


Ireland's Specific Features and its Application of English Language Variabilities in the Spoken Language

(Including the influence of Gaelic on the development of English as a separate language)

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	<p>Abstract</p> <p>Irish English, also known as Hiberno-English, has its roots in the Old and Middle English varieties spoken by Anglo-Norman settlers who arrived in Ireland during the late 12th and early 13th centuries. Over time, the language evolved due to interactions between these settlers and the native Irish-speaking population. Some key milestones in the development of Irish English include:</p> <p>The introduction of the Anglo-Norman language after the Norman invasion in 1169;</p> <p>The gradual decline of Gaelic as the dominant language, resulting in a shift to English-speaking communities;</p> <p>The establishment of a distinct Irish English dialect by the early 18th century;</p> <p>The impact of the Great Famine in the 19th century, leading to increased emigration and the spread of Irish English to other English-speaking countries.</p>
<p>Keywords: Famine, Irish accent, actualization, increasing popularity, variations, specific features, population, century, well-known.</p>	

Introduction

The History of Irish English

Irish English has a rich history, reflecting the unique cultural and linguistic development of Ireland. Understanding the evolution of this dialect can provide insights into the many influences that have shaped the way speakers communicate today.

Development of the Irish English Dialect

Irish English, also known as Hiberno-English, has its roots in the Old and Middle English varieties spoken by Anglo-Norman settlers who arrived in Ireland during the late 12th and early 13th centuries. Over time, the language evolved due to interactions between these settlers and the native Irish-speaking population. Some key milestones in the development of Irish English include:

The introduction of the Anglo-Norman language after the Norman invasion in 1169;

The gradual decline of Gaelic as the dominant language, resulting in a shift to English-speaking communities;

The establishment of a distinct Irish English dialect by the early 18th century;

The impact of the Great Famine in the 19th century, leading to increased emigration and the spread of Irish English to other English-speaking countries.

Throughout its history, Irish English has absorbed elements from various sources, such as Classical Gaelic, Old Norse, Middle English, and more recently, American English.

Despite the fact that practically everyone in Ireland speaks Irish English fluently, it was not the first language of the country. Much like other areas of the world where English was not a native language, Ireland was colonized by England, and as a result the natives of the area were forced to learn and use English. Of course, it wouldn't be the same English as the colonizers, as the Irish language and other things would end up influencing the dialects spoken in Ireland.

As of today, written Irish English and British English are very similar, with a few differences in vocabulary. What really sets them apart is pronunciation, which, again, is a result of the influence of the Irish language. Here are the five major dialects of Irish English, according to linguists:

Local Dublin English

This dialect of Irish English is that spoken by the working class of Dublin, and is seen as a more traditional dialect. Interestingly enough, it is the only type of Irish English that switched from being non-rhotic (not pronouncing the /r/ in words unless followed by a vowel) to slightly rhotic. Local Dublin English also includes some unique vowel pronunciations, as well as “vowel breaking”, where certain vowel sounds that normally take up one syllable are divided into two syllables.

Non-local Dublin English

As opposed to the local dialect, non-local Dublin English is made up of all of the varieties of “new” Dublin English, including some associated with the middle class, the avant garde/youth movement of the 90s, and a variety from the 70s that was a way for some Dubliners to distance themselves from traditional Irish ways.

West and South-West Irish English

The varieties that make up the West and South-West Irish English dialect come from the same regions in Ireland. The accent is a strong one, and includes some differences in vowel pronunciation. For instance, the “ou” in “about” sounds more like the “oa” in “boat”, and the diphthongs in words like “throat” and “chase” become monophthongs, making them sound as if there were only one vowel letter in each. The most notable characteristic, however, is the melodic way speakers tend to talk.

IRISH ENGLISH Short form IrE. The English language as used in Ireland. Scholars currently employ three terms to describe this variety: ANGLO-IRISH, HIBERNO-ENGLISH, and Irish English. Anglo-Irish is the oldest and has long been associated with the English language in Ireland, English people in Ireland, and British politics in Ireland, as a result of which it can be ambiguous and Irish people often dislike its use as a generic term. Hiberno-English avoids this difficulty and identifies English in Ireland with the people of Ireland, not with outsiders. The term Irish English, although to some ears whimsical and paradoxical, is less academic and opaque, is not likely to be misinterpreted, and fits into the set American English, British English, Indian English, etc. It is used here as the generic term for all kinds of English in Ireland.

The Germanic settlements

It is not certain when, how, or in what forms English was first heard and used in Ireland. Trading links have existed between Ireland and Britain for at least two millennia, but nothing is known about the contact languages used after the OLD ENGLISH dialects were established in Britain. Following the Viking invasions in the 9c, DANISH and NORSE settlements were established in the east and south of the island. In this way, Germanic dialects began to affect Irish Gaelic, especially in commerce, dress, and seafaring. In 1155, the English Pope, Adrian IV, granted Henry II of England permission to invade Ireland and bring about religious reforms. The subsequent invasion launched from Wales, was a military success. The Treaty of Windsor suggests that, by 1175, half of Ireland was under Anglo-Norman control, and by 1250, almost three-quarters of the island had been divided into shires. The leaders of the invasion spoke French but the soldiers were Flemish, Welsh, and from southwest England. English was their LINGUA FRANCA and became established in all large settlements, especially in an area around DUBLIN known as the (English) Pale and in the Baronies of Forth and Bargo in Wexford.

Gaelicization

Like the Vikings, the Anglo-Normans were absorbed into the Celtic way of life, slowly relinquishing their language and customs. Laws, such as the Statutes of Kilkenny (1366), tried to ensure that they would continue to speak English and use English-style surnames, but such laws were increasingly ignored, so that by 1500 Irish Gaelic had virtually replaced English even in the towns. The Reformation in England in the 16c reinforced the solidarity between the settlers (who remained Catholic) and their co-religionists, the Irish, further weakening the role of English in the island. The English of the Anglo-Norman settlers and their descendants came to be called Yola (a variant of old) and the settlers themselves became known as the OLD ENGLISH.

Language shift

The main forms of present-day IrE can be traced to the second wave of settlers. From the middle of the 16c, large numbers of English and Scottish planters settled in Ireland, creating communities (plantations) that preserved a separate identity from the native population, from whom they were marked out by language, religion, and culture. By the beginning of the 17c, Irish was still the most widely used language, but within 250 years a massive shift had occurred. The 1900 census records 21,000 monoglot speakers of Irish in the country (5% of the population). Today, the figure is zero, but some 100,000 people speak Irish as one of their mother tongues, the younger bilinguals showing English influence in their Irish.

Kinds of Irish English

There are no dialect differences corresponding exactly with any county or other regional boundary in Ireland, but because of the different types of plantation, it is possible to distinguish three varieties of IrE: (1) Anglo-Irish, a middle- and working-class variety spoken over most of Ireland and deriving from the English of the 17c planters from England, modified by contacts with Irish, ULSTER SCOTS, and Hiberno-English. (2) Ulster Scots, a variety of Lowland Scots spoken mainly in Antrim, Donegal, and Down, influencing all forms of northern speech. (3) Hiberno-English, the mainly working-class variety used by communities whose ancestral language was

Gaelic. Because of their long association, the three varieties tend to influence and shade into each other in various complex ways.

Models of pronunciation

In pronunciation, three main models are followed: (1) Received Pronunciation. Two small groups of people have RP accents: men educated in England, especially in the public (private) schools, and some individuals in the media. (2) Received Irish Pronunciation. A rhotic accent and the prestige pronunciation of Radio Telefis Eireann (Irish Radio and Television). It is closer to RP than other varieties of Irish speech and is favoured by middle-class speakers of Anglo-Irish. (3) Received Ulster Pronunciation. In Northern Ireland, many broadcasters speak standard English with a regional accent and are more influential as models than speakers of RP.

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