

Contents

Foreword by J. D. A. Widdowson, PhD	11
Preface.....	15
Preface to the Second Edition	17
Acknowledgments	19
Introduction.....	21
Chapter One – The Relevance of Speech Accent in England	23
1.1 Regional accent as social marker	23
1.1.1 Traditional accents and dialects	23
1.1.2 Modern Dialect areas	29
1.2 Sociolinguistic consequences of accented speech.....	33
1.2.1 Social significance	33
1.2.2 Ethnicity	35
1.2.3 Problems in education	37
1.3 Psycho-social implications of accent features	39
1.3.1 Regional accent perception	39
1.3.2 (Dis)qualifying accent judgements.....	43
1.4 Evaluation stereotypes	46
1.4.1 From personality traits to North/South divide.....	46
1.4.2 The accent prestige continuum.....	49
1.4.3 Reactions to RP	50
1.4.4 Linguistic self-hatred.....	54
1.5 RP: the controversial image	55
1.5.1 Recent criticism.....	55
1.5.2 Social prestige	59

Chapter Two – Prestigious Speech Versus Regional Dialect	63
2.1 Origins of a prestige accent	63
2.1.1 English resurrection and Southern bias.....	63
2.1.2 Emergence of a “standard” language.....	68
2.1.3 A “standard” for pronunciation.....	72
2.2 The consolidation of RP	74
2.2.1 Towards non-regional prestige	74
2.2.2 Accent stereotyping by the BBC.....	78
2.2.3 A “standard’s” criticism and defence.....	82
2.3 Post-War variability	86
2.3.1 Traditional prestige	86
2.3.2 Democratic change	90
2.3.3 The young elite	94
2.4 Accent change and social relevance	97
2.4.1 Exclusive fashions or popular influence	97
2.4.2 New acceptability	102
2.5 RP: conceptions of a “standard”	105
2.5.1 What kind of “standard”?.....	105
2.5.2 RP: the changing concept.....	108
2.6 A “standard’s” functions revisited.....	113
2.6.1 Regional neutrality.....	113
2.6.2 RP and the BBC	116
Chapter Three – Reactions to the Traditional Language Hierarchy	123
3.1 Standardizing processes.....	123
3.1.1 Speech habits and social ambitions.....	123
3.1.2 Upward convergence	125
3.1.3 Near-RP accents.....	129

3.2	Educated accent prestige	131
3.2.1	From common roots to regional standards	131
3.2.2	The academic revolt and its consequences	135
3.3	Recent fashions and tendencies	141
3.3.1	Young accent loyalty	141
3.3.2	Outward-looking tendencies	143
3.3.3	Fashionably Southern	146
3.4	Estuary English	149
3.4.1	The concept and its conception	149
3.4.2	Origins and distribution	152
3.4.3	Public criticism and future prospects	156
3.5	New parameters for educated speech	159
3.5.1	Educated acceptability	159
3.5.2	Educated standards and the EEE model	165
3.5.3	Standards in the public mind	170
Chapter Four – Broadcast English as mirror and indicator		173
4.1	The post-War revolution in broadcasting	173
4.1.1	Criticism and change	173
4.1.2	In defence of language “standards”	177
4.2	Prestigious accents on the BBC	181
4.2.1	Changing fashions	181
4.2.2	Nostalgic modes and unresolved features	184
4.3	Recent policies and criticism	186
4.3.1	Wide acceptability	186
4.3.2	New horizons	189
4.4	The language of current affairs units	195
4.4.1	Relaxation of habits	195
4.4.2	Regional features and National accents	199
4.4.3	Recent fashions and styles	201

4.5 Language fashions in entertainment programmes	203
4.5.1 The trendy and the popular	203
4.5.2 Approaches to youth culture	206
4.6 BBC Local Radio and Independent Radio stations	208
4.6.1 New ways.....	208
4.6.2 Language features	211
4.6.3 Broadcasting for ethnic minorities.....	215
4.7 The language of radio: its influence and feedback	218
Conclusion	222
Notes.....	225
References.....	231
Books and contributions	231
Articles in newspapers and periodicals.....	244
Dictionaries (chronological)	245
General	245
Special	245
BBC and Radio Authority publications and documentations (chronological)	246
BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation)	246
Radio Authority	247
Radio and television stations	247
BBC	247
Radio Authority	248
Illustrations	249