Anglo-Indian English:
A Nativized Variety of Indian English

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Overview

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- Some Features
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Introduction

Existing Work

- Most discussions focus on L2 speakers

- The Anglo-Indian community maintains English as a mother tongue

- Indian English frequently called "non-native"
  - deliberate exclusion
  - denial of existence

- "Shift-based" rather than "transplant-based" variety

Research Questions

- Extent to which AIndE is different from "general"/"educated" IndE
  - *r*-lessness
  - /h/-dropping

- Possibility of social variation by class
  - /h/-dropping
  - Aux-movement

- Transferred/inherited features

Social Background

- Christianity, English, mixed ancestry

- Identity arises from unique experience under colonialism
  - Colonial policy of fostering loyalty
  - Resentment and disapproval

- Indianisation since Independence

- Exposed to both formal and informal BrE

Method

- Fieldwork in Perambur, Madras

- 20-35 yo, female, Christian, native English speakers

- Bilingual in Tamil

- 15 participants

- Income group represents class

- Interviews with various tasks

Some Features of Perambur AIndE

Similarities to IndE

Differences from IndE

Aux-Movement

Similarities to General IndE

Phonological Features

- Retroflex stops for alveolar stops
- Dental stops for interdental fricatives
- Absence of [pʰ, kʰ, tʰ]
- Absence of [ɬ]
- Partial merge of [v, w]
- /eː, oː/ for /ey, əu/
- /oː/ in *four*, *bored*, *course*
- Different stress

Syntactic Features

- Aux-movement
- Invariant tags

Differences from General IndE

- /h/-deletion
  - SAfE (Mesthrie 1990) – Tamil, Telugu origin
  - LC > LMC, UMC

- Uniform *r*-lessness
  - characteristic of prestigious speakers

Aux-Movement in Yes/No Questions

- IndE speakers use "bare" intonation-based questions

- 5 LC, 3 LMC have scores higher than AmE

Class-Based Variation

/h/-dropping

Aux-Movement

/h/-dropping

- Average scores show stratification
  - LC: 72.15%
  - LMC, UMC: 6.29%

- Correlates with education
  - Speakers with under-average scores had more education
  - Above 10, under 10

Aux-Movement

- Same stratification from both yes/no and wh-questions interviews
  - LC distinct from LMC, UMC

- Education shows better correlation
  - Optional rule in English

- Correlates with social situation
  - Education varies according to class
  - Intermingling may be limited

Conclusion

Conclusion

- Similar in many respects, but different in two
- At least two sub-varieties based on class
  - Middle Class AIndE more similar to General IndE

- Most features from transfer
- Some from inheritance
  - /h/-dropping: non-standard BrE

- Two possibilities for origin of class-based variation
  - Some members had more standard input from the beginning
  - Borrowing from prestigious varieties into uniformly h-less speech

- No correlation between fluency in Tamil and variation