

New Zealand English

(NZE)

Varieties of English
LETO15M10

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New Zealand English

- History of English in New Zealand
- Influences and dialectical variation
- Phonology
- Morphosyntax
- New Zealand English vs. Australian English

History of NZE

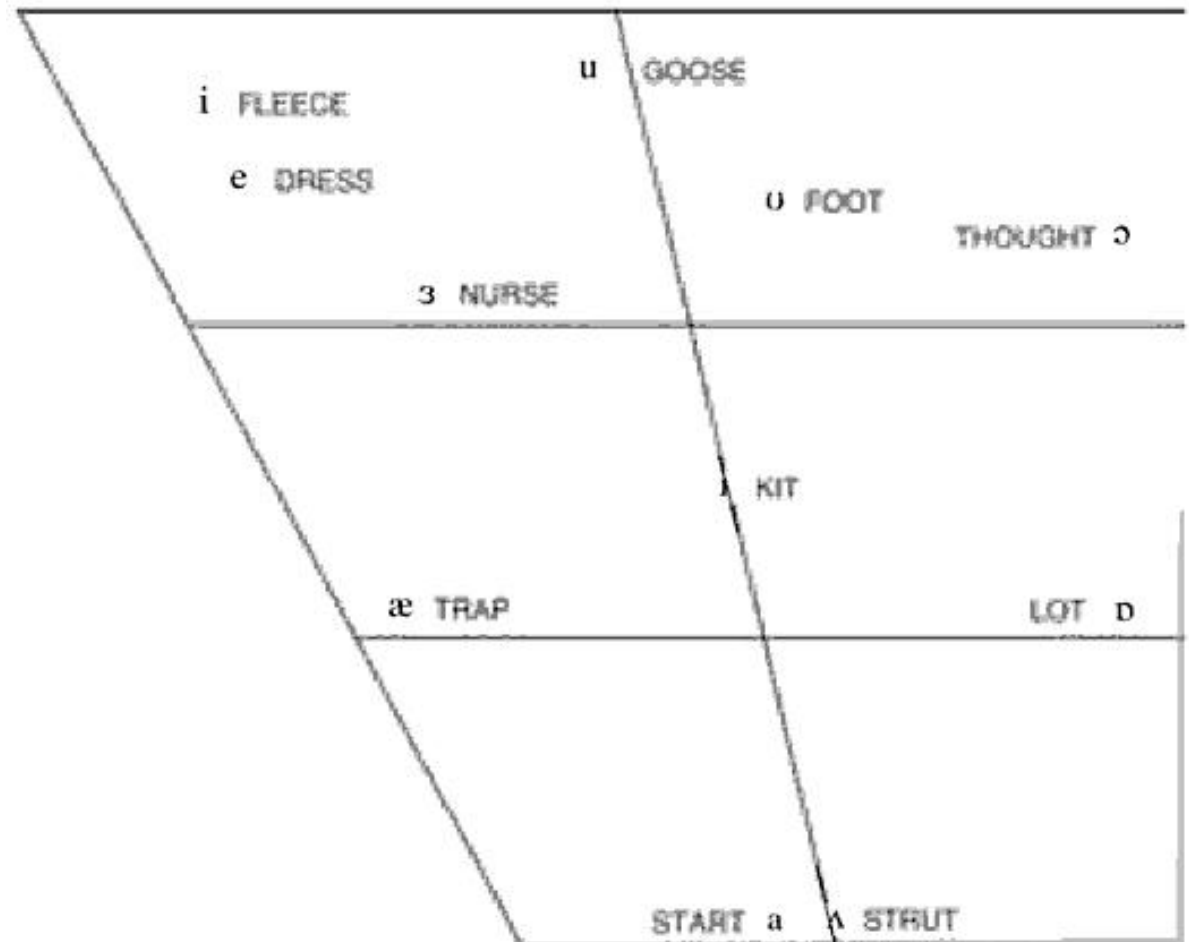
- AD 925: Discovered by Polynesian explorers → Maori
- 1642: Abel Tasman → name New Zealand
- 1769: Captain James Cook → first contact with English language
- English speaking settlers from Europe and Australia
- 1840: Treaty of Waitangi: Established British colonial rule → more systematic migration
- Middle of 19th century: Maori-speakers outnumbered

Influences and dialectical variation

- Maori → mostly lexical (animals, plants, placenames) and pronunciation
- Australian English → early influence because of trade and settlers
- British English → settlers from certain areas of Britain into certain areas of New Zealand. However: little dialectical variation. Only Southland Variety (south of Southern Island)
- Social class variation: Broad, General and Cultivated NZE

Phonology

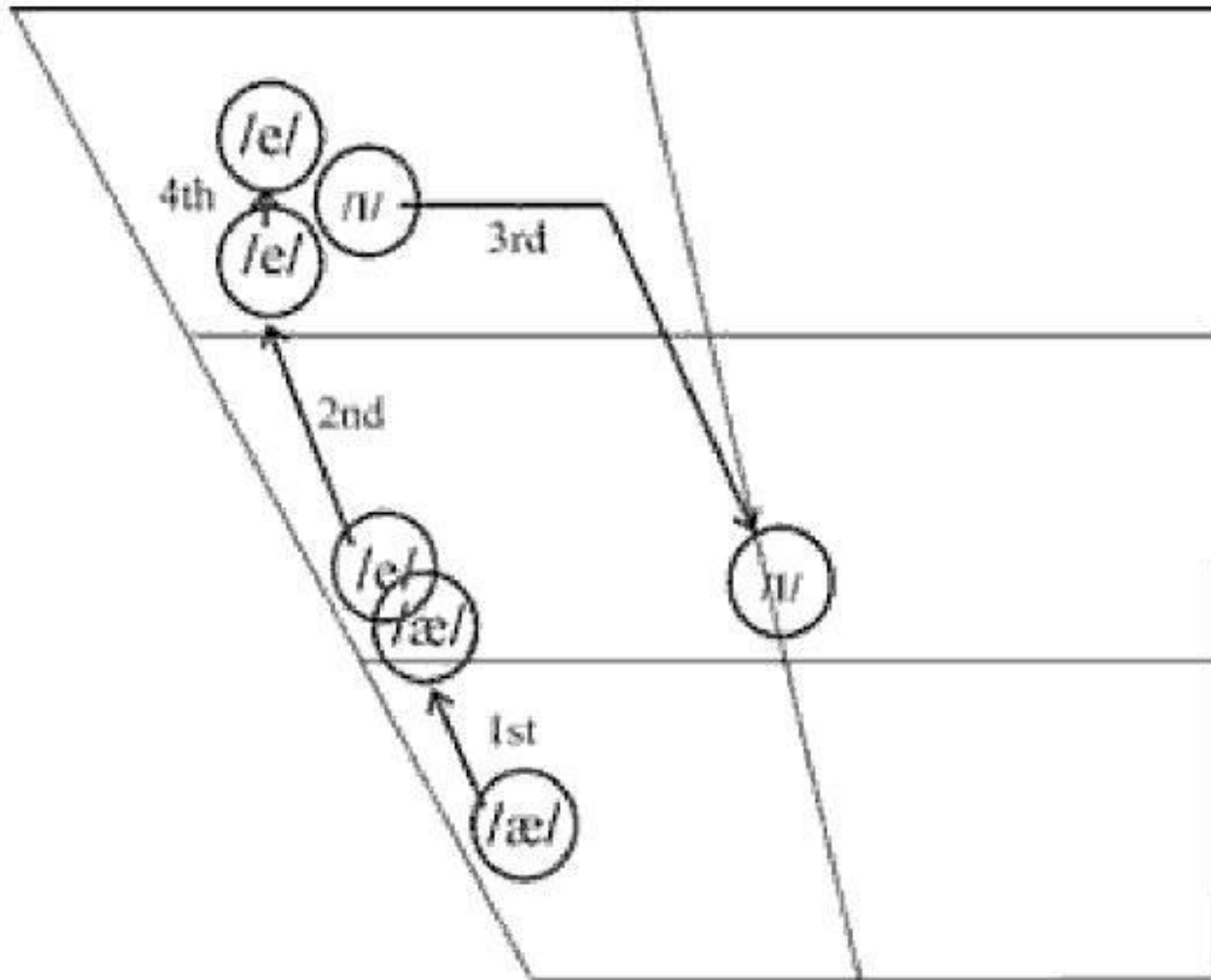
- Non-rhotic
- Vowels



Phonology: vowels

- Vowel shift → short front vowels TRAP, DRESS and KIT shifted clockwise:
 - * TRAP: raised
 - * DRESS: raised
 - * KIT: centralized and lowered
- DRESS keeps raising → influences FLEECE → FLEECE is becoming a diphthong

Phonology: vowelshift



Phonology: diphthongs

- Diphthong shift → FACE, PRICE and CHOICE diphthongs shifted anti-clockwise.
 - * FACE: more open
 - * PRICE: further back
 - * CHOICE: like thought
- Diphthongs in NEAR and SQUARE → merging together

Phonology: consonants

- Fricatives: devoicing of voiced fricative:
 - * thither with initial [θ]
 - * president sounding like precedent
- Variable rhoticity
 - * Name of consonant 'R' and Ireland
 - * Expressions/catchphrases from American TV, f.e. 'whatever', 'wiener'

Morphosyntax

- Morphology and syntax: Relatively few features that are wholly unique to New Zealand → until late 1980's neglected in study of New Zealand English
- Verb morphology: regularisation of irregular verbs → more use of irregular forms in NZE than in other varieties, f.e. proven
- Syntax: NZE innovative in avoidance of 'shall': "Will I close the window?"

NZ English vs. Australian English

Fish and Chips

Kiwi: “Fush and Chups”

Aussie: “Feesh and Cheeps”

Peter Jackson, film director from Pukerua Bay, North Island, New Zealand:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=by9XB9abjUo&feature=related>

Hugh Jackman, actor/singer from Sydney, New South Wales, Australia:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHfTKQy9lOI>

Sources

- Hay, J., et al. New Zealand English. Edinburgh University Press: London (2008): 20-47.
- Kortmann, B., et al. Varieties of English: Volume 3: The Pacific and Australasia. De Gruyter: New York (2004): 39-75, 305-339.
- Kortmann, B., et al. A Handbook of Varieties of English: A Multimedia Reference Tool. De Gruyter: New York.
- McCrum, R., et al. The Story of English. Penguin Books LTD: New York (1993): 293-297.
- Sound fragments from <http://www.youtube.com>