**Tasks**

Make notes on the following aspects in German:

1. Fassen Sie zusammen, wie das irische Englisch entstand.

Anglo-Norman Invaders came to that part and at some point the linguistic started to change drastically.

1. Notieren Sie die Besonderheiten bei Aussprache, Vokabular und bei der Endung „-een“.

It is flattened and pronounced with a more close mouth.

1. Wie heißen die beiden Dubliner Dialekten und wie unterscheiden sie sich?
2. Wie entwickelte sich irisches Englisch?

# Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About The Irish Accent**[[1]](#footnote-1)**

*What is the Irish accent? Are there perhaps more than one? Here’s an overview of Irish English.*

Often described as a lilting brogue, the Irish accent is a fascinating variety of English full of outlandish slang and flowing, musical intonations. So what exactly is the Irish accent?

[…]

**A Wee History Of Irish English**

Anglo-Norman invaders first brought Old English (and French, for what it’s worth) to Ireland’s eastern coasts in the 12th century. English was initially confined to urban enclaves, mainly spoken in the area around Dublin known as “the Pale,” while Irish held strong throughout the rural countryside.

It wasn’t until the 1600s that the island’s linguistic landscape started to change drastically. Neighboring British rulers keen on cementing England’s power launched a slew of violent military campaigns to claim control over Ireland. The religiously and politically motivated legislation that followed stripped many Irish people of their land, faith, civil liberties and, unsurprisingly, their language.

Native Irish was continually pushed farther and farther west, while English fanned out from the east. Throughout the country, the use of Irish declined as the social stigma against it grew. The British ruling class eventually succeeded in establishing their own vernacular as the island’s chief operating language, and thus flourished the Irish English we know today.

**The Irish Accent vs. Other English Accents**

Several general traits distinguish Hiberno-English from different English varieties. On paper, Irish English shares many characteristics with its close neighbor, British English. Pronunciation, however, is another matter.

One feature that sets Irish English apart is its rhoticity, which, like American English, leaves no R unpronounced. Another difference is how spoken Ts sound more like CHs, so “two” sounds more like “chew.” Similarly, Ds sound more like Js to the non-Irish ear, so “idiot” comes out sounding like “eeji”.

Finally, vowels are generally flattened and pronounced with a more closed mouth, so that “are” becomes something akin to “air”.

**What’s The Craic, Ireland?**

Irish English also has a rich and unmistakable lexicon, so let’s look at a few examples. Aside from being an egg’s yellow center, the word yoke is used to refer to something you don’t know the proper name of (which is arguably less wacky than “thingamabob”). Calling someone bold says more about their bad behavior than courage (think cheeky in British English), and any inanimate object is most likely a “she,” not an “it.”

Don’t think we forgot about craic (yes, that’s pronounced “crack”), Ireland’s notorious, multipurpose slang term. In truth, Irish originally borrowed the Middle English word crack or crak (to brag loudly), gaelicized it and reintroduced it as craic. It’s now used liberally as a catchall expression in phrases like, “What’s the craic?” (Irish English for “Whassup?“).

After considering historic stigmas hurled at the Irish people and their native language, it’s not surprising to learn that Irish English has few loanwords from Irish. One holdover is the anglicized diminutive suffix –een (originally –ín), as in poitín/poteen, a potato moonshine, which literally translates to “small pot.”

Far more prevalent, though, is the impact Irish has on Irish English grammar and syntax. If you’re Irish and looking to impress people with your multilingual skills, you’d boast, “Look at all the languages I have!”

[…]

**The Dublin Accents: A City Divided**

Though it has Irish to thank for its name (Dubh Linn means “black pool”), Dublin has been Ireland’s English-speaking hub for the last 800 years. It’s here you’ll hear some of the most quintessential Irish English, such as the extra oy sound added to I’s (so “Irish” sounds more like Oy-rish).

Dublin has two starkly different dialect groups: Local Dublin and New Dublin English. According to Irish linguist Raymond Hickey, they also have some notable sociolinguistic differences. The working-class Local Dublin spoken in the north has been around for centuries and is often considered the “authentic” Dublin accent. It’s also noticeably less rhotic than other Irish dialects.

The southern New Dublin English, sometimes called D4 or Dartspeak, represents the posh-sounding vernacular found in trendier parts of the city. New Dublin speakers started distancing themselves from the older Local Dublin in the ‘90s. Their speech patterns adjusted to match the city’s rapid financial growth into an international tech-hub. This dialect has many features borrowed from other English varieties and stands in stark contrast to other local Irish dialects.

**A Supraregional Irish English?**

New Dublin is becoming increasingly mainstream and is heard more and more outside of the city. With today’s global interconnectivity and the heavy influence of American media, some fear that Irish dialects are flattening out. Hickey calls this theoretical, homogenized accent Supraregional Irish English.

Only time will tell the future of Irish English, but in the meantime, we can keep enjoying Irish accents in all their shapes and sizes.

1. Lili Steffen, Babbel Magazine, March 8th 2022, Available at <https://www.babbel.com/en/magazine/everything-you-ever-wanted-to-know-about-the-irish-accent>. Last access: 14th August 2023 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)