New Zealand English
(NZE)

Varieties of English
LET015M10

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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: vowel shift
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 $\theta$
  - 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


- Sound fragments from http://www.youtube.com