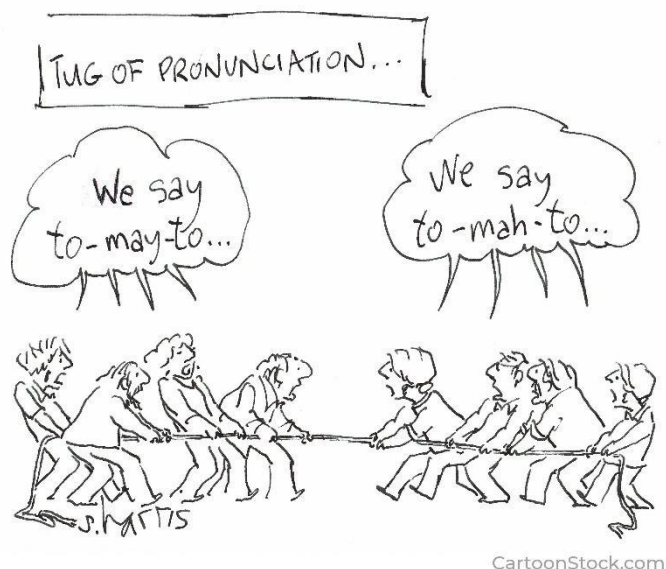


Worksheet 4.2 Sociolinguistics Accents, Dialects and the Languages of Ireland

Discussion on Accents (Solutions on the slides)

1. When you think of the word 'accent', what do you think of?
2. Consider all the accents that you are used to hearing around you at home, school, tv etc. What differentiates them?
3. What can an accent tell you?
4. Why do we have different accents?
5. What accents do you particularly like?
6. Are there any accents that you find more difficult to understand? Why?
7. Have you ever changed your accent? Why? In what context?
8. Have you ever judged or been judged because of your accent? Explain
9. Do you think that people might be treated differently depending on their accent? Why?



Activity 4.2.1- The Great Scone Debate

- How do you pronounce the word? Like the word 'gone' or the word 'cone'?
- Do a survey in your class or even better, of a selection of staff in your school, to see if you all say it the same way.
- Why might you have different pronunciations of it?
- What or who might influence the way you say the word?



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1. Awesome	Beaut	Great
2. Bickie	Biscuit	Cookie
3. Bloke	Dude	Man
4. Bottle shop	Liquor Store	Off Licence
5. Candy	Lollies	Sweets
6. Daks	Pants	Trousers
7. Dunny	Lavatory	Toilet
8. Football	Footie	Soccer
9. Hi	G'day	Howdy
10. Petrol Station	Service Station	Gas Station
11. Runners	Sneakers	Trainers
12. Underwear	Underpants	Undies

Extension Activity 4.2.4 - Dialects of Ireland and the UK

- Have a go at this interactive quiz by the New York Times on the English spoken in Ireland and the UK.
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/02/15/upshot/british-irish-dialect-quiz.html>
- Is it able to indicate where you're from? How accurate is it?
- Try it out on your family or some of your teachers, especially if they are not from the same place as you.

Activity 4.2.5 - The Official Languages of Ireland

Irish Gaelic is constitutionally the first official language of the Republic of Ireland. Irish has the oldest vernacular (native/spoken-language) literature of any language in Western Europe and arrived here around 2,500 years ago.

1. From the historical linguistics lessons, can you remember which group of languages within the Indo-European family that Irish Gaelic belongs to?
2. What other languages belong to the same family?
3. Which languages within that group would be more similar to Irish?
4. What are the dialects of Irish and where are they spoken?

English is the second official language of Ireland and is spoken by the majority of people in Ireland. The language was first brought to Ireland in the 12th Century and started out as a minority language. However, over the course of 800 years and the political, economic, and geographical climate of the times, it became the dominant language.

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5. What branch of the Indo-European language tree does English belong to?
6. What languages are most similar to English?
7. How does the structure of the English language differ to Irish? Consider the syntax and sentence structure

Activity 4.2.6 - Endangered Languages

Today Irish is spoken mainly in the Gaeltacht areas and is a required language in schools. However, it is considered an endangered language because of the small number of people that speak it here and it risks falling out of use as speakers shift to using another language.

Consider the following questions before watching the YouTube video that your teacher will play and then discuss in small groups.

1. Why would a language become endangered and potentially die?
2. What happens when a language dies out? What unexpected insights are being lost to the world with the collapse of its linguistic variety?
3. What languages are also endangered?
4. What would it mean for Ireland to have its native language, Irish, become obsolete?
5. How can we encourage minority and endangered languages within Ireland?

Activity 4.2.7 - Lesser used Languages of Ireland

Did you know that **Ulster Scots** is known as an official minority language of Ireland? It comes from the Germanic branch of languages and is similar to English. It is found mainly in the areas of Northern Ireland where the Scottish settled and is spoken by both Protestants and Catholics.

Task: Try this quiz to see how well you can understand a few Ulster Scots words and phrases.

<https://discoverulsterscots.com//language-games/wheen-o-wurds-1/index.html>

Activity 4.2.8 Heritage Languages of Ireland Survey and Report

According to the **2016 Census**, the population of the Republic of Ireland was **4,761,865**. Of these, 612,018 Irish residents spoke a foreign language at home, an increase of 19% since 2011. Polish was the most common language, followed by French, Romanian and Lithuanian. 30% of those who spoke a foreign language at home were born in Ireland, and 57.4% of these were children.

1. Explore the Central Statistics Office website (www.cso.ie) to find out the most recent figures for the languages spoken in Ireland. You will also need the overall population for that year.



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2. The CSO also provides a Census County Snapshot – find the main languages spoken in your county. How do they compare nationally? Take note of the latest data.
3. Use your IT skills and create a survey for the following groups to find out what languages they know, the languages they speak at home and if and when they use Irish e.g. only in school, daily etc.
Again, you will need the total number for each group to be able to accurately work out percentages and charts
 - a. Your linguistics class
 - b. Transition Year Students
 - c. All students in the school (can be broken down per year group)
 - d. Staff members
4. Input all the data you have found to an Excel Worksheet and create a chart(s) of your choice to highlight the statistics
5. Create a report/poster/PowerPoint to showcase all the information that you have discovered and share with the rest of the school