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### **The North – South divide – a view from the Midlands**

Everyone [locating UK cities on maps] has their own ‘blind-spots’, areas of ignorance. Many find Birmingham hard to locate, for ‘Middle England’ is ‘neither here nor there’, a ‘no man’s land’, a victim of the North-South divide.

(Wales, 1999).

Research on the North – South divide has discussed issues of difference, both linguistically and in terms of the identities speakers choose for themselves. Although the issue of the Midlands as a discrete area has been raised, little has been written or researched on a putative third, Midlands region, located between the boundaries of the North and the South, be it linguistic OR attitudinal.

This paper then, examines key phonological and morphological variables across time and across the region which contains isoglosses between varieties with a more Northern type clustering of variants, and those containing more Southern type variants.

References:

Wales, Katie, 1999. ‘North and South: A Linguistic Divide?’

Inaugural Lecture delivered on June 10th 1999, University of Leeds.

Available at <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/reporter/439/kwales.htm>