

ლივერპულის უნიკალური დიალექტის (Scouse) კვლევა

Exploring Scouse - Liverpool's Unique Dialect

ანა ბარათელი

თბილისის სახელმწიფო უნივერსიტეტი

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ინგლისურს, როგორც lingua franca-ს, რომელიც აყალიბებს კავშირებს მრავალფეროვან კულტურებს შორის და ხელს უწყობს მათ ურთიერთგაცებას, გლობალურად პირველადი და დომინანტური მნიშვნელობა აქვს. მისი მდიდარი ისტორიის ფონზე ერთ-ერთი დიალექტი მკაფიოდ იკვლევება. ეს არის Scouse - აქცენტი, რომელიც მომდინარეობს გაერთიანებული სამეფოს ერთ-ერთი უდიდესი ქალაქის, ლივერპულის სიციცხლით სავსე ქუჩებიდან.

მოცემული სტატია იკვლევს ლივერპულური აქცენტის (Scouse) მდიდარ და მრავალფეროვან ენობრივ მემკვიდრეობას, ხაზს უსვამს მის ისტორიულ, კულტურულ და სოციალურ ფაქტორებსა და გავლენას. როგორც წერილობით, ისე ზეპირ კვლევებზე დაყრდნობით ჩვენს თვალსწინ იშლება, ლივერპულური ინგლისურის ევოლუცია, რომელიც ფესვებს იღებს მე-18 და მე-19 საუკუნეებში ლივერპულის, როგორც გამოჩენილი საპორტო ქალაქის გაჩენიდან და მოიცავს პერიოდს მისი ენის ერთ-ერთ ყველაზე ხშირად სალაპარაკო დიალექტად ჩამოყალიბების ჩათვლით.

ნაშრომი მიზნად ისახავს Scouse დიალექტის დამახასიათებელი გამორჩეული რეგიონალური მახასიათებლების გაანალიზებას, რაც მოიცავს მისი ფონოლოგიურ, ლექსიკურ და გრამატიკულ ვარიაციების ყურადღებით შესწავლას.

იგი განსაკუთრებით ამახვილებს ყურადღებას პარალელურებისა და განსხვავებების ინტერპრეტაციაზე „Received pronunciation“-თან შედარებით, რომელიც საყოველთაოდ ცნობილია როგორც სტანდარტული ინგლისური. Scouse-ის ლექსიკონში ლექსიკური ვარიაციის შესწავლაზე ფოკუსირებით, კვლევა მიზნად ისახავს აჩვენოს ცალკეული სიტყვებისა თუ გამონათქვამების მდიდარი მარაგი, რომლებიც რეგიონის მრავალფეროვანი კულტურული მემკვიდრეობის სიმბოლოდ გვესახება. გარდა ამისა, ნაშრომი უღრმავდება მონოფთონემებისა და დიფთონგების უნიკალურ აკუსტიკურ უღერადობას.

ამასთანავე, სტატია ცდილობს ნათელი მოჰფინოს Scouse-ის განმასხვავებელ გრამატიკულ და აკუსტიკურ უღერადობას და აჩვენოს მისი ინდივიდუალური მახასიათებლები როგორცაა მაგალითად: წინადადებების სტრუქტურების აგება, არაფორმალური რეესტრი და ენის გამოყენების ნიუანსები.

ამრიგად, ისტორიული კონტექსტის წარმოჩენითა და ლექსიკური, გრამატიკული თუ ფონოლოგიური თავისებურებების გამოვლენით, სტატია სცდება ლივერპულის ინგლისურის ზედაპირულ ანალიზს და დეტალური კვლევის საშუალებით გვთავაზობს საფუძვლიან დაკვირვებას Scouse დიალექტის მრავალმხრივი ბუნების შესახებ. იგი მიზნად ისახავს წარმოაჩინოს და გაზარდოს Scouse-ის მნიშვნელობა ლინგვისტური დისკურსის სფეროში.

საკვანძო სიტყვები: ლივერპული, Scouse დიალექტი, კულტურა, ენობრივი მემკვიდრეობა, ევოლუცია, უნიკალური გრამატიკა, ფონოლოგიური ვარიაციები, ლექსიკა, იდენტობა

Key words: Liverpool, Scouse dialect, culture, linguistic heritage, evolution, unique grammar, phonological variations, vocabulary, identity

1.Introduction.

It is widely acknowledged that English language has numerous varieties – derived from geographical, social, historical, and cultural distinctions. The main point conveyed by this article is the rich and diverse linguistic heritage of the Scouse dialect, native to Liverpool and its surrounding areas. It delves into the historical, cultural, and social influences that have contributed to the unique characteristics of Scouse, encompassing phonological, lexical, and grammatical variations. The article highlights how factors like immigration, maritime trade, cultural exchange, and the city's evolution as a prominent port have shaped Scouse into a distinct regional accent and dialect, setting it apart from Received Pronunciation (RP) or standard British English. Ultimately, it emphasizes that Scouse is not only a unique way of speaking but also serves as a testament to the dynamic interplay between language, culture, and history in shaping regional identities.

2.The Scouse Identity: How Liverpool's History and Culture Shaped a Distinct Dialect - brief context

Liverpool is a city in Merseyside, North West England with the population of about 500000. Similar to many northern English cities, Liverpool experienced substantial growth in recent centuries. It gained city status only in 1880, but has developed into a massive urban centre. The population expansion started in the 18th century and reached its peak in 19th century.

Liverpool emerged as England's second-largest city and the most crucial port in the British Empire, and therefore, place where different languages came in contact with each other. Several key factors contributed to Liverpool's rise as a prominent port and, consequently, a significant population centre. These events, include the town's designation as a free port in 1647, the commencement of trade with America in the 1660s, and the construction of the world's first wet dock in 1715. Additionally, Liverpool's involvement in the slave trade, along with other forms of commerce, generated substantial wealth for the town. Trade attracted many people from different regions as migrants seeking for work opportunities, which, in turn, contributed to the linguistic diversity of the area. Furthermore, due to the mid-19th century famine in Ireland, a significant forced migration occurred in Liverpool, as it appeared to be the main port of the British Empire on the West Coast, facing Ireland. All of this had an impact on the culture, especially language. *“The language of Liverpool must have been affected by the pattern of immigration to Liverpool (predominantly Irish but including other significant elements) in the mid to late nineteenth century”* (Crowley, from Perini, G. (2016/2017). A sociolinguistic study of Liverpool English (Tesi di Laurea, Università degli Studi di Padova).

According to this, we can say that Liverpool English, historically, has been the language of immigrants. The name „Scouse” itself is thought to be chosen due to the popularity of the dish, which was usual for sailors and traders to eat. It's spoken by a significant part of the population in Liverpool and parts of Merseyside, but estimating the exact number of speakers can be challenging. Besides history, another reason that contributed to the popularity of Scouse is a well-known band „The Beatles”. The members of The Beatles, including John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison, and Ringo Starr, had traces of their Liverpool roots in their spoken language, but their music lyrics were generally in standard or Received Pronunciation (RP) English. Their Liverpool background undoubtedly shaped their identity, perspectives, and cultural references, which might have subtly influenced aspects of their music and the way they expressed themselves offstage.

3. Phonological Variations and pronunciation in Scouse Dialect

Scouse shares many linguistic characteristics with the varieties of English that are spoken nearby, but there are still many differences, linguistic features that highlight its distinctiveness. First of all, Scouse, the regional accent and dialect, has its different phonological variations.

1. TH fronting and stopping, when dental fricatives [θ] and [ð] are replaced by either dental [t] and [d] or alveolar [t] and [d] and are referred to as stops. The sound /θ/ is pronounced as /t/ or /d/ in the words ‘this’ /dis/ or think /tink/.
2. Plosive sounds – softening or slight omission of plosive sounds like „k” and „g” in words such as „going” which might be pronounced more like „goin”
3. Scouse is non-rhotic that means the /r/ sound is not pronounced at the end of the words. For example words like „car” can be pronounced more like /caa/.
4. Liverpool Lenition - According to Watson, a basic definition of lenition would be: “Processes of sound change which, amongst other things, turn phonological plosives into affricates

(affrication), oral fricatives (fricativisation), glottal fricatives or glottal stops (debuccalisation), or deletes them altogether (deletion)". For example: words such as "butter" or "cold" where the final "t" or "d" sound might be pronounced with a weaker, more subtle articulation, potentially sounding closer to "bu'er" or "col'." Lenition process is a distinctive feature of the Scouse accent, contributing to its unique sound and making it recognizable among other English regional accents. Or it can pronounce /t/ more like fricative /ç/.

5. /k/ sound – k sound in Scouse is not pronounced like /q/, instead Scouser will say /x/. For example, „look” will be pronounced like /lux/

6. /ʌ/ sound – instead of /a/ will be pronounced /o/. for example „come” will be pronounced /com/

Scouse has also different pronunciation of monophthongs.

1. /U/ monophthong - The Scouse accent often pronounces the „u" sound as a more closed and central vowel, resembling /ʊ/ in words like "but" or "cut."
2. /A/ monophthong - The short "a" sound tends to be more open compared to Standard English.
3. /E/ monophthong - the "e" sound may be pronounced differently, often sounding closer to "eh" or "eh-ih" in words like "dress" or "red."

Diphthong pronunciation often sounds different as well.

1. The Scouse accent often features a more pronounced diphthong for the "i" sound, sounding like /əɪ/ or /iɪ/. For example "like" might be pronounced closer to "liik."
2. The diphthong for the "o" sound can differ, sounding more like /əʊ/ or /ɜʊ/. For example "Go" might be pronounced as "gəʊ"
3. The "u" sound in Scouse can also feature a different diphthong, sounding like /ou/ or /u:/ for example "house" might sound more like "hous" or "hoos."

4. Lexical Tapestry of Scouse

In terms of lexical variation, Scouse vocabulary is a rich blend of words and expressions that reflect the diverse heritage and influences on the region, mostly Irish, Welsh and Scottish influence, due to migration patterns, but music and pop culture also played a big role, particularly during the Beatles era, and impacted the local lexicon. Besides this factors maritime and dock culture had a great impact as Liverpool was major port of the British Empire and words related to shipping and seafaring were frequently used by everyone. Scouse has its unique words: for example „bevvy” - referring to alcoholic drinks, especially when going out for a drink: "Let's go for a few be vies tonight.", „scran” - food or a meal: "I'm starving, let's get some scran." - „bezzie” –meaning best friend or close friend: "She's been my bezzie since we were kids." It may also have its own phrases that can't be understood by others unless they are familiar with the language. For instance: „off me cake” that means feeling upset, angry, or irritated: "He was proper off his cake when he found out."; „sound as a pound” - a phrase expressing reliability or trustworthiness: "Don't worry, he's sound as a pound."; „made up” that means being very happy or „cob on” having a bad mood. Scouse may include words that have

similar spelling and pronunciation, but different meaning from RP, for example, „boss” that is defined by Oxford Learners Dictionary as „*a person who is in charge of other people at work and tells them what to do*” means great, excellent in Scouse. Another example can be „sound” that is defined as something that you can hear by Oxford Learner’s Dictionary, but is used to express agreement or confirmation in Scouse.

5. Distinctive Grammar Features in Scouse

The grammar of Scouse, like any dialect, reflects its own internal rules and patterns that have evolved over time, influenced by cultural, historical, and social factors specific to the region. Scouse dialect exhibits several distinctive features compared to standard form of British Language. Scouse often features different word order compared to RP. It may place emphasis differently within sentences, altering the typical order of subject, verb, and object, for example, we can have „going you?” instead of „Are you going?”. Scouse tend to use double modals such as „might could”, „should ought”, „might should” and etc. In Scouse multiple negatives in a sentence intensify the negation, which can differ from RP, for instance, „I didn’t see nothing” can be said instead of „I didn’t see anything”. Scouse tends to have an informal register compared to RP, with more relaxed grammar rules and a focus on conversational speech that’s why Scouse commonly employs contractions and elisions, reducing words or syllables in speech, which might differ from the more formal speech of RP. we may say „gonna” instead of „going to”. Scouse has different word stress and intonation. It often involves a rising pitch at the end of sentences, even when making statements. For instance, "You're going, aren't you?" might have a rising tone at the end. Word stress in Scouse might differ from Standard English, emphasizing different syllables in certain words.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, the Scouse dialect, native to Liverpool and its surrounding areas, reflects a rich tapestry of historical, cultural, and social influences that have shaped its linguistic characteristics over time. From its emergence as a prominent port city during the 18th and 19th centuries to its diverse immigrant population and significant role in maritime trade, Liverpool's evolution greatly impacted the development of Scouse. This distinctive regional accent and dialect exhibit a range of phonological, lexical, and grammatical variations setting it apart from Received Pronunciation (RP) or standard British English. While influenced by various factors such as immigration, trade, and cultural exchange, the Scouse dialect remains an integral part of Liverpool's identity. Its linguistic uniqueness continues to evolve, reflecting the city's rich heritage and its people's resilience, creativity, and sense of community. Scouse not only embodies a distinct way of speaking but also serves as a testament to the dynamic interplay between language, culture, and history in shaping regional identities.

I have watched several videos which helped me to discover peculiarities of Scouse accent and dialect. The first video mentioned in the references contrasts and makes a direct comparison between the Standard English accent and the Scouse accent, using speakers of both to clearly highlight the differences. This approach made it easy to comprehend and appreciate the distinctions in pronunciation and intonation.

Other videos listed in the references offer an intriguing glimpse into the distinctive Scouse. They feature locals demonstrating the distinct pronunciation of vowels and consonants that characterize the Scouse accent, which I listed above, for example the fact that /k/ sound is pronounced like /x/. By viewing these videos, one can grasp the pronunciation patterns specific to Liverpool and even learn to emulate them. Through teaching specific words such as „bevvv” and „, ,scran”, phrases, and typical speech patterns, these individuals showcase the nuances of Scouse pronunciation and language. The videos served as a valuable tool, allowing viewers to try emulating these speech patterns themselves and exploring these resources not only broadened my understanding of the Scouse accent but also deepened my appreciation for its distinctiveness.

Beyond the linguistic lessons, these videos also shed light on the cultural significance attached to the Scouse accent. They portrayed how individuals from Liverpool take pride in their accent, cherishing its distinctiveness and embracing it as an integral part of their identity. Witnessing this pride and love for their accent makes listener interested in Scouse accent even more.

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ავტორის შესახებ:

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სამადლობელი:

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