

Problems with LAS3

Even within the Scots-speaking area, the geographical coverage of LAS3 is patchy

- e.g. no locations in Argyll, Peeblesshire, Selkirkshire, parts of the Central Belt, Aberdeenshire, Shetland and Ulster

Only part of the survey wordlist was used in LAS3

- substantial sections covering unstressed vowels, deictics and pronouns were left out, and words not fitting the default consonant skeleton were excluded (e.g. any forms of *gold* with /l/)

The data were systematised in a subjective, idiosyncratic way, so that important phonetic information is lost, and very little information is given on the pronunciation of consonants

- e.g. LAS3 24.9 Newcastleton, Rox. *great* [grɛ*ɪ] > /grɛ*ɪ/, *part* [pɛ*ɪrt] > /pɛɪrt/, *tread* [trɛ ɔ] > /træ d/

What about the original data?

Held in the Celtic and Scottish Studies (School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures)

- thanks to Cathlin Macaulay for access to the material

Fieldworkers' notebooks for the published locations, containing the original phonetic transcriptions and LAS3 phonemicisations

Fieldworkers' notebooks for a 105 locations, most not included in LAS3

- many of these use a somewhat different wordlist and appear to constitute a parallel survey rather than rejected data collected for LAS3

Gathered together and catalogued by WM

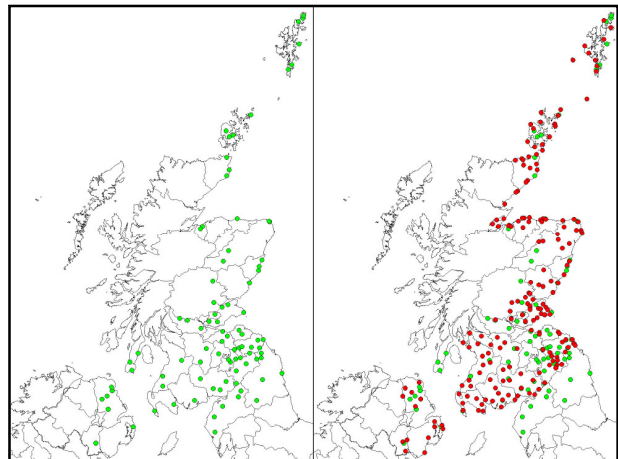
Advantages of the original data

The notebooks which fed into LAS3 contain the full list of 982 words (786 in LAS3), including sections covering unstressed vowels, pronouns and deictics left out of LAS3

All 982 words are transcribed:

- phonetically, so that we need not rely on the idiosyncratic LAS3 phonemic interpretation of the data
- in full, including consonants and unstressed vowels

Data is available for many more locations, including from areas not covered in LAS3

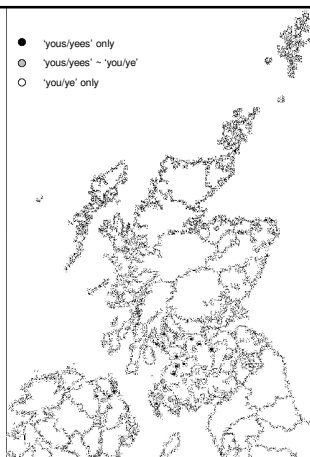


you

Like English, many Scots dialects lost the distinction between sg. and pl. for the 2nd person pronoun ('you/ye')

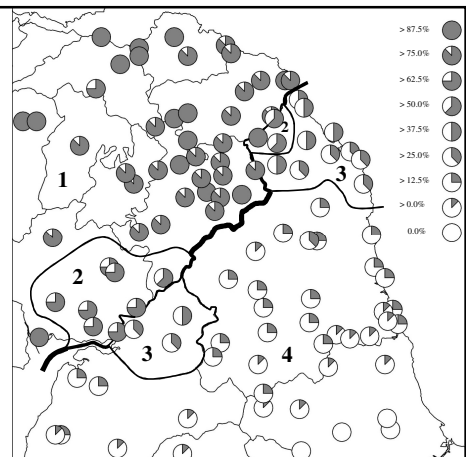
A new form, 'yous/yees', has developed and become widespread, and is suspected of originating in Irish English

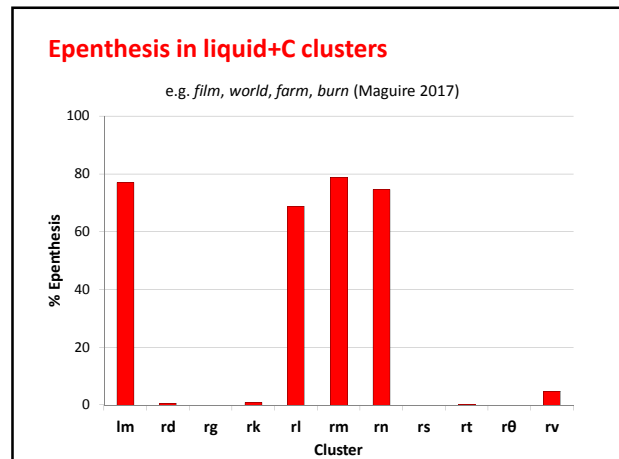
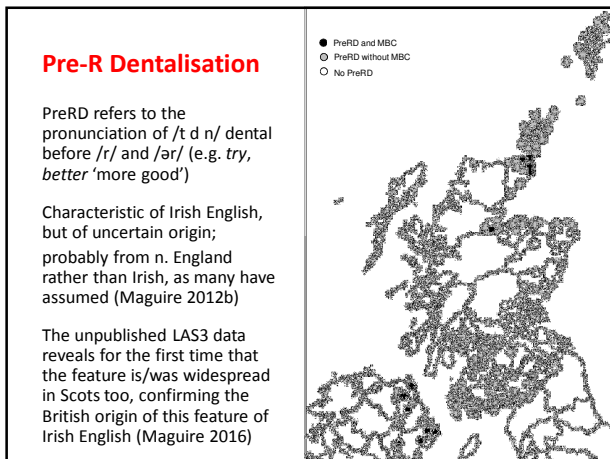
The unpublished LAS3 data shows that it is present in Ulster and in traditional dialects in SW Scotland and around Glasgow, indeed suggesting a spread from Ireland (Maguire 2012a)



The Scots-English Border

The close network of published and unpublished locations allows a detailed picture of cross-border linguistic relations and divisions to be drawn based on 22 phonological variables (Maguire 2015)





References

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