

'It's altered a lot has York': Right dislocation over time
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English has three forms of right dislocation; one variant in which only the subject is reprised (example a) and two variants in which the subject and the verb are reprised (examples b and c).

- (a) She's a nice girl, Ann.
- (b) She's a nice girl, Ann is.
- (c) She's a nice girl, is Ann.

Of these variants only two (a and b) are used in Standard British English colloquial speech, whilst the third variant's use is generally restricted to speakers in Yorkshire and Lancashire (Melchers, 1983, Shorrocks 1999), although nineteenth century literature attests that it was once used throughout the United Kingdom.

To date there is very little quantitative research into the use of this reverse right dislocation, although it is mentioned in numerous dialect dictionaries and grammars. This paper aims to provide a concrete analysis of it and also to establish how frequently all forms of right dislocation are used in York.

Using a corpus collected in the city of York (Tagliamonte 1998) I will consider both age and gender differences in the use of right dislocation to establish the extent to which the local variant is still in use. Is the more dialect variant losing favour with the youngest group of speakers in York or is it still a robust feature of the York dialect?

- Melchers, Gunnel. (1983). 'It's a sweet thing, is tea-cake' – A Study of Tag Statements. In Papers from the Second Scandinavian Symposium on Syntactic Variation. Ed. by Sven Jacobson. Acta Universitatis Stockholmiensis.
- Shorrocks, Graham. (1999). *A Dialect Grammar of the Bolton Area. Part 2: Morphology and Syntax*. Frankfurt: Peter Lang.
- Tagliamonte, Sali. (1998). Was/were variation across the generations: A view from the city of York. *Language Variation and Change*. 10 (2): 153-91