

**ON-LINE RESOURCES AND DATABANKS  
FOR A-LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHERS**  
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### **SOCIOLINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGE VARIATION & CHANGE**

#### **Sue Fox (Bern) & Heike Pichler's (Newcastle) *Analysing Spoken English* booklet**

<http://heikepichler.weebly.com/events.html>

This booklet was designed for teachers of A-Level English Language, specifically those teaching sessions on spoken English and/or language variation & change. The focus of the materials is on so-called discourse-pragmatic features, i.e., features such as innit, be like or dead which do not generally contribute to the factual content of an utterance but perform important interactional functions in discourse. The materials provided in this booklet include: fact sheets, suggestions for classroom activities, photocopiable worksheets and some background reading materials.

#### **Emma Moore's (Sheffield) *Language and Identity in the National Curriculum***

<http://school-of-english.dept.shef.ac.uk/langworkscheme/index.html>

The materials on this site were designed to introduce Year 10 students to issues related to language & identity. They include power-point presentations to be used in class as well as accompanying handouts and audio files. They prepare students for producing reports or presentations on language & identity in their own communities which can then be assessed as part of their coursework.

#### **Deborah Cameron's (Oxford) *Research Update for Teachers***

<http://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/emag/debcamemag.pdf>

Unlike other sites listed here, this site doesn't provide exercise materials but instead contains a short article with reading suggestions that will get A-level English Language teachers up-to-date with the latest research on language and gender.

#### **Kirk Hazen's (West Virginia) *Teaching About Language Variation***

[http://dialects.english.wvu.edu/outreach/language\\_variations](http://dialects.english.wvu.edu/outreach/language_variations)

<http://www.cal.org/resources/digest/0104dialects.html>

[http://dialects.english.wvu.edu/outreach/dialects\\_in\\_schools](http://dialects.english.wvu.edu/outreach/dialects_in_schools)

These sites offer excellent resources for teaching various issues related to language variation, particularly geographical dialect variation. Specific lesson plans with power points and background reading materials are also included. While some resources are specifically targeted at the Appalachian dialect spoken in West Virginia, the materials can be modified for application to other dialect areas.

#### **Andrew Moore's *Teaching Resource Site***

<http://www.universalteacher.org.uk/contents.htm#langua>

<http://www.teachit.co.uk/armoore>

This site is an archive of resources for English Language and Literature teachers. It covers a wide range of topics in sociolinguistics, including, amongst others, English varieties of the British Isles, Language & gender, Features of spoken English (all by Andrew Moore), Researching dialect (by Barrie Rhodes), and Dialect levelling and RP (by Paul Kerswill). The site also contains a wide range of resources for teaching the structure of English and language acquisition as well as topics in English Literature.

### **LINGUISTIC THEORIES**

#### **Matthew Richardson's (Utah State) *Theories Central***

<http://theoriescentral.wordpress.com/>

This site offers accessible summaries of some key theories in linguistics and communication research, including politeness theory, social exchange theory and genderlects. It comes with lesson plans, videos and exercises.

### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

#### **The Lancaster University's *A Level English Language Website***

<http://www.ling.lancs.ac.uk/alevel/>

This site contains links to a range of other English Language resources as well as a Q-A facility covering topical issues in the study of English Language such as the origins of English, the development of creole languages, English dialectology and language acquisition.

### **The Open University's *The History of English in Ten Minutes* i-tunes**

<http://itunes.apple.com/itunes-u/the-history-english-in-ten/id446081667>

This site hosts a series of 10 one-minute audio-bites which cover 1600 years of the history of the English language, discussing its sources and development, its current state as a major global language and its future in the internet age.

### **Christian Kay & John Corbett's (Glasgow) *Word Webs***

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/critical/research/fundedresearchprojects/wordwebs/>

This site was created for students of English Language and Literature to develop their skills in analysing language use in literary and non-literary texts. The first two units (the growth of the English vocabulary; using on-line corpora) introduce resources for analysing the history of English and literary texts; the second two units guide students through the analysis of specific topics (Shakespeare's vocabulary; issues of gender). The site includes demonstrations, interactive activities and suggestions for further study.

### **All Talk**

<http://www.btplc.com/Responsiblebusiness/Supportingourcommunities/Learningandskills/Freeresources/AllTalk/default.aspx>

This site supports English GCSE and A Level students in the study of spoken language and speaking and listening. The site includes interaction with all forms of digital media and includes a free downloadable workbook with accompanying video clips and a range of classroom activities.

### **iGE: the interactive Grammar of English**

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/english-usage/apps/ige/>

This is a complete grammar of the English Language specifically designed for mobile devices. It includes a glossary of grammatical terms, a guided course and interactive exercises. The iGE Lite is free.

### **Valuable Voices**

<http://charityhudleymallinson.com/resources/>

This is a US-based site written by two linguists with extensive experience of working with educators. There is a lot of useful information about language variation, with a link to the Popular Linguistics magazine. There is also an accompanying Valuable Voices YouTube Channel featuring many clips on language issues that can be applied to UK contexts.

### **UC Quakebox: developing monologues**

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2215039016300066>

As part of this collaborative project which was devised to gather and preserve digital content related to the Canterbury earthquakes, a team of scholars have prepared lesson plans for developing a monologue as oral text. Links to the student and instructor materials are available from near the bottom of the above page (under Appendix A).

## **ENGLISH ACCENTS AND DIALECTS**

### **DECTE's (Newcastle) *The Talk of the Toon***

<http://research.ncl.ac.uk/decte/toon/>

This is a multi-media website containing audio recordings and transcriptions from dialect speakers of different ages, socio-economic backgrounds and localities in the North East of England. These recordings have been combined with still and moving images relating to themes relevant to subject areas in the National Curriculum including English but also History, ICT and Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education.

### **John Wells's (UCL) *Estuary English***

<http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/estuary/home.htm>

This site is dedicated to anything that's ever been written about Estuary English, the name given to the form(s) of English spoken in and around London and, more generally, in the south-east of England. The site includes listings of books that focus solely on the topic, books which contain chapters on the topic, lecture handouts, journal articles, newspaper articles and many other items of related interest.

### **BBC Voices: Voices from around the UK**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/voices/>

This site is a resource for exploring language diversity in the UK and features many voice recordings of social and regional accents and dialects. The site includes a Word Map which explores differences in words used across regions, a News archive of language-related articles, a Webguide which lists useful sites about language and linguistics, and lessons plans for teaching about accent and dialect.

### **The British Library's *Sounds Familiar? Accents and Dialects of the UK***

<http://www.bl.uk/learning/langlit/sounds/index.html>

This is another site that captures the diversity of spoken English across the UK. The site features interactive maps and explores lexical, phonological, grammatical and social variation. There is also a section which offers students and schools the opportunity to contribute their own recordings and language surveys to the site, as part of the British Library Sound Archive's ongoing survey of speech patterns across the UK.

### **McMahon et al.'s (Edinburgh) *Accents of English Around the World***

<http://www.lel.ed.ac.uk/research/gsound/Eng/Database/Phonetics/Englishes/Home/HomeMainFrameHolder.htm>

This site provides an overview of the sounds of English across time, space and social groups.

### **DISCOURSE-PRAGMATIC FEATURES**

#### **Stacia Levy's (Stockton) *As I Was Saying: How and Why to Teach Discourse Markers***

<http://busyteacher.org/10076-how-and-why-to-teach-discourse-markers.html>

This site offers some ideas on how to raise students' awareness of discourse markers and their interactional importance. (Some exercises may be more suitable to teaching non-native speakers of English.)

### **OTHER RELEVANT TOPICS**

#### **INNET project findings**

<http://languagesindanger.eu/>

This accessible site provides information about the world's languages and how the global linguistic diversity can be explored, documented and preserved.

### **MORE GENERIC SITES**

#### **Linguistics Research Digest**

<http://linguistics-research-digest.blogspot.co.uk/>

This excellent site provides up-to-date reports on the latest research papers on language issues in an engaging, jargon-free way. It is particularly aimed at helping teachers and students of GCSE and A Level English Language to keep abreast of cutting edge research.

#### **The UK Linguistics Olympiad**

<http://www.uklo.org/>

The UK Linguistics Olympiad is a competition for secondary school students, which involves solving linguistic data problems at different levels of difficulty. The site includes links to problems used in past Olympiads (support > practice) which can be used in the classroom to develop and apply students' analytical skills to linguistic data. A detailed educational rationale for incorporating these exercises in the classroom is also outlined on the site (about > educational rationale).

### **ACCESSIBLE JOURNALS AND MAGAZINES (There is a subscription fee for these journals/magazines.)**

#### ***Babel. The Language Magazine* (ed. Lesley Jeffries & Dan McIntyre)**

<http://www.babelzine.com>

*Babel* is a newly founded language magazine published four times a year in English. The magazine covers a wide range of topics about many different languages across the world. It contains essays on topical issues related to language ("Feature articles"), biographies of influential thinkers in linguistics ("Lives in language"), explanations of technical terms ("Linguistic lexicon"), quizzes, competitions etc. It is accessibly written for language enthusiasts around the world.

#### ***English Today* (ed. Clive Upton)**

<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=eng>

*English Today* is a journal that publishes accessible cutting-edge reports on a wide range of topics related to English Language. Its global readership includes teachers and advanced students of English Language.

#### **OTHER**

##### **Committee for Linguistics in Education (CLIE)**

<http://clie.org.uk/>

CLIE was set up to establish how (applied) linguistics can contribute towards the school curriculum and the professional training of teachers. The site contains links to teaching resources (actions > resources) as well as accessible articles about linguistics and (English/foreign) language teaching.

##### **Dick Hudson's (UCL) *A level English Language* site**

<http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/dick/ec/gce.htm>

Lots of facts and figures here about the history of A Level English Language, various exam boards' specifications, and discussion of assessment objectives. Of importance to students thinking of entering HE, there is a section which discusses how English Language is regarded by HE admissions tutors.

##### **Dick Hudson's (UCL) Educational linguistics site**

<http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/dick/education.htm>

This site contains lots of relevant information pages, all concerned with raising awareness of knowledge about language in schools. There is a lot of very useful information for teachers about teaching grammar here (> a weekly grammar column for school teachers).

#### **BLOGS AND E-MAGAZINES**

<http://englishlangsfx.blogspot.co.uk/>

<http://emagazinelanguage2012.blogspot.co.uk/>

<http://languagelog ldc.upenn.edu/nll/>

<http://lingeducator.com/>