

**Podyplomowe Studium Kształcenia Nauczycieli Języka Angielskiego
przy Instytucie Filologii Angielskiej
Uniwersytet im. Adama Mickiewicza**

**ESTUARY ENGLISH
A CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE?**

JOANNA RYFA

**Praca dyplomowa
napisana pod kierunkiem
Prof. UAM dr hab. Agnieszki Kielkiewicz-Janowiak**

POZNAŃ 2003

Contents

Acknowledgements

Chapter 1 Introduction: Estuary English – the origins, features and controversies	4
1. The origins of the term ‘Estuary English’	4
2. Commonly cited salient features of Estuary English	5
3. The areas of controversy	8
Chapter 2 Linguists’ voices in the debate over Estuary English	9
1. The geographical dimension: Is ‘Estuary’ English estuary?	9
2. Estuary English as a ‘new’ language variety	10
3. Causes of the rise and spread of Estuary English	11
3.1. Cockney speakers’ accommodation in the new territories? Fox 1999/2000 Basildon Project	11
3.2. Ambitions and needs: social mobility and peer pressure	13
3.3. Geographical mobility, dialect levelling and koineisation	15
3.4. London Regional RP	17
3.5. Influence of the media	18
4. The status of Estuary English as a homogeneous language variety	20
4.1. Is Estuary English a regiolect, dialect, accent or style?	20
4.2. Difficulties in defining phonological boundaries between Received Pronunciation, Estuary English and Cockney	21
4.3. Evidence from empirical research	23
4.3.1. Altendorf 1997: London Project (1)	24
4.3.2. Przedlacka 1997/1998: the Home Counties Project	25
4.3.3. Schmid 1998: Canterbury Project	27

4.3.4. Altendorf 1998/1999: London Project (2)	29
5. The influence of Estuary English on other varieties	31
5.1. Estuary English in the Fens? – Britain 2003	31
5.2. Jockney in Glasgow? – Stuart-Smith, Timmins and Tweedie 1997	34
6. The future prospects of Estuary English: Will it replace RP?	38
Chapter 3 Estuary English in the eyes of ordinary people	41
1. Who shapes the social portrait and awareness of Estuary English and its speakers?	41
1.1. Estuary English in dictionaries and encyclopaedic definitions for laypeople	41
1.2. Estuary English in journalistic writings	44
2. How much do Englishmen know about Estuary English and what are their attitudes to it?	45
3. A stereotypical and a real Estuary English speaker – a convergent or a divergent picture?	48
Chapter 4 Estuary English and foreigners	50
1. Estuary English as a pronunciation teaching model	50
1.1. Lecturers’ and teachers’ opinions	50
1.2. Students’ ratings of Estuary English	52
1.2.1. Chia Boh Peng and Adam Brown 2002: ‘Singaporeans’ reactions to Estuary English’	52
1.2.2. Calvert-Scott, Green and Rosewarne 1997: American-based studies	53
2. Estuary English as a means of international business communication	54
Chapter 5 Conclusions	55
References	57

Acknowledgments

I wish to express my gratitude to my supervisor Prof. UAM dr hab. Agnieszka Kielkiewicz-Janowiak for her inspiring lectures, proposing the topic of the paper and stimulating me to work.

I am indebted to a great number of people who suggested or helped me access valid materials and assisted me through correspondence. Thank you all for your patience.

Peter Trudgill, Clive Upton, David Britain, Paul Kerswill, Joanna Przedlacka, Anthea Frazer Gupta, David Deterding, Susan Fox, Ulrike Altendorf, Jane Setter, Paul Coggle, Asif Agha, Pia Kohlmyr, Adam Brown, Hermine Penz, Tony Bex, Keith Battarbee, Andrew Moore, Richard Bolt, Richard Ingham, Ruedi Haenni and Penny Ann McKeon.

I would also like to acknowledge Dr Joanna Przedlacka and Dr David Deterding for allowing me to use their recordings on a CD-ROM accompanying this paper.

I dedicate this paper to my family.

Joanna Ryfa