

Perceptions of English dialects in the north of England

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This paper will focus on non-linguists' perceptions of dialect boundaries in the north of England. The paper will use collated findings of a data gathering exercise in three centres of population in the north of England in which non-linguist informants were asked to draw lines on a blank map indicating where they believed dialect areas to exist.

A computerised composite map created for each survey location and dialect area will show the extent of agreement over the number, naming and placement of perceptual dialect areas. Attempts will be made to account for results shown by drawing on sources dealing with Perceptual Dialectology (Preston, 1999), (Long and Preston, 2002) and Perceptual Geography (Gould and White, 1986).

Gould, P. and White, R. (1986) *Mental Maps*, Allen & Unwin, Boston.

Long, D. and Preston, D. R. (Eds.) (2002) *Handbook of Perceptual Dialectology*, John Benjamins, Amsterdam.

Preston, D. R. (Ed.) (1999) *Handbook of Perceptual Dialectology*, John Benjamins, Amsterdam.