Abstract

Highly marked forms in the $di \ [dI]*do'$ paradigm, namely $div \ [dIv]$, $diz \ [diz]$, and $di \ [dI]$, and their corresponding prepositional forms (e.g. $tIv$ etc.), are characteristic of the Tyneside dialect in Northeast England. These $i'(v)$-forms have been attested in all Northern Counties of England, including Tyne and Wear, and also Northumberland, Cumbria, Durham, Lancashire, and Yorkshire (Orton and Halliday 1962:1034ff.), as well as in the northeast of Scotland (Glauser 1974). Their etymological derivation has already been presented in detail in Rowe (2002, 2005). For this talk, I will concentrate on the distribution of the negated form $divn't$.

Within the Newcastle-Gateshead conurbation in the Tyne River area, there are important sociolinguistic issues to consider for these forms. The primary question I will answer is: what is the sociolinguistic distribution of the form 25 years ago, compared to now? I will also consider how marked the forms are socially, and how salient linguistically, and I will explore the possible effect that speaker attitudes toward and awareness of the $divn't$ form have on its use.

The study is based on a sample (110 speaker interviews) from two separate corpora: the Tyneside Linguistic Survey (a 1969 corpus of Gateshead speakers), and the Phonological Variation and Change (a 1994 corpus of Newcastle speakers). An additional 30 interviews from 2002 in the Newcastle area provide additional attitudinal data.

In this analysis, interesting apparent differences are found in the distribution of the $divn't$ form. The possible effect of cultural awareness and cultural attitudes is noted, and the potential effect of the study and interview design is also recognised. The combined results at any rate suggest a notable change in speaker use in the highly Northern-characteristic $divn't$ forms over time.

Charley Rowe
University of Hong Kong
rowe@hku.hk

References