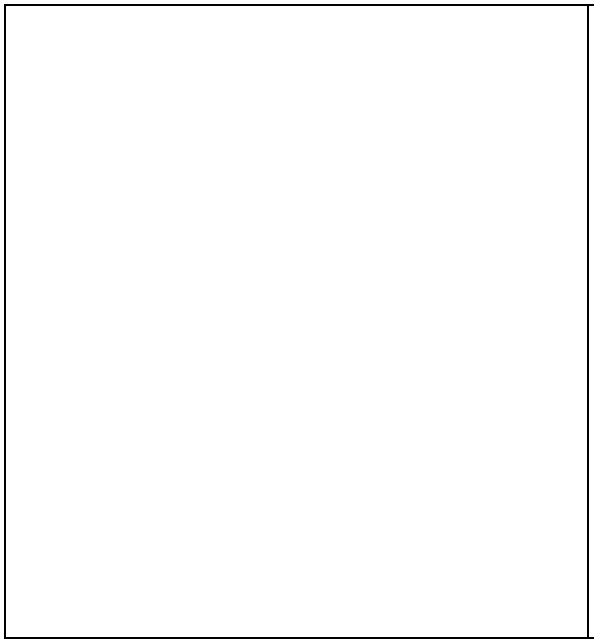
ENGLISH IN BRITAIN

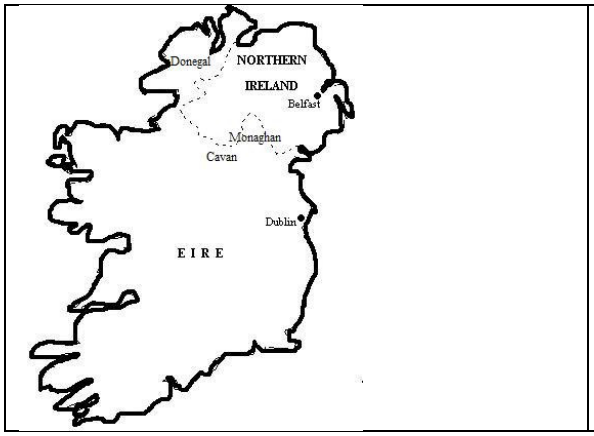
- Sociolinguistic situation in the British Isles.
    - Coexisting languages and their speakers.
    - Varieties of English.
        - England.
        - Scotland.
        - Wales.
        - Northern Ireland and Ireland.
        - Other regions: Cornwall, the Isle of Manx, the Shetland and Orkney Islands.
- Distinctiveness of British English varieties on individual levels.



The Major Linguistic Areas in England
(*Source*: Katalin 2008, p. 17)



The spead of Scots
(*Source*: Katalin 2008, p. 33)



The Major Speech Areas of Ireland
(*Source*: Katalin 2008, p. 34, 36)

KEY TERMS:

- Anglo-Irish;
- Brummy;
- Cockney;
- Geordie;
- Hiberno- English;
- Welsh English
- Irish English;
- Scots;
- Scottish English;
- Scottish Standard English;
- Scouse;
- Severn–Wash line

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Додаткова

Козлова Т. О. Лінгвокраїнознавство : навчальний посібник для здобувачів ступеня вищої освіти бакалавра спеціальності “Середня освіта” освітньо-професійних програм “Середня освіта (Українська мова і література)”, “Середня освіта (Історія)”, “Середня освіта (Математика)”, “Середня освіта (Інформатика)”. Запоріжжя : Запорізький національний університет, 2021. 140 с.

LECTURE NOTES

(*Source*: Katalin 2008, p. 16-43)

In England, only a small percentage of the population speak RP, the others exhibit more or less regional characteristics in their usage of English. There are several possible regional divisions of the dialects and accents of England. The *major dialect* boundary can be referred to as the *Severn–Wash line*. The region to the north of this line is henceforth called the *linguistic north*, whereas the rest is the *linguistic south*.

The *linguistic north* can be divided into three areas: *the midlands* (the east midlands with Leicester and Nottingham, and the west midlands with the Birmingham–Wolverhampton conurbation), *the middle north* (around the Pennines: Liverpool and Merseyside, Manchester, Bradford, Leeds, Sheffield) and *the far north* (Tyneside with the Newcastle-upon-Tyne conurbation and Tees-side with Middlesborough and Cleveland). The major urban varieties of the north of England are *Geordie* (the traditional dialect of Tyneside/Newcastle), *Scouse* (Merseyside/Liverpool), *Brummy* (Birmingham), and the dialect of Leeds in Yorkshire.

The south of England includes three general areas: *the home counties* (the counties adjacent to London: Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hertfordshire, Essex), *East Anglia* (Norfolk and Suffolk, with two large urban centres: Norwich and Ipswich), and *the west country* (the cider counties of Gloucestershire, Avon, Somerset, and Devon, the main centre of population being Bristol). London, the capital city of England is worth special attention here, for it is large enough to exhibit considerable dialectal variation itself, and its characteristic variety, *Cockney*, is doubtless the best known urban variety of English.

Welsh English has its roots in English English dialects and the Celtic language Welsh, and shows no significant resemblances to Scottish and Irish English.

As for the historical background to Welsh English, it is important to mention that, although Welsh people have had at least some contact with the English language since the Middle Ages, they have only spoken English as a first language for the past 1–2 centuries – relatively recently – as English was only thoroughly established in Wales during the 19th century. Consequently, most English-speaking areas, e.g., North America, have had a longer tradition of English than Wales.

Nowadays the majority of the population of Wales consist of native speakers of English, and there is a minority (cca. 20%) of native speakers of Welsh, a Celtic language (who also speak English).

Apart from Wales, there two more traditionally Celtic countries Scotland and Ireland. RP does not enjoy the same status in these countries as in England and Wales.

Scottish English has a standard of its own, a variety of Standard English called *Scottish Standard English*. There is a threefold linguistic situation, that is, three major speech communities exist side by side^

- speakers of *Scottish Gaelic,* a Celtic language related to both Welsh and Irish Gaelic (only spoken by a minority of the population of Scotland, mostly in the Hebrides); . Second,
- speakers of an English-based variety called *Scots* (the collective name of the traditional rural dialects and their urban variations, and there is no general agreement as to whether it is a dialect of English or a separate language);
- a lot of people who speak *Scottish English*, that is*, Standard English with a Scottish accent.*

The 32 counties of the island of traditional *Ireland* are divided into the six counties of Northern Ireland (which roughly corresponds to a former province of Ireland called *Ulster,* and which is part of the United Kingdom) and the twenty-six counties of the *Republic of Ireland* (also called *Eire*). *The linguistic situation* here is similar to the one in Scotland: on the one hand, it is also a threefold situation with a Celtic language, Scots and English; on the other hand, during their histories several waves of population migration have taken place between the two countries in both directions (but, from a linguistic point of view, more importantly from Scotland to Ireland), as a consequence of which their languages and dialects have had profound influence on each other and show spooky resemblances.

The three languages spoken in Ireland are *Anglo-Irish* (English originating from (the west of) England and having its own characteristic pronunciation, grammatical and lexical features; this is the variety which is meant by the term *Irish English* and it is sometimes also called *Hiberno- English*), *Ulster Scots (or Scotch-Irish***,** a variety of Scots "imported" from Scotland), and *Irish Gaelic (or Erse* – a Celtic language closely related to Scottish Gaelic*).