

A Pilot Study :  
Which Pairs of Localities  
Behave Most or Least Alike in England?  
\*  
a computer's possible contribution  
to geographical dialectology

Hideki SASAKI

SUMMARY

The present paper has two purposes. The first is to find which pairs of localities within each selected county in England behave most or least alike with regard to acceptance of the Received Pronunciation(RP) of present British English. The second is to offer a topic for study of regional dialects which cannot be dealt with without the use of a computer. The materials on which we base the present research are those collected according to the procedure described in H.SASAKI(1993).

Any pair of localities which similar speech distribution patterns suggest the possibility that the two localities are more liable to share psychological and physical environments. In contrast to that, any pair of localities with different speech distribution patterns suggest the possibility that the two localities tend to be independent of each other in psychological and physical environments. Thus a computer is expected to provide us with substantial clues for discovering those environments behind distribution patterns of dialects. Hence a computer works as discovery procedure in geographical dialectology.

1 PURPOSES

The purpose of the present paper is twofold. One is to discover which pairs of localities within each selected county in England behave most or least alike with regard to acceptance of the Received Pronunciation of present British English. The other is to propose a topic for study of regional dialects which cannot be dealt with without the use of a computer. The latter purpose needs more commentary.

Prior to proceeding it may be fair for me to say that I cannot operate a computer. So all of the operations described below have been performed with the help of a simple calculator. This is why my study is entitled a "Pilot Study". By that term I mean that the method which I am going to demonstrate hereafter should be quantitatively expanded on a computer someday in the future.

Everyone admits that the appearance of the computer in the present age of technology has immeasurably changed our lifestyles — practically all the aspects of human life. Accordingly the methodology of any field, dialect study included, can not fail to avoid its impact. The computer has certainly helped to strengthen the power of proving the correctness of arguments from a quantitative point of view. Thus qualitative credibility goes with quantitative verification.

No one can hence disagree that it is desirable to utilize a computer in dialect study too. Many dialectologists, however, cannot operate it to its full extent for technical or other reasons. As a matter of fact, I cannot. So I consider it useful and encouraging to quote in this context the German dialectologist Wolfgang Viereck (1992:108) — "the dialectologist can do without the computer but not vice versa."

It is appropriate at this moment to describe my own stance in geographical dialectology, because doing so is sure to help make my purposes here more understandable.

Nowadays many dialect atlases have come out. They are variously characterized by their field range, gender and age of informants, the number of localities, etc. Dialect atlases are thus so abundantly diffused these days, compared with in the past, that we might tend to take it for granted that to publish dialect atlases itself is the final objective of dialectologists. Such is not the case, however.

It is indeed a laborious work to prepare and carry out fieldwork and to draw distribution maps, and/or even to compile a dialect dictionary based on collected materials. But it is by no means our final goal. We should not stop there. We should step forward beyond the milepost. Our prime aim is to explicate what has brought about the present distribution pattern of dialects, that is, to find the causes that have formed the present distribution and to interpret the processes of the change from the past to the present. With that purpose in mind, what we are eager to discover is

something which is hidden behind and causes the dialect diffusion pattern.

It is important to notice that at the stage of interpretation we profit mostly from such information as folklore provides us with. This assertion of mine agrees with that of J.D.A.Widdowson's. The professor at the University of Sheffield (England) has earnestly been stressing the close relationship between dialectology and folklore. J. D.A.Widdowson (1987, 1990) are a few examples to that effect. Along this line we should find out something "attached to" dialect. What we should discover is the individuals' mental and physical lifestyles moving with their own speech. The clues to revealing their ways of living are largely obtainable from folklore and its related disciplines.

To sum up: I define geographical dialectology as a study making it its purpose to interpret geographical or regional variations of language by having primary recourse to non-linguistic relevant information. Accordingly, geographical dialectology as I conceive it is divided into two phases of operation as below:

PHASE	PURPOSE	INFORMATION USED
1	identification of geographical distribution	primary: linguistic secondary: non-linguistic
2	interpretation of geographical distribution	primary: non-linguistic secondary: linguistic

Table 1

Two comments concerning the above table seem to be in order.

1) Geographical dialectology can make sense even without any linguistic distribution map. In fact arguments without maps are sometimes made especially for economical or technical

reasons. But we should properly try to base our arguments on the related distribution maps.

2) Which PHASE do such operations as included in the following description belong to?

One of the primary aims of dialectology has always been the division of language in space, the determination of regionally distributed forms and dialect areas, and the establishment of borderlines between such areas — and the question of where dialect areas are located and where they stop is of course not only of scholarly concern but also of some popular interest in any speech community. [E.W.Schneider (1988:175)] (Underline mine)

Table 1 definitely classifies these above operations as belonging to PHASE 1.

When we think first of all that Phase 2 is broader in its prospect than Phase 1, and then that we cannot reach Phase 2 without going through Phase 1, it is natural that Phase 2 should be more desirably considered the primary and final objective of geographical dialectology.

#### 22 Sf (= Suffolk)

Diph:2	(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)(6)(7)(8)(9)(10)	(11)(12)(13)(14)(15)(16)(17)(18)(19)(20)	(21)(22)(23)
[22/1]	—○○○○○—○○○	○○○☆○○—○○○	○○○
[22/2]	—○○—○○○○○	○○○—○—○○—	○○○
[22/3]	○○○—○—○○○○	—○☆○○○—	—○○
[22/4]	—○○—○—○—	○○○☆—○○○○—	○○—
[22/5]	—○○○—○—○○	○○○☆○—○○—	○○○
	(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)(6)(7)(8)(9)(10)	(11)(12)(13)(14)(15)(16)(17)(18)(19)(20)	(21)(22)(23)

Table 2

It goes without saying that a computer can be utilized both at Phases 1 and 2. We have already seen several representative examples of computerized dialect atlases published, for example, W.Viereck (ed) (1991). However I am sorry that as far as I know, we have had few substantial examples at the level of Phase 2. I am demonstrating below that a computer is of much help even for the level of Phase 2. To be more precise, I am going to demonstrate the possibility that a computer can be instrumental in discovering the human behaviour corresponding to distribution patterns of dialect maps.

## 2 PROCEDURE

My arguments hereafter are based on the same material as used in H.SASAKI(1993). For details of the procedure, please refer to H.SASAKI(1993: 90-91). Taking up the case of Suffolk (22 Sf) as an example, I will explain the procedure for the present article. Please see Table 2 below.

- 1) "Diph:2" indicates that Table 2 deals with the second group of those diphthongs contained in the Linguistic Atlas of England (the LAE, for short).
- 2) The numbers (1) to (23) indicate all the words constituting the second group of the diphthongs: (1) tail, (2) April, (3) an April fool, (4) apron, (5) eight, (6) weigh, (7) whey, (8) lay, (9) bacon, (10) daisy, (11) take, (12) make, (13) naked, (14) waistcoat, (15) faint [v], (16) rain [v], (17) hames, (18) break, (19) drain, (20) great, (21) grave, (22) spade and (23) straight.
- 3) The numbers [22/1] to [22/5] indicate five localities of Suffolk: [22/1] Tuddenham, [22/2] Mendlesham, [22/3] Yoxford, [22/4] Kedington and [22/5] Kersey, which correspond to the numbers of the LAE.
- 4) The marks ○, ☆, and — indicate the RP (counted as 1.0 for statistics), a variant of the RP (counted as 0.5 for statistics) and non-RP (counted as 0.0 for statistics) respectively. By the RP I mean the standard British English pronunciation described in D.Jones and later A.C.Gimson and S.Ramsaran's English Pronouncing Dictionaries.

Now it is the time of counting the degrees or percentages of coincidence between each pair of the localities. All possible pairs in the case of five localities are the following ten; [1 & 2], [1 & 3], [1 & 4], [1 & 5]; [2 & 3], [2 & 4], [2 & 5]; [3 & 4], [3 & 5]; and [4 & 5].

In each pair, I count each combination of "○ vs ○" and "— vs —" as 1.0, each "☆ vs ○" and "☆ vs —" as 0.5, and "○ vs —" as 0. When all counting and calculations having been done to the pair [1 & 2], the coincidence degree amounts to 17.5 (76%): the words (1)—(3), (6), (8)—(13), (16)—(19) and (21)—(23) score 17 points in all; the word (14) scores 0.5 point; the words (4)—(5), (7), (15), (20) score zero. In calculating percentage, I round off the first decimal place; the numbers 76.5% to 76.9%, for example, are rounded off to the previous whole number, resulting in 77%, while the

numbers 76.1% to 76.4% are rounded off to 76%.

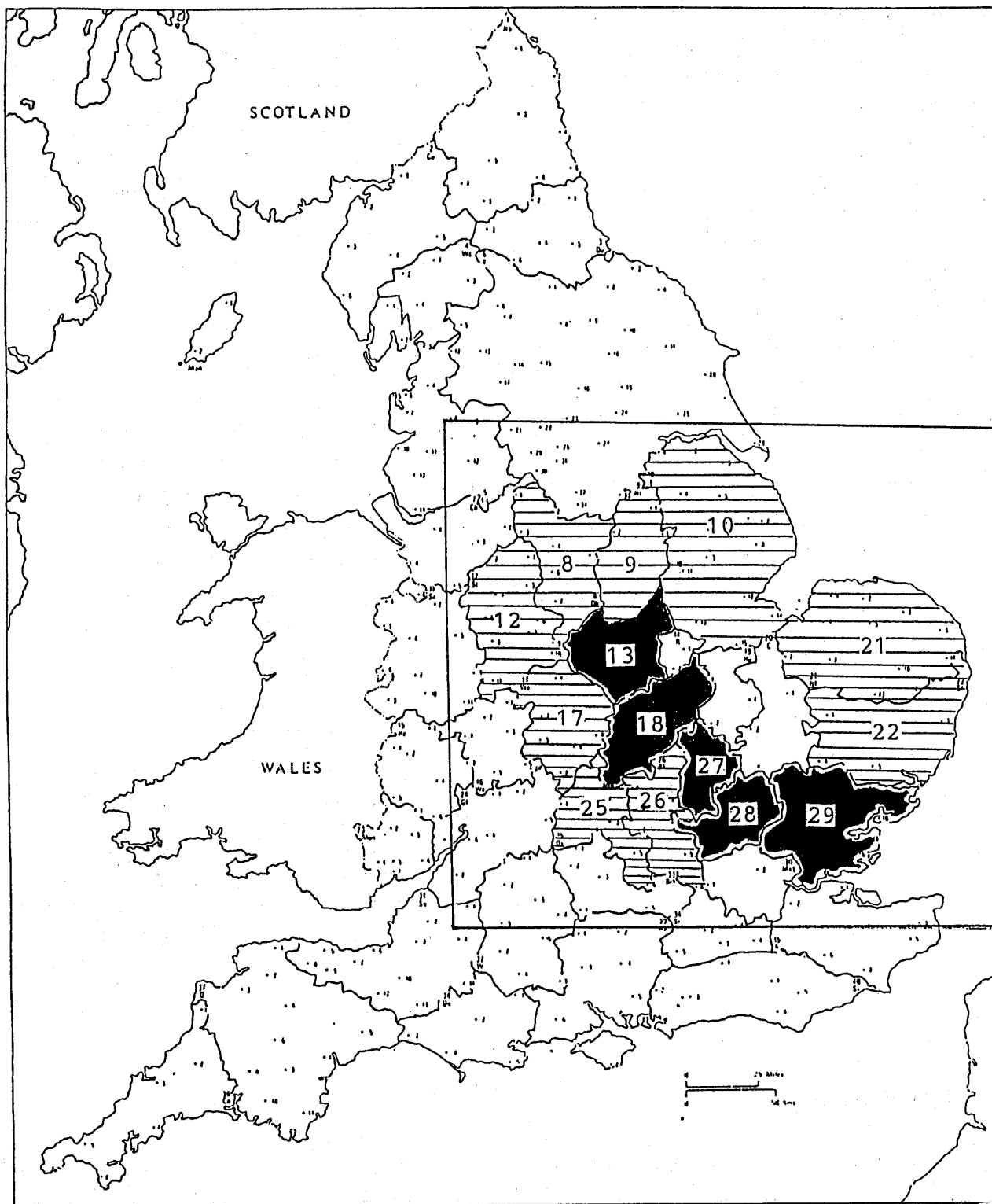
I have got the statistical survey of the following fourteen counties: [8 Derbyshire], [9 Nottinghamshire], [10 Lincolnshire], [12 Staffordshire], [13 Leicestershire], [17 Warwickshire], [18 Northamptonshire], [21 Norfolkshire], [22 Suffolk], [25 Oxfordshire], [26 Buckinghamshire], [27 Bedfordshire], [28 Hertfordshire] and [29 Essex]. I had almost no definite criterion for choosing those counties as our object, but I was merely interested rather in the counties which I had judged in H.SASAKI(1993) as gaining the highest percentages of coincidence between the Received Pronunciation (RP, for short) defined in the article on one hand and the data contained in the LAE on the other hand. Thus our field under study has finally come to cover the core counties in respect of the RP (shaded parts in Map 1 on p.95) and several other counties neighbouring the core ones (horizontally lined ones in Map 1). But, considering our purpose, I reasonably excluded the counties with no more than 2 surveyed localities: [14 Rutland], [19 Northamptonshire], [20 Cambridgeshire], and [30 Middlesex & London]. It is to be noticed that the county boundaries you are referred to throughout the present paper are those before 1974.

### 3 OUTCOME

The APPENDIX contains detailed statistics, but you are first referred to Table 3 on p.96, which lists all counties under investigation in decreasing order of the difference between the maximal percentage (abbreviated as MAX) sharing the distribution pattern of any pair of localities and the minimal one (abbreviated as MIN) within a county. For example, the county which has got the largest difference (①) is [26] Buckinghamshire (26 is the county No. of Buckinghamshire in the LAE). The difference is 32%.

Now please turn attention to Table 3.1 on p.96,

# THE LINGUISTIC ATLAS of ENGLAND



Map 1

ORDER	COUNTY NO(s)	DIFFERENCE between MAX and MIN
①	26	32 %
②	12	31
③	21	29
④•⑤	10•29	22
⑥•⑦	8•17	18
⑧	18	15
⑨•⑩	25•28	14
⑪	22	13
⑫	13	10
⑬•⑭	9•27	4

[MATRIX=VOWELS + CONSONANTS《272》]

Table 3

②12 Staffordshire

MAX 90%	MIN 59%
[4] Barlaston	[3] Alton
[8] Lapley	[11] Himley

Table 3.2

③21 Norfolkshire

MAX 89%	MIN 60%
[4] Grimston	[1] Docking
[9] Shipdham	[8] Gooderstone

Table 3.3

④•⑤10 Lincolnshire

MAX 93%	MIN 71%
[2] Saxby	[2] Saxby [4] Willoughton
[3] Keelby	[15] Crowland

Table 3.4

①26 Buckinghamshire

MAX 87%	MIN 55%
[1] Tingewick	[3] Long Crendon
[2] Stewkley	[6] Horton

Table 3.1

④•⑤29 Essex

MAX 93%	MIN 71%
[6] West Bergholt	[1] Great Chesterford
[9] Tiptree	[12] Little Baddow

Table 3.5

which accounts for where the difference number 32 comes from. This is because the percentage of coincidence between [1] Tingewick and [2] Stewkley is 87% while that between [3] Long Crendon and [6] Horton (each number followed by a place name is a locality number in the LAE) is 55%;  $87 - 55 = 32$ . Tables 3.2—3.5 can be read likewise.

Map 2 on p. shows each two pairs of localities (MAX and MIN) within the five highest ranking counties, ① to ⑤ according to Table 3 and Tables 3.1—3.5. On the map the solid lines indicate MAX pairs and the dotted lines MIN pairs. Each MAX pair behaves most alike while each MIN pair behaves least alike, that is, most differently. I do interpret this extremity between those two pairs MAX and MIN by saying that each MAX and MIN pair shows the most striking contrast regarding ease and difficulty of speech diffusion.

Now what does the statistical result lead us to deduce?

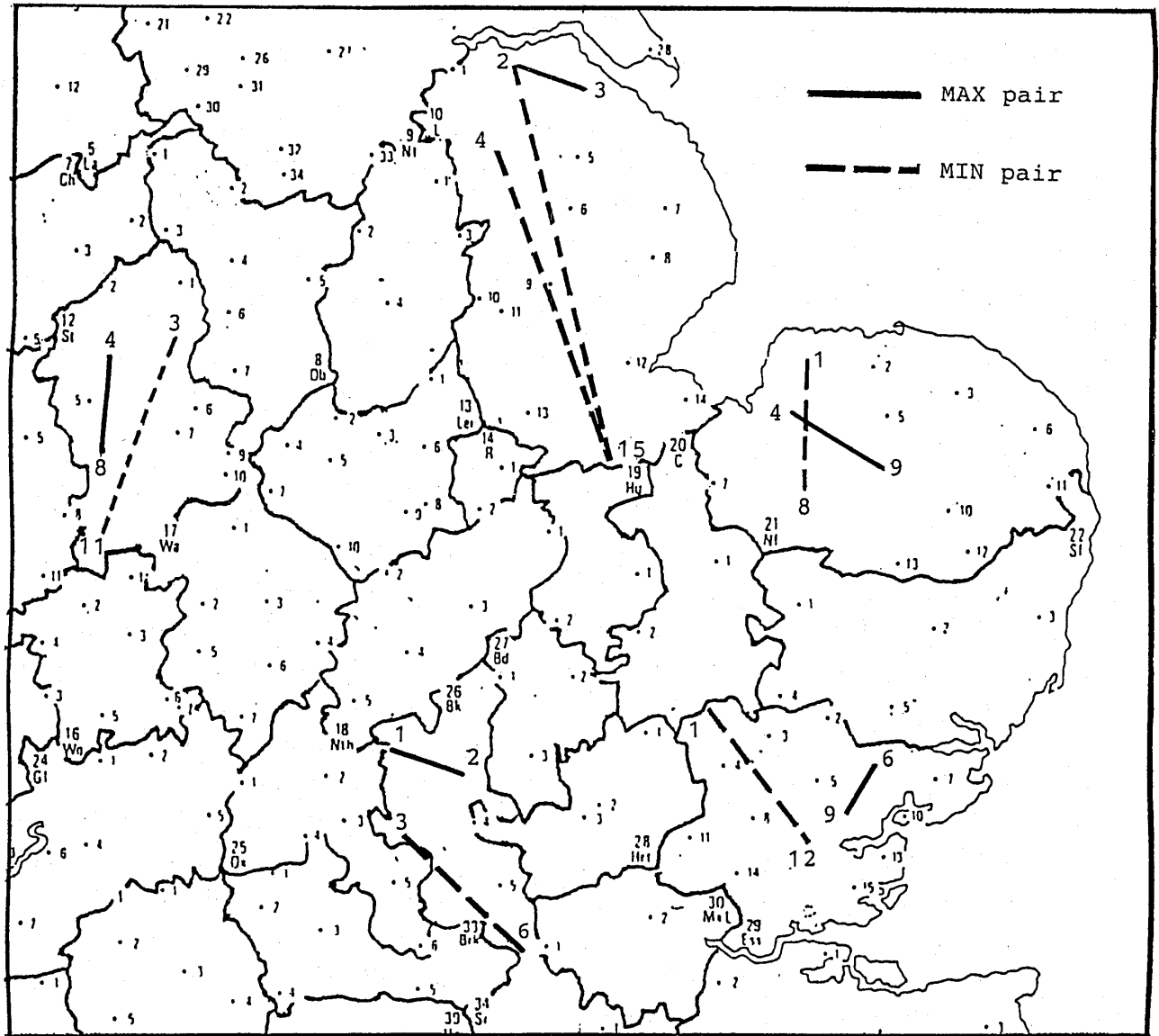
- 1) Each pair of localities connected with a solid line (MAX) has a strong possibility of being in a close relationship in any way. I mean that it is most likely to share such psychological and cultural environments as communicating channels, lifestyles, local history, administrative affiliation and religion, as well as such physical environments as topography, transportation networks, climate, etc.
- 2) Each pair of localities connected with a dotted line (MIN) has a strong possibility of being in an estranged relationship in any respect. I mean that it is least likely to share psychological and cultural environments as well as physical ones. This assumption leads us to expect that some barriers between the two localities in any possible sense are liable to make diffusion of speech difficult. What causes that can be a river, a mountain, a kind of emotional antipathy, traditionally distinct cultures, etc.

Thus a computer is instrumental in suggesting the direction in which we dialectologists should proceed to find out problems the solution of which leads to more elaborate interpretation of dialect maps. To tackle such problems that a computer offers is that latter half of our task as dialectologists, by which I mean Phase 2 in Table 1 on p.92.

The following quote by North and Sharpe (1980: 7) is harmonious with our program here.

A number of factors, acting together or independently, may have contributed towards these geographical differentiations of linguistic forms. These would include the lines of communications, the influence of towns as market centres, settlement-patterns, the historical administrative divisions, ancient local linguistic frontiers, and such natural features or potential barriers as rivers, marshes and areas of high ground. All these factors must be examined, together with all the linguistic evidence, before any valid conclusions or accurate interpretations can be made.

## MAX and MIN Pairs of Each Five Counties



(enlarged version of the area surrounded by the square on Map 1)

Map 2



## APPENDIX

① 26 Bk (=Buckinghamshire)/VOWELS 《208》  
/MAX 84% [1-2] • MIN 57% [3-6]

	1					
1	◆%	2				
2	84	◆	3			
3	76	73	◆	4		
4	75	77	74	◆	5	
5	77	73	82	74	◆	6
6	70	71	57	62	61	◆

① 26 Bk (=Buckinghamshire)  
/VOWELS+CONSONANTS 《272》  
/MAX 87% [1-2] •  
MIN 55% [3-6]

	1					
1	◆%	2				
2	87	◆	3			
3	79	78	◆	4		
4	79	81	78	◆	5	
5	80	81	84	78	◆	6
6	65	66	55	58	78	◆

① 26 Bk (=Buckinghamshire)/CONSONANTS 《64》  
/MAX 97% [1-2] • MIN 45% [4-6]

	1					
1	◆%	2				
2	97	◆	3			
3	91	94	◆	4		
4	91	94	94	◆	5	
5	89	92	89	92	◆	6
6	48	48	48	45	47	◆

② 12. St (=Staffordshire)/VOWELS 《208》/MAX 88% [4-8] • MIN 47% [3-11]

	1											
1	◆%	2										
2	76	◆	3									
3	69	78	◆	4								
4	77	69	57	◆	5							
5	75	75	73	74	◆	6						
6	77	75	78	72	74	◆	7					
7	79	72	62	87	77	75	◆	8				
8	75	68	56	88	73	69	87	◆	9			
9	79	71	71	77	76	76	75	74	◆	10		
10	70	62	58	78	70	67	74	74	67	◆	11	
11	69	56	47	79	60	60	78	80	64	73	◆	

MIN 89% [2-3]

	1											
1	◆%	2										
2	97	◆	3									
3	92	89	◆	4								
4	94	94	95	◆	5							
5	91	91	95	97	◆	6						
6	94	91	98	97	97	◆	7					
7	91	91	92	97	94	94	◆	8				
8	92	92	94	98	95	95	95	◆	9			
9	92	92	97	98	98	98	95	97	◆	10		
10	94	91	92	94	91	94	94	92	92	◆	11	
11	95	92	97	98	95	98	95	97	97	95	◆	

② 12 St (=Staffordshire)/VOWELS+CONSONANTS 《272》/MAX 90% [4-8] .  
MIN 59% [3-11]

	1											
1	◆%	2										
2	81	◆	3									
3	74	80	◆	4								
4	81	74	66	◆	5							
5	79	79	78	79	◆	6						
6	81	79	83	78	79	◆	7					
7	81	76	69	89	78	79	◆	8				
8	79	74	65	90	78	75	89	◆	9			
9	82	76	77	82	81	81	80	80	◆	10		
10	76	68	66	81	75	73	79	78	72	◆	11	
11	75	64	59	83	69	69	82	84	72	78	◆	

③ 21 Nf (=Norfolkshire)/VOWELS 《208》/MAX 87% [4-9] · MIN 58% [2-8]

	1												
1	◆%	2											
2	79	◆	3										
3	81	78	◆	4									
4	77	84	76	◆	5								
5	78	74	73	71	◆	6							
6	80	79	82	77	75	◆	7						
7	74	79	75	81	71	74	◆	8					
8	60	58	63	63	61	59	63	◆	9				
9	77	85	81	87	74	78	82	62	◆	10			
10	80	78	81	78	78	81	75	67	81	◆	11		
11	81	80	79	79	75	79	72	59	77	80	◆	12	
12	80	79	79	79	76	81	75	62	81	83	81	◆	13
13	78	80	74	79	75	78	77	60	78	78	76	80	◆



③ 21 Nf (=Norfolkshire)/VOWELS+CONSONANTS 《272》/MAX 89% [4-9]・MIN 60% [1-8]

	1													
1	◆%	2												
2	78	◆	3											
3	80	82	◆	4										
4	78	86	79	◆	5									
5	77	79	77	76	◆	6								
6	80	81	84	80	79	◆	7							
7	75	82	78	83	76	79	◆	8						
8	60	61	64	66	63	61	64	◆	9					
9	77	88	84	89	79	81	84	65	◆	10				
10	79	83	84	81	81	82	79	68	84	◆	11			
11	80	84	82	83	80	82	77	62	81	83	◆	12		
12	79	84	82	83	81	84	80	65	85	86	85	◆	13	
13	79	83	78	83	80	82	82	62	82	81	80	84	◆	

④ • ⑤ 10 L (=Lincolnshire)/VOWELS 《208》/MAX 92% [2-3] • MIN 65% [4-15]

	1														
1	◆%	2													
2	90	◆	3												
3	89	92	◆	4											
4	88	89	90	◆	5										
5	85	86	88	90	◆	6									
6	82	81	83	86	85	◆	7								
7	81	84	84	90	85	81	◆	8							
8	85	85	88	90	89	88	87	◆	9						
9	82	82	85	86	88	86	83	85	◆	10					
10	74	75	75	70	72	74	72	71	71	◆	11				
11	79	86	85	79	79	77	78	79	78	75	◆	12			
12	86	86	86	83	82	86	82	81	84	79	84	◆	13		
13	70	70	72	68	67	68	67	66	71	81	73	78	◆	14	
14	73	69	69	67	67	66	66	66	66	74	68	74	85	◆	15
15	68	66	69	65	66	67	67	66	69	79	69	75	88	87	◆



④ • ⑤ 10 L (=Lincolnshire)/CONSONANTS 《64》/MAX 98% [6-8], [6-12], [7-13], [8-13] & [12-13] •  
MIN 86% [2-10] & [2-15]

	1															
1	◆%	2														
2	92	◆	3													
3	92	97	◆	4												
4	94	95	95	◆	5											
5	92	97	97	95	◆	6										
6	94	92	95	94	95	◆	7									
7	92	91	94	95	94	95	◆	8								
8	92	91	94	95	94	98	97	◆	9							
9	92	89	92	91	92	97	92	95	◆	10						
10	88	86	89	91	89	94	92	95	91	◆	11					
11	88	89	92	91	89	91	89	92	88	91	◆	12				
12	95	94	97	95	97	98	97	97	95	92	89	◆	13			
13	94	92	95	97	95	97	98	98	94	94	91	98	◆	14		
14	91	92	92	91	95	94	92	92	91	91	88	95	94	◆	15	
15	88	86	89	91	89	94	92	95	91	91	88	92	94	91	◆	

MIN 71% [2-15] & [4-15]

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④・⑤ 29 Ess (=Essex)/VOWELS 《208》/MAX 93% [3-13]・MIN 70% [1-14]

	1														
1	◆%	2													
2	76	◆	3												
3	77	91	◆	4											
4	78	91	89	◆	5										
5	78	86	86	86	◆	6									
6	79	89	88	87	87	◆	7								
7	73	81	77	79	78	80	◆	8							
8	76	89	88	90	82	87	77	◆	9						
9	77	92	88	91	86	91	80	89	◆	10					
10	74	87	84	87	85	88	76	87	88	◆	11				
11	81	78	77	82	75	75	82	80	78	73	◆	12			
12	73	80	79	76	74	79	88	75	76	75	78	◆	13		
13	79	91	93	87	86	89	79	86	91	86	76	79	◆	14	
14	70	89	85	88	79	83	76	88	87	87	78	76	85	◆	15
15	76	79	80	80	75	78	89	77	80	74	84	88	79	76	◆

④ • ⑤ 29 Ess (=Essex)/CONSONANTS 《64》/MAX 98% [6-9]&[9-10] • MIN 64% [1-12]

	1														
1	◆%	2													
2	84	◆	3												
3	86	83	◆	4											
4	83	92	81	◆	5										
5	91	84	83	83	◆	6									
6	89	89	88	88	89	◆	7								
7	73	73	75	75	73	75	◆	8							
8	89	89	84	88	89	94	78	◆	9						
9	91	91	89	89	91	98	77	95	◆	10					
10	89	92	91	91	89	97	75	94	98	◆	11				
11	88	81	80	80	81	86	67	86	88	86	◆	12			
12	64	70	69	69	70	75	81	72	73	72	67	◆	13		
13	86	86	84	84	86	94	72	91	95	94	86	75	◆	14	
14	84	88	83	89	88	92	73	92	94	92	81	77	92	◆	15
15	78	75	80	73	78	83	89	83	84	83	75	86	80	78	◆



⑥ • ⑦ 8 Db (=Derbyshire)/VOWELS 《208》  
/MAX 87% [6-7] • MIN 65% [1-5],  
[1-7]&[2-7]

	1						
1	◆%	2					
2	71	◆	3				
3	80	73	◆	4			
4	76	71	77	◆	5		
5	65	69	73	66	◆	6	
6	67	67	75	82	76	◆	7
7	65	65	73	73	81	87	◆

⑥ • ⑦ 8 Db (=Derbyshire)  
/VOWELS+CONSONANTS 《272》  
/MAX 88% [6-7] • MIN 70% [2-6]

	1						
1	◆%	2					
2	78	◆	3				
3	83	79	◆	4			
4	81	77	81	◆	5		
5	72	74	76	71	◆	6	
6	74	70	80	84	80	◆	7
7	71	71	77	77	84	88	◆

⑥ • ⑦ 8 Db (=Derbyshire)/CONSONANTS 《64》  
/MAX 98% [1-2] • MIN 89% [2-7], [3-5],  
[4-5]&[4-7]

	1						
1	◆%	2					
2	98	◆	3				
3	95	97	◆	4			
4	95	94	94	◆	5		
5	94	92	89	89	◆	6	
6	95	97	97	91	92	◆	7
7	91	89	92	89	94	92	◆

⑥ • ⑦ 17 Wa (=Warwickshire)/VOWELS 《208》  
/MAX 87% [5-6] • MIN 71% [1-6]&[2-5]

	1						
1	◆%	2					
2	72	◆	3				
3	84	74	◆	4			
4	77	75	80	◆	5		
5	72	71	75	76	◆	6	
6	71	73	78	80	87	◆	7
7	72	72	76	82	84	85	◆

⑥・⑦ 17 Wa (=Warwickshire)/CONSONANTS 《64》  
/MAX 98% [6-7]・MIN 63% [2-3]

	1						
1	◆%	2					
2	84	◆	3				
3	75	63	◆	4			
4	70	64	92	◆	5		
5	70	67	89	97	◆	6	
6	72	66	97	95	92	◆	7
7	70	64	95	97	94	98	◆

⑧ 18 Nth (=Northamptonshire)  
/VOWELS 《208》/MAX 86% [3-5]・  
MIN 65% [1-5]

	1						
1	◆%	2					
2	76	◆	3				
3	83	73	◆	4			
4	69	80	69	◆	5		
5	65	70	86	69	◆		

⑥・⑦ 17 Wa (=Warwickshire)  
/VOWELS+CONSONANTS 《272》  
/MAX 88% [5-6]&[6-7]・  
MIN 70% [2-5]&[2-7]

	1						
1	◆%	2					
2	75	◆	3				
3	82	71	◆	4			
4	75	73	83	◆	5		
5	71	70	78	81	◆	6	
6	71	71	82	83	88	◆	7
7	72	70	81	85	87	88	◆

⑧ 18 Nth (=Northamptonshire)  
/CONSONANTS 《64》  
/MAX 94% [3-4]・  
MIN 83% [1-2]&[1-5]

	1						
1	◆%	2					
2	83	◆	3				
3	88	89	◆	4			
4	91	89	94	◆	5		
5	83	88	89	92	◆		

⑧ 18 Nth (=Northamptonshire)  
 /VOWELS+CONSONANTS 《272》  
 /MAX 84% [1-3] • MIN 69% [1-5]

					1
1	◆%	2			
2	78	◆	3		
3	84	76	◆	4	
4	74	82	75	◆	5
5	69	74	72	74	◆

⑨ • ⑩ 25 Ox (=Oxfordshire)  
 /CONSONANTS 《64》/MAX 88% [2-6]  
 & [5-6] •  
 MIN 69% [3-4]

						1
1	◆%	2				
2	83	◆	3			
3	84	83	◆	4		
4	78	77	69	◆	5	
5	86	84	83	70	◆	6
6	80	88	77	70	88	◆

⑨ • ⑩ 25 Ox (=Oxfordshire)  
 /VOWELS 《208》/MAX 83% [1-5] •  
 MIN 69% [3-6]

						1
1	◆%	2				
2	77	◆	3			
3	79	70	◆	4		
4	74	73	71	◆	5	
5	83	75	77	78	◆	6
6	70	75	69	74	79	◆

⑨ • ⑩ 25 Ox (=Oxfordshire)  
 /VOWELS+CONSONANTS 《272》  
 /MAX 84% [1-5] •  
 MIN 70% [3-6]

						1
1	◆%	2				
2	78	◆	3			
3	80	73	◆	4		
4	75	81	71	◆	5	
5	84	77	78	76	◆	6
6	72	78	70	73	81	◆



- ⑨ • ⑩ 28 Herts (=Hertfordshire)  
/VOWELS 《208》/MAX 85% [1-2] •  
MIN 66% [1-3]

	1			
1	◆%	2		
2	85	◆	3	
3	66	67	◆	

- ⑨ • ⑩ 28 Herts (=Hertfordshire)  
/CONSONANTS 《64》/MAX 92% [1-3] •  
MIN 84% [2-3]

	1			
1	◆%	2		
2	86	◆	3	
3	92	84	◆	

- ⑨ • ⑩ 28 Herts (=Hertfordshire)  
/VOWELS+CONSONANTS 《272》  
/MAX 85% [1-2] • MIN 71% [2-3]

	1			
1	◆%	2		
2	85	◆	3	
3	72	71	◆	

- ⑪ 22 Sf (=Suffolk)/VOWELS 《208》  
/MAX 88% [1-5] • MIN 75% [1-4] & [2-4].

	1				
1	◆%	2			
2	83	◆	3		
3	81	82	◆	4	
4	75	75	77	◆	5
5	88	83	83	81	◆

- ⑪ 22 Sf (=Suffolk)/CONSONANTS 《64》  
/MAX 95% [1-3] • MIN 81% [2-4]  
& [4-5]

	1				
1	◆%	2			
2	88	◆	3		
3	95	89	◆	4	
4	86	81	86	◆	5
5	94	88	92	81	◆

⑪ 22 Sf (=Suffolk)

/VOWELS+CONSONANTS 《272》

/MAX 89% [1-5] ·

MIN 76% [2-4]

	1				
1	◆%	2			
2	84	◆	3		
3	85	84	◆	4	
4	78	76	79	◆	5
5	89	84	85	81	◆

⑫ 13 Lei (=Leicestershire)

/VOWELS 《208》/MAX 91% [3-9] ·

MIN 80% [7-8]

	1									
1	◆%	2								
2	82	◆	3							
3	88	85	◆	4						
4	84	84	86	◆	5					
5	85	85	87	83	◆	6				
6	86	84	90	86	85	◆	7			
7	82	87	87	88	85	87	◆	8		
8	81	84	81	85	83	81	80	◆	9	
9	86	87	91	86	88	86	86	82	◆	10
10	85	88	86	83	86	84	87	83	87	◆

⑫ 13 Lei (=Leicestershire)/CONSONANTS 《64》/MAX 98% [4-7] ·  
MIN 81% [5-6] & [6-8]

	1										
1	◆%	2									
2	91	◆	3								
3	88	94	◆	4							
4	84	88	91	◆	5						
5	84	88	88	88	◆	6					
6	94	94	91	84	81	◆	7				
7	86	86	89	98	86	86	◆	8			
8	84	88	91	91	88	81	89	◆	9		
9	89	92	92	92	95	86	91	92	◆	10	
10	89	92	92	95	92	86	94	95	97	◆	

MIN 81% [6-8]

1	◆%	2									
2	84	◆	3								
3	88	87	◆	4							
4	84	85	87	◆	5						
5	85	85	87	84	◆	6					
6	88	87	90	85	84	◆	7				
7	83	87	87	90	85	86	◆	8			
8	82	85	83	86	84	81	82	◆	9		
9	87	88	91	88	90	90	87	85	◆	10	
10	86	89	88	86	87	84	88	86	89	◆	

⑬ • ⑭ 9 Nt (=Nottinghamshire)  
 /VOWELS 《208》/MAX 85% [1-3] •  
 MIN 81% [1-4],  
 [2-3] & [3-4].

	1			
1	◆%	2		
2	84	◆	3	
3	85	81	◆	4
4	81	82	81	◆

⑬ • ⑭ 27 Beds (=Bedfordshire)  
 /VOWELS 《208》  
 /MAX 78% [1-2] •  
 MIN 73% [1-3]

	1			
1	◆%	2		
2	78	◆	3	
3	73	75	◆	

⑬ • ⑭ 9 Nt (=Nottinghamshire)  
 /CONSONANTS 《64》/MAX 97% [1-3] •  
 MIN 94% [2-4]

	1			
1	◆%	2		
2	95	◆	3	
3	97	95	◆	4
4	95	94	95	◆

⑬ • ⑭ 27 Beds (=Bedfordshire)  
 /CONSONANTS 《64》  
 /MAX 95% [2-3] •  
 MIN 89% [1-2]

	1			
1	◆%	2		
2	89	◆	3	
3	92	95	◆	

⑬ • ⑭ 9 Nt (=Nottinghamshire)  
 /VOWELS+CONSONANTS 《272》  
 /MAX 88% [1-3] • MIN 84% [1-4]

	1			
1	◆%	2		
2	87	◆	3	
3	88	85	◆	4
4	84	85	85	◆

⑬ • ⑭ 27 Beds (=Bedfordshire)  
 /VOWELS+CONSONANTS 《272》  
 /MAX 81% [1-2] •  
 MIN 77% [1-3]

	1			
1	◆%	2		
2	81	◆	3	
3	77	80	◆	

## Postscript to [SASAKI (1993)]

The present writer (Hideki SASAKI) published

What Dialects Underlie the Standard Pronunciation of Present British English? The Faculty Journal of KOMAZAWA WOMEN'S JUNIOR COLLEGE No. 26 (March 1993) pp.89-117, which is abbreviated to [SASAKI (1993)]

Several English professors and dialectologists kindly read and commented on the paper. I am sure that some of the comments deserve to be made public. To publicize them is my pleasant duty and acknowledgement for those colleagues and also for my (potential) readers.

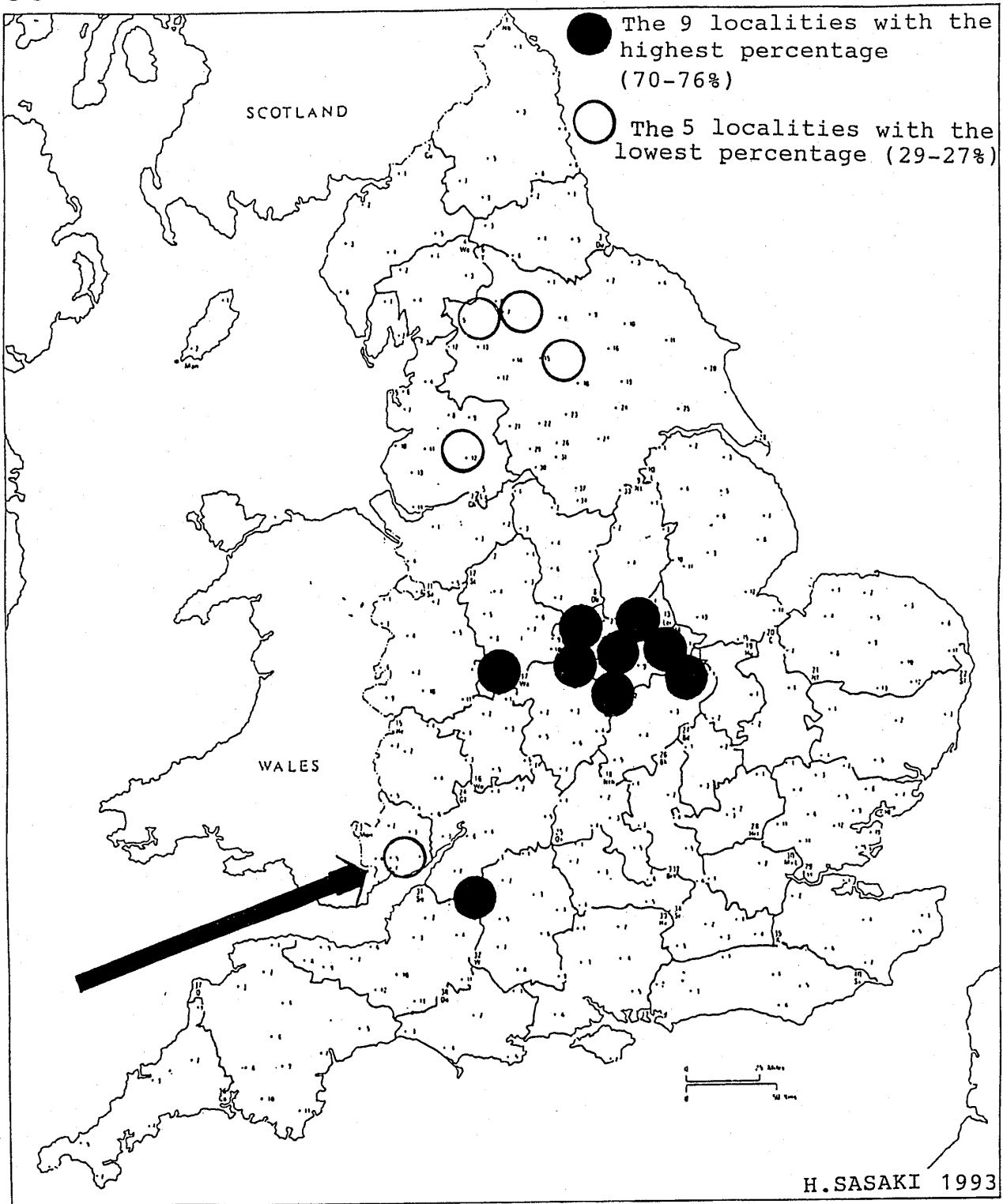
The paper [SASAKI (1993)] and the present paper share the intention that they are pilot studies in the sense that both "should be quantitatively expanded on a computer someday in the future." That is firstly because I limited my scope to the LAE (a portion of the whole voluminous corpus collected by the project SED 'Survey of English Dialects' and secondly because I used just a simple calculator for statistics.

### 1) The RP in the locality [23/7] Newport, Monmouthshire of the LAE:

Professor David Parry at University of Wales (Prifysgol Cymru) at present was the then fieldworker of this locality [23/7] together with the other two ones in Monmouthshire: [23/4] Cross-Keys and [23/5] Llanfrecfa. I show the original Map 1 in [SASAKI (1993)] as Map 3 on the next page. The professor seemed to have been perplexed to find Newport marked by ○, which means "a locality with the lowest percentage in coincidence between the SED data and the RP." This made him kindly inform me of the most likely cause for the unexpected result. I quote part of his letter dated 4, May, 1993 below with his permission:

My own native county of Monmouthshire came just about where I would have expected; but one thing troubles me a little; the fact that Newport (SED locality [23] 7) appears right at the bottom of the table in Appendix 3 (p.115). I wonder whether the paucity of RP-correlated forms at this locality is more apparent than real. It was I who furnished the SED data for this locality, as also [23] 4 and [23] 5. But whereas the two latter are comparatively rural communities, of the same kind as the vast majority of the SED points of inquiry, Newport is an industrial town (population c. 105,000 at the time of the survey), hence a large proportion of the question -- those Books dealing with agricultural matters -- were left unasked, and I covered only a relatively small part of the Dieth-Orton Questionnaire. In actual fact, I simply put a few of the questions to an elderly member of my family, certainly never intending that these data should be published as part of the SED, even though I did lodge the field-recording book concerned with Professor Orton along with my others! Hence I suspect that the paucity of RPlike forms appearing in the LAE maps must be due to a

# COINCIDENCE BETWEEN THE SED DATA AND THE RP



Map 3

general paucity of responses for Newport,

In brief, I missed the fact that the whole number of the responses on the locality [23] 7 Newport, Monmouthshire is much less than that on the other localities. My overlooking this fact led to the wrong statistical result. More concretely speaking, I should not have divided by the number 272 (= 208 vowels + 64 consonants) as I did for the other localities. Therefore we should efface the mark given to the locality [23] 7 from the Map 3.

## **2) Different attitudes toward the Received Pronunciation (RP):**

### **(1) North-East of England:**

Mr. R.B.(The Northumbrian Language Society), dated 18,May,1993.

Northumbrian [language — H.SASAKI] has had very little effect on the development of Received English, which is a contrived language, based on South Midland and London dialects of “Anglo-Saxon”, plus an overwhelming majority of polysyllabics from Latin, Greek, French, etc.. Some statistics shew [show — H.SASAKI] that Rec. English is 18% “Anglo-Saxon”, while Northumbrian is 74% “Anglo-Saxon”

### **(2) North-West of England:**

Mr. J.T.R.(Lakeland Dialect Society), dated 10, April, 1993.

“Queen’s English”, which is a very general name for R.P. or B.B.C. English

### **(3) South-West of England:**

Dr. F.J.M.L.(The Devonshire Association), dated 26, April, 1993.

Native speakers, other than language specialists, tend to split spoken English rather crudely between Northern and Southern, dividing along a line through the Midlands.

‘Northerners’ tend to resent RP, and to reject it as ‘affected’ or pretentious [i.e. as used by those unworthily and unjustifiably aspiring to enhanced social status] ; or, they see it as the speech of effete aesthetes, intellectual poseurs, and the social butterflies of the capital.

‘Southerners’, as defined, are less disturbed by RP; they see it as a non-local form (that is, one not associated with one or other of such southern districts as London, SE, S.Midlands, S or SW, each of which has its own distinctive regional form of speech).

.....

The BBC’s announcers no longer wear evening dress, and no longer use RP. Grammatical errors, an uneducated vocabulary, and regional accents are the norms: there is a conscious cultivation of demotic forms of speech. Old gentlemen [like me] constantly complain about declining standards!

The general trend is for spoken English to diversify into ethnic, regional and sub-cultural varieties rather than to unite in a standard form as Sir John Reith and educators in general strove to achieve



in the early decades of this century. As a schoolboy, I was rebuked for my SW dialect, and taught to 'speak properly'-- it doesn't happen today. The use of RP will soon be a sign of someone who has learned English as a foreign language.

That kind of information is certainly valuable for reading [SASAKI (1993)] more correctly. I heartily express my gratitude for those above colleagues again here.

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