

Dialect and Oral History: The East Midlands

AUDIO RECORD*

Recording:

Reference	A15
Dialect Location	Sneinton, Nottingham
Date of interview	1982

Interviewee:

Gender	Male
Date of birth / age	1911
Occupation	Machine knitting, Raleigh

Summary/Transcript:

Extract taken from
00:21- 02:24

Yes it was (...) it was (...) same as all the other streets but this street it'd/ they call it quality street I don't know why because (...) they seemed to be a bit more respectable than some of the streets (...) but they had their fights there was one or two fights in the street then (...) but (...) and at the top of the street I think that's what helped it there was a/ think he was wholesale (...) man in the market (...) he'd got a big house right at the top and he always used come up in his pony and trap and (...) la-di-da and/ you know I think that's what give it the name of quality street

Right

(...) but (...) it was alright grass all on the roads there was no (...) like now there was no cars or owt like that it was all horse and carts (...) the coal carts used to come up and drop their loads (...) outside your grate you'd got to get your own coal in (...) course all that's been stopped since then but ((unintelligible)) (...) and it was good it it/ you really enjoyed yourself making holes in the ground to play at marbles chalk and (...) playing pick cards skimming pick cards all sorts and you had all the usual games skipping and (...) leap frog rum-sticka-bum that was one of the favourites

Is it?

rum-sticka-bum

What was 'rum-sticka-bum' then?

well there'd be about (...) eight on you each side (...) one would stand up against the wall and all the others used to (...) stand in a rugby scrum one get down and the next one and next one till they's about half way across the road (...) and you had to/ the ne/ you all got jump (...) and they got to hold you and if you touched the floor (...) you was off it was their turn (...) and a/ you got the best jumper to go first to get rate/ right at the top as far as he could well then as he went they'd be just on the last man and then somebody'd get on top of him and/ on top of him till they ge/ they'd give way then they start all over again but it was really good you/ it learnt you to jump you/ it half used to fly through the air leap frog and all I could jump over the leap frog don't care how high the post/ I even went on the top of a pillar box once I only done it once

*This audio record was created as part of *An investigation into dialect through oral history: The East Midlands*, awarded a British Academy Small Research Grant (SG110642) for 2011-2012.

Principal Investigator: Diane Davies (University of Leicester); Co-Researcher: Natalie Braber (Nottingham Trent University); Research Assistant: Jennifer Beard (University of Leicester)

**Linguistic
description:**
Phonology

Feature	Example(s)	Comments
FOOT/STRUT → [ʊ]	other – [ʊðə] come – [kʊm] jumper – [dʒʊmpə]	Consistent
BATH/TRAP → [æ]	grass – [græs]	Consistent
PRICE → [aɪ]	fight – [faɪt] right – [raɪt] alright – [ɔːˈraɪt]	Consistent
Reduction	one – [ən] because – [bɪkəs]	Frequent but not consistent; feature of connected speech
happy vowel	quality – [kwɒlɪti]	
Vowel variation: NURSE → [ɒ]	turn – [tɒn] first – [fɒst]	Consistent
/ɔː/ → [ɒ]	horse – [ɒs] chalk – [tʃɒk]	Occurs once Occurs once
/ɑː/ → [ɒ]	carts – [kɒts]	Consistent for this word
/ɔː/ → [ʊ]	course – [kɜːs]	Occurs once
Monophthongisation: /eɪ/ → [ɛ]	making – [mɛkɪŋ]	Occurs once
/eɪ/ → [ɪ]	they'd – [ðɪd] there's – [ðɪz]	Consistent for these words
MOUTH → [aː]	house – [aːs] ground – [ɡraʊnd]	Consistent
L-vocalisation	wholesale – [əʊˈseɪəl] alright – [ɔːˈraɪt] marbles – [mɑːbəlz] hold – [əʊd]	Frequent but not consistent
T-glottalisation	fight – [faɪʔs] street – [striːʔ] carts – [kɑːʔs] at – [ətʔ]	Frequent but not consistent
Non-release of	but – [bʊt]	Frequent but not

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	plosives	top – [tɒpː] trap – [tɹæpː] got – [gɒtː] he'd – [hɪdː]	consistent
	Th-fronting	through – [fru]	Frequent but not consistent
	/ð/ → [d]	the – [də] then – [dɛn]	Frequent but not consistent
	H-dropping	had – [æd] helped – [ɛlpːt] he – [i] wholesale – [əʊ ^w seɪt]	Consistent
	<-ng> → [n]	playing – [plɛɪɪn] skimming – [skɪmɪn] skipping – [skɪpɪn] making – [mekɪn]	Consistent
	/ɹ/ → [r]	grass – [græs] roads – [rəʊdːz] trap – [træpː] really – [rɪəli]	Frequent but not consistent
	/t/ → [r]	got to – [gɒrə]	Occurs once
	Devoicing - /z/ → [s]	because – [bɪkəs]	Consistent for this word
	Elision	against – [əgeɪn] you all – [jɔl] give – [gɪ]	

Lexis	Item	Meaning	Comments
	and all – [əɒɔ:t]	as well	Occurs once
	owt – [əʊʔ] o'er	anything over	Occurs once Occurs once

Morphology and Grammar	Feature	Example(s)	Comments
	Zero article	“it was (...) Ø same as all the other streets” “he was Ø wholesale man in the market”	‘the’, ‘a’, occurs twice
	Singular vs. plural ‘to be’	“you was off” “they’s about half way”	‘were’, occurs twice

	Non-standard tense	"I only done it once" "that's what give it"	'did', occurs once 'gave', occurs once
	Zero preposition	"eight on you Ø each side" "Ø course"	'on', occurs once 'of', occurs twice
	Non-standard transitive verb	"it learnt you to jump"	'taught', occurs once
	Zero infinitive	"got Ø jump" "used Ø come"	'to', occurs twice
	Non-standard preposition	'eight on you' 'play at marbles'	'on' for 'of', occurs once 'at' for 'with', occurs once
	Zero modal auxiliary verb	"one Ø get down" "well it Ø start all" "it Ø be about"	'would', frequent but not consistent

Further comments: