

Migration and language variation: Middlesbrough and Dublin compared

Carmen Llamas & Mark J. Jones

Carmen Llamas
University of Aberdeen
c.llamas@abdn.ac.uk

Mark J. Jones
University of Cambridge
mjj13@cam.ac.uk

Middlesbrough, in the north east of England, was second only to Liverpool in terms of relative Irish-born population in the nineteenth century (Chase 1995, Willis 2003). The perceived similarity of the varieties of Liverpool and Middlesbrough, despite their geographical separation, may reflect similar migration patterns and, most particularly, the influence of the influx of Irish migrants during the nineteenth century. This project seeks to compare features of both northern English varieties and also relate these findings to features found in Dublin English. This paper will present findings from Middlesbrough and Dublin English. By assessing overall similarities and differences in phonetic and phonological characteristics, the relationship which may exist between them in terms of a common linguistic heritage can then be ascertained more reliably.

- Chase, M. (1995) The Teesside Irish in the Nineteenth Century. *Cleveland History* 69, 3-34
- Willis, J. T. (2003) *Integration or Segregation? The Irish in Middlesbrough in the 1850s and 1860s* Unpublished MA thesis. Open University