? Other factors that will be considered are class background, occupations and external influences such as what the individual exposes him or herself to.

Several frameworks have been devised to allow a concise analysis of the data. A detailed analysis of the vowels, /ʌ/ and /ʊ/, will be followed by linguistic analyses of the post vocalic /r/.

Effective comparisons will be made by using books such as, Trudgill English Accents and dialects, as the main references for the analysis. Transcripts of speakers who are resident Yorkshire speakers will be used as a controlled group where the analysis can be drawn from.

Introduction

An accent is the way a phoneme is pronounced in a particular area or in a particular social group. The focus of this project lies within the Yorkshire accent as it is such a distinctive accent within Britain. It is one of the biggest counties in the UK divided into North, South, East and West Ridings, and it has been argued as not being one accent. Taking the addition of a person's personal idiolect into consideration, it would make the accent more distinctive. This project looks at the extent to which the Yorkshire accent changes after the individual who used to live in Yorkshire moves away. Therefore it will look at which aspects of the Yorkshire accent are retained, modified or changed completely and what has influenced this change.

A sub hypothesis would be to look intensively at the main factors hindering someone's ability to maintain their Yorkshire accent. One main component would be what to look at that is directly influencing their accent. This could include where they live now, their occupation, other locations where they've lived where they've lived after leaving Yorkshire and their social class.

Some of the analysis will include frameworks which will include a detailed look at comparing vowels such as /ʊ/ and /ʌ/ which are distinctive features of the Yorkshire accent, the vowels /æ/ and /ɑ:/, consonants, /h/, diphthongs such as /əʊ/. All this will be done by comparing the features of the non-resident Yorkshire speakers to a controlled group of two resident Yorkshire speakers.

Method for linguistics extended project

On collecting my data, I downloaded a speaker on youtube with a Huddersfield accent, talking about accent variations within the Yorkshire accent the software real player. After transcribing her speech, her recording became the template from which the other speakers would have to read from, but with more words added. I recorded three teachers in my college who born in Yorkshire and had lived in Yorkshire for almost 20 years the first part of their life. Additional information, were later gained from all the speakers such, as their native language, how long they've lived outside Yorkshire, what other places they have lived, their occupation, and their age. For the last speaker featured in this project, a website, where many accents are featured reading the same passage. With this, the same process of downloading and transcription was used.

The speakers were coded, S1, S2, for the speakers who are still resident within Yorkshire, and S3, S4, S5 were the speakers who are no longer resident of Yorkshire, but were born there and lived a considerable amount of their life there.

I transcribed the data using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), after downloading the software from UCL phonetics centre. I also downloaded the software speech analyser in order to listen to the data more accurately and to single out phoneme that are hard to listening to as my ears were not attune to the Yorkshire accent.

With the books such as, English accents and dialects by Arthur Hughes and Trudgill, I devised frameworks from reading the books for analysis.

The vowel /ʌ/ and /ʊ/

Table showing variations of the representations of the vowel /ʌ/ and /ʊ/ in the words *upload* and *but* by five speakers who originate from different part of Yorkshire
fig.1

<u>S1</u> ¹		
<u>S2</u>	/ʊplɔ:/	/bʊ?/
<u>S3</u>	/ʌplɔ:d/	/bʊ?/
<u>S4</u>	/ʊplɔd/	/bʌ?/
<u>S5</u>	/ʊpləʊd/	/bɒ?/

Research has shown the vowel, /ʊ/ as in *put* is used more consistently within the Yorkshire accent and many northern accent such as Lancashire than the vowel, /ʌ/ as in *cup*. This is evident in the data, as from the five speakers transcribed only S3 who is from Whitby, north east Yorkshire pronounced *upload* as /ʌplɔ:d/ with the /ʌ/ phoneme whereas the other speakers pronounced it as /ʊplɔ:d/ with the expected northern /ʊ/. This maybe part of her idiolect which has developed from her profession as a teacher, or perhaps the fact that she hasn't lived in Yorkshire for the past 25years, and has had no external influences of the Yorkshire accent. Proving, one might have to live within Yorkshire where communication is constant to maintain this aspect of the accent.

This supports the argument put forward by Trudgill who insists the Yorkshire accent is more complimentary of the /ʊ/ phoneme instead of the /ʌ/. However, my hypothesis is to investigate whether by not living in the Yorkshire county one can still maintain its accents after moving away for such a time. Thus as S3, deviated from this phoneme, this can give evidence in supporting my hypothesis to an extent.

Out of all the non- resident Yorkshire speakers, S3, has spent the most time out of Yorkshire but has had only the accent of Estuary English as the main influence to her accent, whereby S4 and S5 have being influenced by counties such as Reading and Brighton that of which resembles Estuary English accent the standard in London Regional RP. Within Estuary English, the phoneme /ʌ/ and /ʊ / are both present and distinctive, therefore S3 may have adopted the /ʌ/ phoneme as it is distinct in this accent, and as a result replaced the northern /ʊ/ she was use to.

This gives an insight into my hypothesis, as, S2 of Yorkshire resident and S3 surprisingly pronounces the conjunction *but* with the typical Yorkshire /ʊ/ as in /bʊ?/ whereas speaker 4 and 5 pronounces it as, /bʌ?/and /bɒ?/ respectively.

¹ Speaker1 did not have a word in the transcript which included the phoneme ʊ in the initial or medial position

S5's adoption of the phoneme /ɒ/ as in *got* is a typical southern Yorkshire feature and as the speaker is from Sheffield, South of Yorkshire it may give substance to this concept. This may also give a strong indication of the concept of personal idiolect and what influences it. S5, who has only lived in Reading and until then London since leaving Sheffield, is the furthest away from the expected /ʊ/ which is featured in the Yorkshire accent. Justifying this may be challenging, however, one must take into the consideration the fact that Sheffield is deep into south of Yorkshire and close to places such as Manchester and Leeds, and therefore this might have an impact on S5's pronunciations.

The pronunciations of vowels within any accent is what helps define or distinguish it from other accents to an extent, therefore the fact that it varies within all the speakers within the data indicate the other towns such as Reading, London and Nottingham where some of the speakers had lived for more than three years, may have had a strong impact on their Yorkshire accent than it was first expected.

The vowel, /ʌ/ is said to be a relatively recent phoneme in the Yorkshire accent, haven't developed from the northern /ʊ/ and Arthur Hughes, claims this new addition of vowel hadn't yet spread to northern accents such as Yorkshire, however, S3 representation of this vowel questions it to an extent.

Vowels /æ/ and /ɑ:/

Table showing various representation of the vowels /æ/ and /ɑ:/ in the word *parts* and *ask* by five speakers who originate from different parts of Yorkshire

Fig 2

S1	ask	/æsk/
S2	parts	/pæ:ts/
S3	parts	/pæ:ts
S4	parts	/pɑ:ʔ/
S5	parts	/pɑ:ʔ/

The expected representation of the vowel in the above table is /æ/ within the Yorkshire accent. This is a much shorter *a* than the typical RP accent /ɑ:/ as in *arm*.

Out of the speakers, S3 from Whitby, North East Yorkshire pronounces the word *part* with an elongated /æ:/ as /pæ:ts/. Similarly, S1, who has always lived in York in the South of Yorkshire, adopts the same feature of elongating the vowel, with /æ:sk/.

Nonetheless, the rest of the speakers, S4 and S5 use the more typical RP phoneme, /ɑ:/. This reflects on their occupation as teachers. Also, this coincides with a recent study¹¹ which found out the Yorkshire accent has started to resemble the RP accent and people with this accent are regarded as more intelligent.

S3, who out of the non-resident Yorkshire speakers has been away from Yorkshire the longest keeps this pronunciation of the short *a*. The BBC accent is close to the RP pronunciations, and according to the linguist J.C Wells this is the usual standard for teachers to have, hence the fact S4 and S5 use the more RP phoneme as it is their profession.

¹¹ Bath Spa University (see bibliography)

The vowel /ɒ/ to /ɔ:/

Fig 3

Table showing the various representation of the phoneme /ɔ:/ in the words *store* and *so* by five speakers who originate from different part of Yorkshire

S1	store	/stɔ:/
S 2	so	/sɔ:/
S3	so	/sɔ:/
S4	so	/sɔ:/
S5	so	/sɔ:/

Table showing the various representation of the phoneme /əʊ/ in the words *go* by five speakers who originate from different part of Yorkshire

S1	go	/gɔ:/
S 2	go	/gɔ:/
S3	go	/gʊ:/
S4	go	/gɔ:/
S5	go	/gɔ:/

Table showing the various representation of the diphthong /əʊ/ in the words *snow* and *upload* by five speakers who originate from different part of Yorkshire

S1	snow	/snɔ:/
S 2	upload	/ʊplɔ:/
S3	upload	/ʌplɔ:d/
S4	upload	/ʊplɔ:d/
S5	upload	/ʊpləʊd/

Table showing the various representation of the diphthong /əʊ/ in the words *video*

S1		
S2	video	vidiəʊ:
S3	video	vidiəʊ:
S4	video	vidiəʊ:
S5	video	vidiəʊ:

Table showing the various representation of the phoneme /ɔ:/ in the words *broader*

S1		
S2	broader	brɔ:də
S3	broader	brɔ:dɜ:
S4	broader	brɔ:də
S5	broader	brɔ:d

In a typical Yorkshire accent, the phoneme /ɔ:/ is pronounced with the tongue lower down in the mouth, closer to the position of the phoneme /ɒ/ as in *got* as compared to RP and Estuary English. This is an example of an allophone, which is the actual representation of a phoneme. In this project, I will represent this more opened sound with the symbol /ɔ:/.

S1 and S2, who were born and bred in Yorkshire and still living in Yorkshire, use the more opened allophone /ɔ:/ except in two words, whilst the three non-resident Yorkshire speakers, S3, S4 and S5 use the phoneme the majority of the time. S1, who has always lived in Yorkshire but can speak German and French, keeps the original more opened phoneme /ɔ:/. Similarly, S2, who also has always lived in Huddersfield Yorkshire adopts the /ɒ/ with the word *broader* but elongates it. It is vital to point out the Yorkshire residents do this only once each in the whole transcript, however this can give an insight to perhaps a new phoneme that is emerging within the Yorkshire accent, however, the sample is not representative enough to make this a strong conclusion and it could be down to not transcribing the data accurately.

A second point is with the pronunciation of the diphthong /eʊ/. Yorkshire is typical of many Northern accents as it pronounced as a single sound, (monophthongs) rather than a blend of two sounds (diphthongs). I will represent this phoneme with the symbol /ʊ/ and an elongation mark /:/, to give /ʊ:/. An example of this is with the word *go*, being

pronounced with the monophthong /ʊ:/ by S3, who has had to slow down her speech since moving from Yorkshire. This is because of the influence of her profession as a teacher in London.

/ɪ/ and /i:/

Fig 4

Table showing various representation of the terminal phoneme in words such as everybody, basically and Wednesday

S1	<i>Wednesday</i>	/wenzdeɪ/
S2	everybody	/əvri:bɒdɪ/
S3	everybody	/əvri:bɒdi:/
S4	everybody	/əvri:bɒdi:/
S5	everybody	/əvri:bɒdi:/

Fig 5

S1		
S2	basically	/be:sɪklɪ/
S3	basically	/be:sɪklɪ/
S4	basically	/be:sɪkli:/
S5	basically	/be:sɪklɪ/

According to Trudgill the pronunciation of the terminal phoneme in words like *city, money and coffee* is the same in both RP and some northern accents including Yorkshire. However, as this book was first published in 1979 it is questionable to draw valid conclusions from this as recent research from John Wells indicate otherwise. There is now a new phoneme which is the half way point between the sounds /ɪ/ and /i:/ and this is now commonly represented in books such as dictionaries as /i/. The diagram above illustrates this feature effectively. This vowel is deemed a weak vowel by John Wells in his book, pronunciations dictionary.

The representation of the terminal phoneme /i:/ is expected within the Yorkshire accent, rather than sound /ɪ/ with words in the above table. Fig 4 shows the speakers all adopt the expected phoneme, /i:/, with the noun *everybody*. This is similar to that of Tyneside and Humberside who too adopt this pronunciation in the terminal positions of words in fig 4.

As all the non- resident Yorkshire speakers adopt the same representation, indicating they have retained this feature of the Yorkshire accent, as by moving away to places such as Nottingham and London, has not hindered this aspect of their Yorkshire accent.

However, the majority of the speakers substitute this feature with the adverb *basically* to the shorter sound /ɪ/ whereas, only speaker 4, retains the use of the elongated RP phoneme /i:/. The pronunciations in fig5 can then be deemed an anomaly or their respective pronunciations. Perhaps it has something to do with the ending morpheme, as *basically* ends in *ly* and might be more likely to be shortened, whereas *everybody* with the ending syllable *dy* is more likely to be elongated.

As fig4 is more typical of the RP accent, it therefore seems typical for the speakers, especially S3, S4, and S5 who have a middle class profession to adopt this feature and have been teaching for a long time.

The RP representation of the terminal position is thought to resemble the Yorkshire accent, with the phoneme, /i:/.

However, further research will be required to see if the terminal /i/ isn't also influenced by the position of the word in the utterance as it could be influenced by words next to it, or whether it comes at the beginning or end of an utterance.

/h/

Table showing various representation of the phoneme /h/ in the initial position

Fig 5

S1	her	/ə/	
S2	Huddersfield	/ʊdəsfi:ld/	
S3	Huddersfield	/ʊdəsfi:l/	/hʊdʊsfi:l/
S4	Huddersfield	/hʊdʊsfi:ld/	/hʊdʊsfi:ld/
S5	Huddersfield	/hɔ:dsfi:l/	/hædæfi:ld/

The initial dropping of the phoneme /h/ is rare within the RP accent; therefore *happy* would be pronounced as /hæpi/. However the pronunciation of the noun *Huddersfield* within the data proves to be a complete contrast to this idea.

S1 pronounces the pronoun *her* as /ə/ⁱⁱⁱ where the /h/ phoneme has been omitted. Similarly, S2, who was born and bred in Yorkshire completely omits the phoneme /h/ and says /ʊdəsfi:ld/. This is also similar to the cockney accent which would pronounce *honest* as /ɒn ist/ or Estuary English that would pronounce *have* as /əv/.

However, S3 is inconsistent with the dropping of the /h/, as shown in /ʊdəsfi:l/ and /hʊdʊsfi:l/. This maybe due to the other influences as Whitby is really close to the boarder of Newcastle. Notably, the feature of retaining the /h/ is a strong feature of the speakers from Newcastle, Scotland and that of Irish speakers. Therefore S3, retaining the /h/ shows her accent has been influenced by other factors, however, the fact that this feature is inconsistent and may add to her personal idiolect and the concept of hypercorrection.

This may also contribute to the argument of an accent changing when the individual is no longer living where the accent is predominant, as S2 maintains the dropping of /h/ at all times. However, S4 and S5 who have had greater influences within their speech, from places such as Reading and Nottingham where words such as *house* is pronounced as /æ:ʊs/^{iv} gives the implication that one might have to live where the Yorkshire accent is spoken in order to maintain or at least this feature of the accent as all three non - resident

ⁱⁱⁱ the most used phoneme in English accents

^{iv} source from British Library

speakers do not have this feature within their speech. Another issue that rises up from this is the idea of class.

Teachers are more likely to exhibit an RP accent or traits of it in order for the students to understand clearly, therefore the retaining of the voiceless glottal fricative, /h/ adds to the concept of them now being middle class and their occupation.

/ʔ/

With reference to the J.C Wells dictionary, a glottal stop is a plosive made at the glottis, {made by the vocal cords}

Within the RP accent, the glottal stop is more likely to be used in the initial position before a vowel: *ant* as /ʔænt/ or before consonant clusters or before certain constants *simply* as /sɪmʔplɪ/. However, this idea discussed by Brown (1977) is not evident in the transcribed data, rather a glottal stop is used where the phoneme /t/ is in the terminal position of the word such as *but* and *part*. This feature is also said to be a strong feature of regional accents, and is evident within the Yorkshire accent.

Table showing various representation of the phoneme t in the terminal position

Fig 6

S1 ^v			
S2	/æksenʔ/	/pæ:ts/	/buʔ/
S3	æksent/	/pæ:ts/	/buʔ/
S4	/æksent/	/pɑ:ʔ/	/bʌʔ
S5	/æksen/	/pɑ:ʔ/	/buʔ/

Individual representation of the final *t* varies across the data. Significantly, the conjunction *but*, is represented with a glottal stop by all speakers, however, research indicates this is a feature that reflects young speakers who are from a working class background but more importantly that which is typical of regional accents. As the class status of S1 and S2 is not information that is assessable, S3, S4, and S5, can be classified as middle class as they are teachers but whether they originated from a working class background or not may still affect their usage of the glottal stop.

Where the final phoneme *t* is followed by a plural *s*, such in *parts* it is possible for the *t* to be pronounced with a glottal stop. S2 and S3, use the glottal stop but still maintain the inflected *s*, whereas, S4 and S5, who have had greater influences such as Brighton which is similar to Estuary English, all do not inflect the *s*.

^v Speaker 1 didn't have in their transcript where there was a terminal *t*

The word *accent* helps in maintaining the argument of whether one needs to stay in the Yorkshire accent to maintain the accent as out of the speakers only two represent the terminal *t* the same: S3 and S4. They both announce the phoneme *t*, however, with speaker 4, although pronounces the *t*, he fails to repeat the same pattern with the word *part* and *but*. As this is done only once, this can be deemed as an anomaly.

/r/

As established before the pronunciations of certain vowels can make the Yorkshire accent different and the speakers that have moved away Yorkshire indicate strong variations with such pronunciations which questions whether people need to live in the place of residence of the accent to maintain it or not. However, the post vocalic /r/ (the pronunciation of the /r/ at the end of words) which was developed centuries ago in South East of England had influenced regional accents across the British Isles. According to Gimson, it was likely to have taken place by the end of eighteenth century.

Most British accents including that of Yorkshire are non rhotic accent with the exception of few such as the Scotland and Southampton accents. This indicates the phoneme /r/ is only pronounced when it is before a vowel, such as *return* or when it is in the initial position of a word. The main feature of a non rhotic accent or the absence of the post vocalic *r* is the lack of pronunciations of the /r/ when it is in the terminal position of words. Therefore the word *bar* would become /bɑ:/. This is also a main feature of Received Pronunciation. In contrast, Irish Gaelic in Ireland and the General America accent which are rhotic accents indicating regardless of the position of the phoneme /r/ in any utterance it is always pronounced, thus *bar* would be produced as /bɑ:r/.

Fig 7

Table showing various representation of the /r/ in its initial position

S1	Red	/red/
S2	Really	/re:l/
S3	Really	/ri:li/
S4	Really	/r:li
S5	Really	/r:li/

Table showing various representation of the post vocalic /r/

S1	for	/fɔ/
S2	part	/pæ:ts/
S3	part	/pæ:ts/
S4	part	/pɑ:ʔ/
S5	part	/pɑ:ʔ/

Both S1 and S2; Yorkshire residents, do not show any evidence of the post vocalic /r/, and as all the other speakers, who have had all lived outside the county do not display this feature neither, therefore it can be concluded that S3, S4 and S5 may have sustained this aspect of the Yorkshire and RP accent and moving away from Yorkshire for almost 60 years combined has not affected it.

However, there is not enough evidence in the text to make a stronger conclusion about the use of the post vocalic /r/ within the Yorkshire accent and how strong a feature it is of the Yorkshire accent. This feature resembles that of the RP accent, thus it can be said the Yorkshire accent is slowly resembling the RP accent, and this statement is further supported by a study done by Dr Lance Workman, who led the research at Bath Spa University came to the same conclusion.

Trudgill, also concluded in his book^{vi}, the post vocalic /r/ can be heard within the old generation of the Yorkshire citizens and working class children than middle class children. From the British Library, after listening to a recording of a woman in the 1890's from Welwick, in Yorkshire it was evident, the older generation pronounced the post vocalic /r/ in words such as *water* becoming /wætrr/ and *warm* becoming /wærrm/. Therefore this gives strength to this Trudgill's statement. Cross referencing the data, S3, S4 and S5, all which are teachers and therefore middle class professions supports the argument as they do not display this feature which is deemed a working class attribute. More significantly, is the fact that S3, S4 and S5 who although have been living away from Yorkshire for a long time, sustain this feature and gives the indication maybe one doesn't need to be in the resident of the Yorkshire County to sustain it.

However, a plausible argument is with the phoneme /r/ being pronounced when is followed by a vowel. An example of this is S3, pronouncing *flatcar* as /flæʔka:/, this is without the consonant *r*, therefore there is no post vocalic, however, *car accident* becomes /kɑ:r æksɪdɪnt?/ with the phoneme /r/ in the orthography being pronounced as well. This can be explained by the application of linking /r/ or a liaison which makes it easy to pronounce and this is common with the RP accent.

This may be part of S3's idiolect; however, as this speaker was the only one who had this word within her data, it is questionable to see if the other speakers would have all adopted this representation or something different. However, pronouncing the post vocalic /r/ prior to a following word starting with a vowel is a common feature of English accents.

The morpheme /er/

Table showing various representations of the /er/ phoneme in the terminal position

Fig 8

S1	brother	/brʊðə/
S2	broader	/brɔ:də/
S3	broader	/brɔ:dɜ:/
S4	broader	/brɔ:də/
S5	broader	/brɔ:d/

^{vi} ENGLISH ACCENT AND DIALECT (SEE BIBLOGRAPHY)

The expected Yorkshire and RP accent representation of this phoneme is /ə/. This vowel also known as the schwa has over the years become common within many British regional accents. For example, words that would have been pronounced with a strong phoneme, are now pronounced with a schwa. Eg, consume, /kɒnsu:m/ now it is commonly pronounced as /kənsu:mə/

The above table, indicates S1, uses the expected, /ə/ in the word, *brother* and S2 from Huddersfield, uses phoneme /ə/ to represent the morpheme, *er* in the word *broader*. However, S3, S4, S5, who no longer live in Yorkshire all give a different representation of the morpheme. S3, who has only lived in London since leaving Yorkshire, adopts the phoneme, /ɜ:/ as in *fur*, and S5, who has lived in Reading and in addition London after leaving Yorkshire, omits the phoneme, *er* all together. However, it is questionable whether a strong conclusion can be made from this, as it maybe that she read the text incorrectly. However, S4, who has an influence of Brighton and Nottingham within his accent, uses the expected Yorkshire sound /ə/ at the end of *broader*, and this may indicate he sustains this aspect of the Yorkshire accent, but this is only with one pronunciation as there were not enough words in the data to give variations and give a stronger conclusion.

In contrast, within the Southampton accent, the phoneme /r/ is adopted with words such as *vanilla* where there is no /r/ in its orthography becoming /vən'ɪləɾ/ but similarly the /ə/ is maintained in both accents, just in different positions. Therefore the loss of the post vocalic /r/ indicates words within the Yorkshire accent which end in the morpheme /er/ changes to an ending of /ə/.

/ɔ:/

The above table shows the variations in the representation of the medial vowels, *oa* in the words *broader* and *brother*. The original vowel in the spelling *o*, is represented in the same way by S3, S4, and S5, who all teach as a profession, and have combined, 60 years away from the Yorkshire county, adopt the vowel /ɔ:/ as in *four* in representing the vowel *o* as in *got*. However, S1 and S2, who were born and have lived in Yorkshire until present, all give a different representation of the vowel. S1 also speaks French and German, uses the vowel, /u/ as in *put* whereas, S2, who also lives in Yorkshire and has had no other language or accent influences, uses the *o* in the spelling, but elongated it to /ɔ:/. Perhaps this can be put down to their personal idiolect being influenced by other factors such as class, profession or environment. Thus it is notable that the speakers who are teachers all adopt the same phoneme: /ɔ:/.

Conclusion

It was the aim of this project to identify the extent to which the Yorkshire accents changes after leaving the Yorkshire County and also to identify any significant factors that may have influence their speech.

One significant finding from this project is the fact that vowels are more distinctive part of the Yorkshire accent than consonants. The reason for this possibly is that vowels are less precisely defined as there is no contact between the tongue and the month unlike consonants where there is a specific contact between the mouth and the tongue. However, an individuals pronunciation of vowels, appears to be a more permanent feature which is less likely to change than consonant even when the non-resident Yorkshire speakers have been out of the county for many years.

One of the main features of the Yorkshire accent is the distinctive vowels, /ʊ/ and /ʌ/. in this research question, all the non-resident Yorkshire represent this vowel differently when it is in the medial position as in the word *but*. This illustrates an aspect of the Yorkshire aspect which has not being retained. This may be due to the strong influence of Estuary English and RP accent which are exposed to them on a daily basis. It could also be a function of their social and professional status.

Another finding from this project is with the consonant /h/. All the non resident Yorkshire speakers pronounce it with the word Huddersfield, whilst the control group don't. it is very likely this due to their occupation, as they would come across as not being professional.

A further finding from the project is the strong influence of Estuary English, which has spread from London accents and pushing up north in the UK to places such as Yorkshire. A feature of Estuary English is the glottal stop, which was evident in the data by all speakers. Although some people may deem this a working a class feature, a strong aspect of this is the fact is part of an influential accent which is influencing may regional accents in the UK.

Another key feature of the Yorkshire accent, which it shares with many northern accents, is the use age of monophthong instead of diphthongs. All the speakers within the data, do to some extent reduce the diphthong to a monophthong, however, it hasn't been possible to find a close a correlation between how much this aspect of Yorkshire accent is retained and the period of time the speaker have been non-resident Yorkshire. This would required further research with many more speakers and greater analysis.

A further observation could have influenced the outcome of the project, is that all the recording away from Yorkshire, as it would be interesting to see if the recording was done in their native environment. Finally, a more focused research concerning the research question would have to be carried out in order to draw a stronger conclusion.

Evaluation

The outcome of the project served its aim of exploring the hypothesis of whether one needs to stay in Yorkshire to maintain, however, they were aspects in the process of the project which I believe if conducted again would change.

Firstly, I would change my sample of 5 Yorkshire speakers to a sample of 20 speakers. Therefore, there would be a sample of 10 speakers who were born and bred in Yorkshire and still live in the Yorkshire County. The other 10 speakers would be ones which were born and bred in Yorkshire but has moved away from Yorkshire for more than 20 years. More importantly, all the speakers would represent every part of Yorkshire. With this in mind, 4 speakers would be from south Yorkshire, 4 speakers for north Yorkshire, 4 speakers from west Yorkshire, 4 speakers from the east Yorkshire. The last four speakers would be from the neighbouring towns that are close to that part of Yorkshire. An example of this is Newcastle being close to north Yorkshire. Significantly, in picking the sample, I will make sure different social classes, different occupations, a range of ages, equal numbers of males and females are represented, as this will help in drawing conclusions which will have more support from the data.

I believe the transcription of the data was an important aspect of the project and its outcome as analysis would be drawn from it. The transcription of the data was done effectively with the use of the IPA and the sound analyser. However, with future references, I would have a second source listen to the transcriptions to enable a greater depth of reliability in my data. Also as I used my phone to record the no longer Yorkshire resident, I believe that lessened my professionalism, however, if the project was to be redone a Dictaphone would be used. More significantly, a place in the college would be set up where the speakers could come and read the data. This will lessen any distraction the speakers may feel when recording.

Looking further into my project, perhaps other regional accents such as the Scouse accent from Liverpool, the Gaelic accent from Scotland or the Tyneside accent from Newcastle, would make good analysis, and interesting conclusion. The same process used in this project of transcription would be used. However with these accents, I would construct the data which the speakers would read myself. With this I would be bale to put words, which contains certain features such as glottal stops which depict their accents in a way that would allow constructive analysis.

Lastly, I would consider expanding the project from looking at accents within regional accents to also dialect. From this a sub hypothesis could be to see which aspect of accents or dialects which is subject to more influence from neighbouring towns or the wider society.