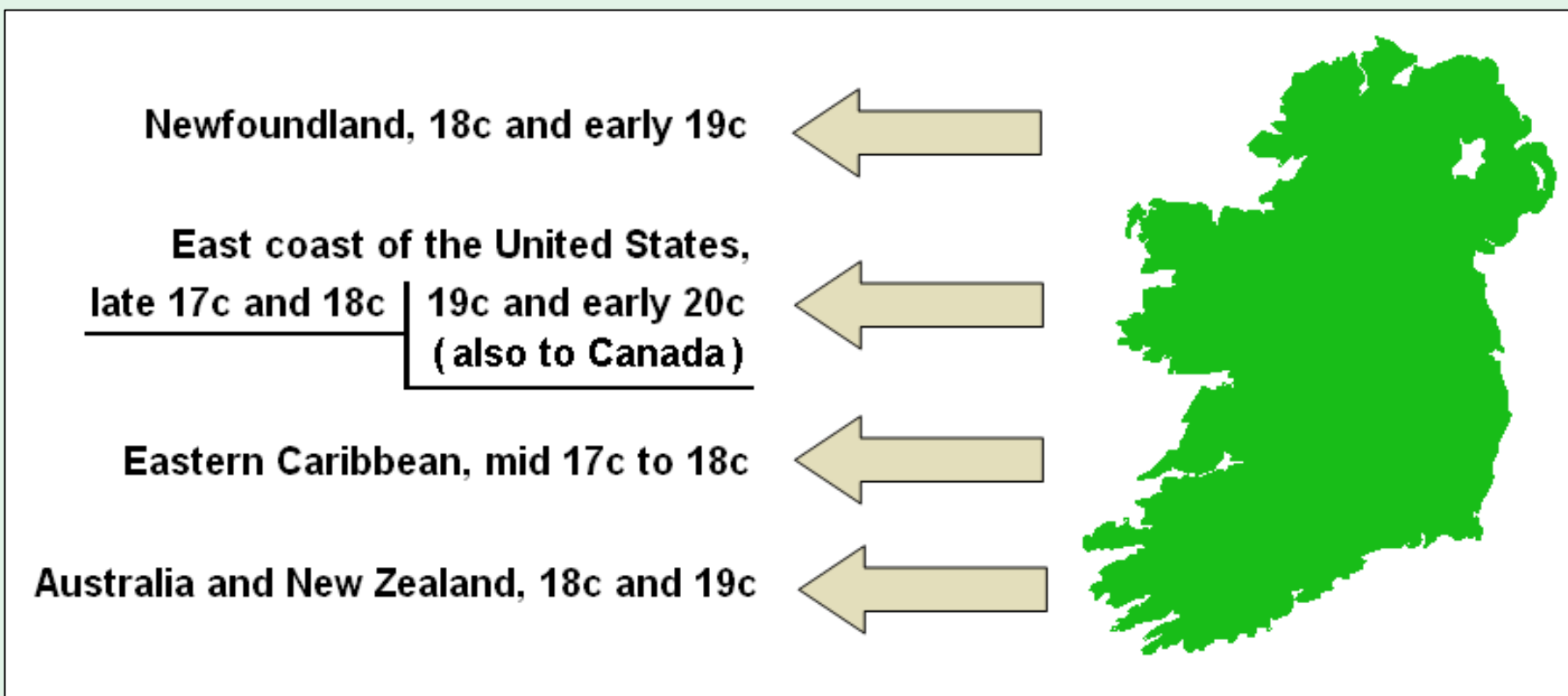




# The Spread of Irish English





# The concern of my talk today

- 1) How was Irish English transported overseas during the colonial period? How does this link up with the spread of English in general in this period?
- 2) Can we identify the shape of Irish English at the its source or sources?
- 2) How do varieties mix and gain a clear profile at the new overseas location, i.e. become focused?
- 3) What features from the source varieties survive and what ones disappear in this process?



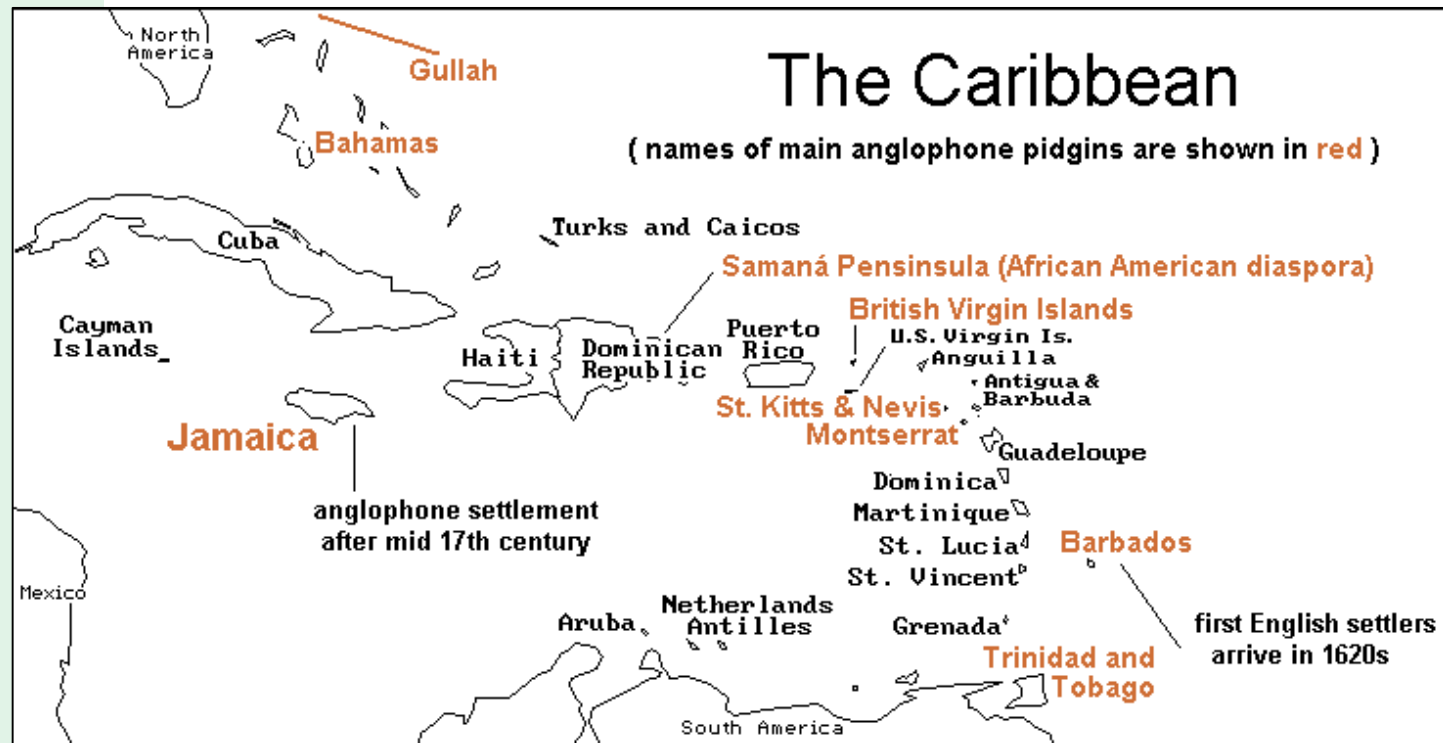
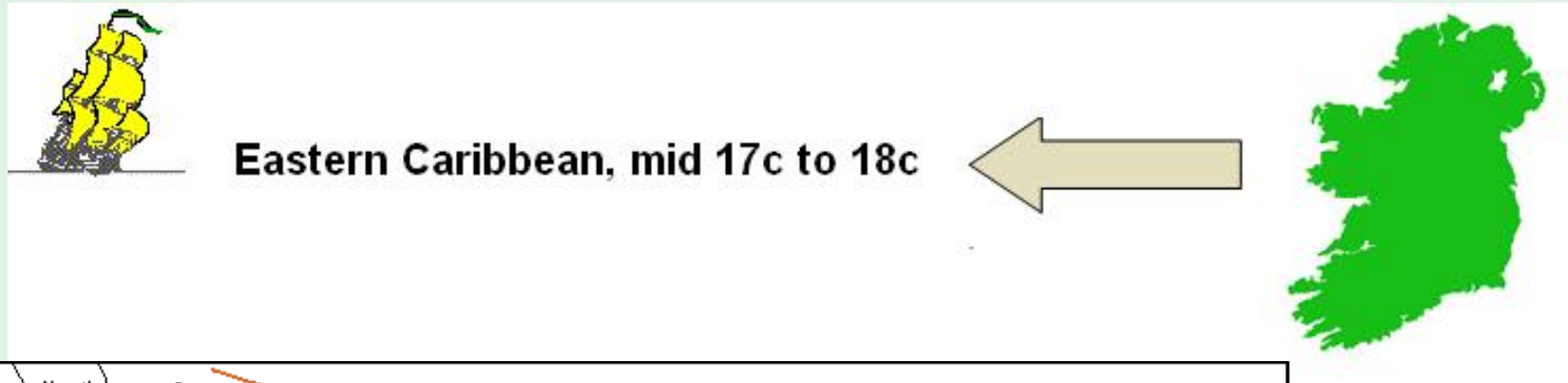


# Reasons why people left Ireland in previous centuries

- 1) Some were deported as a punishment, e.g. to the West Indies in the 17th century or to Australia in the late 18th century.
- 2) Some went as indentured labourers (slightly better than slaves, but not a whole lot), early emigrants to the West Indies (Caribbean area).
- 3) Others left to gain religious freedom and/or greater prosperity (Ulster Scots in the 18th century).
- 4) Still others were involuntary emigrants, driven by famine and destitution from their homeland (19th century Catholic emigrants),



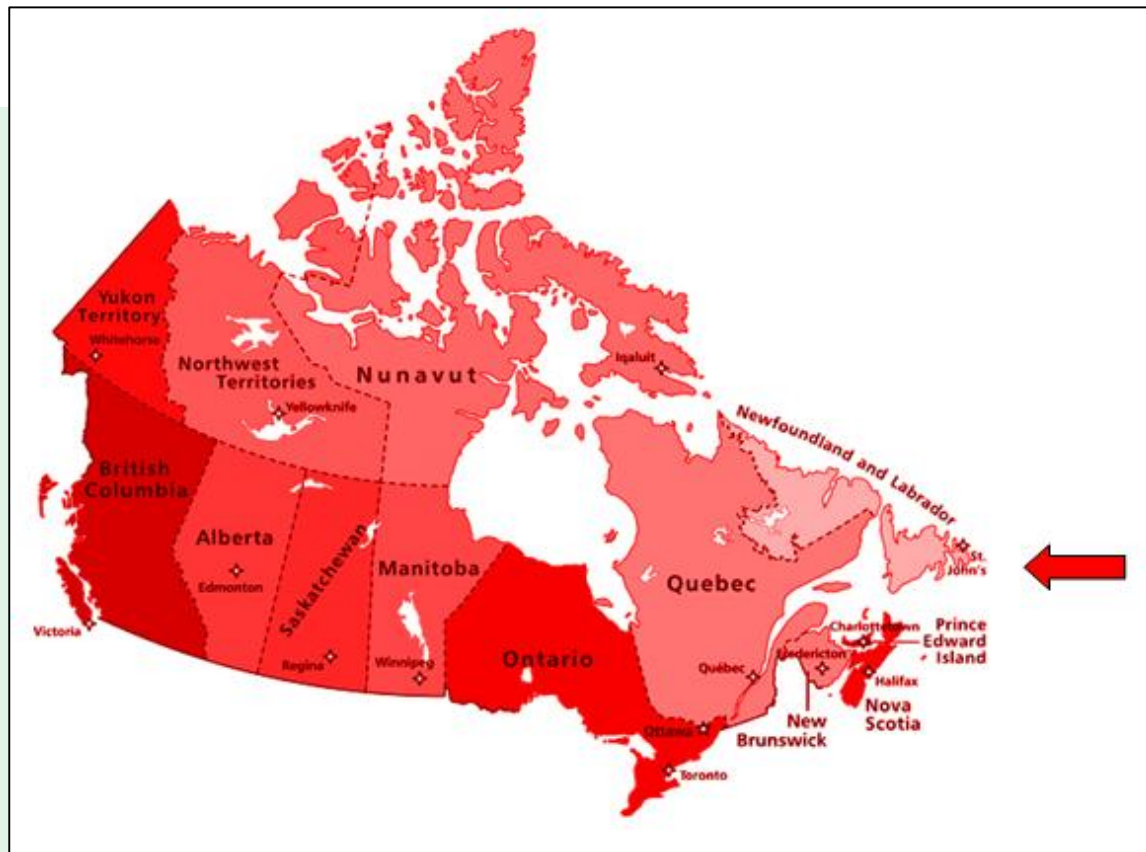
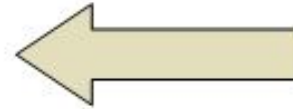
# Transportation of Irish English overseas in the colonial period



# Transportation of Irish English overseas in the colonial period



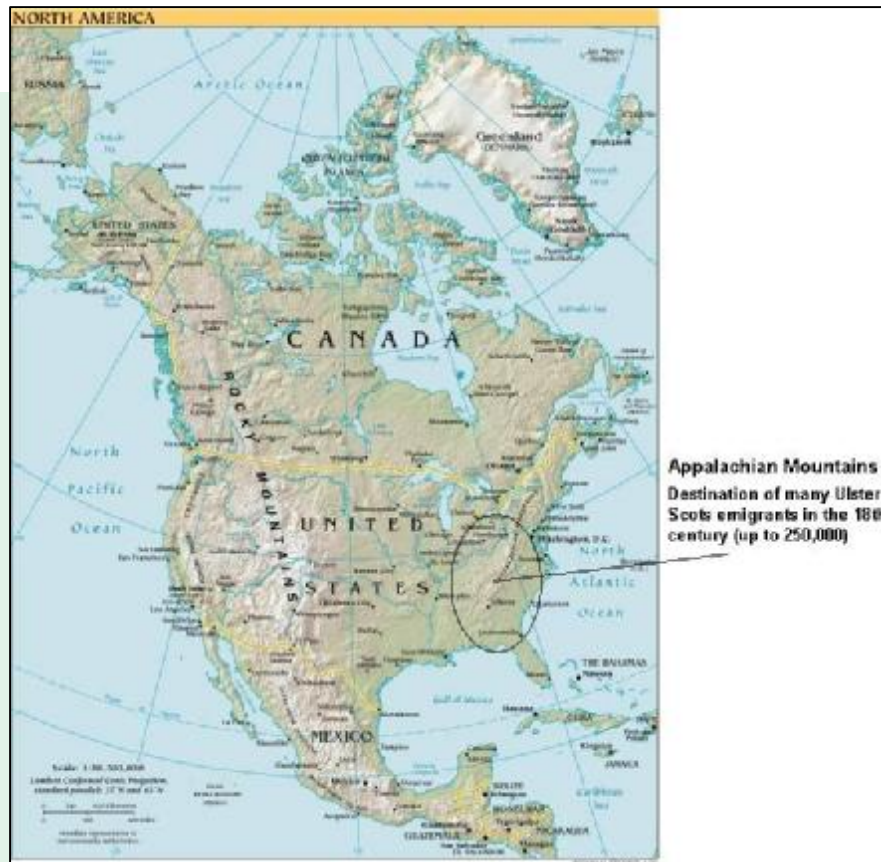
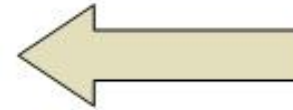
**Newfoundland, 18c and early 19c**



# Transportation of Irish English overseas in the colonial period



**East coast of the United States,  
late 17c and 18c**

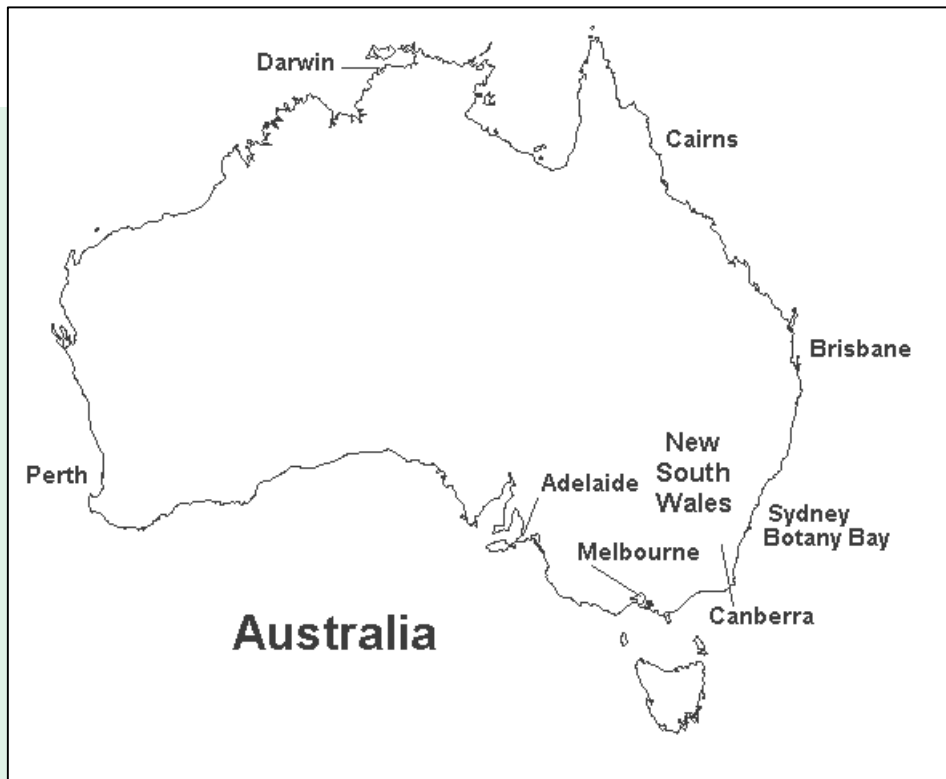
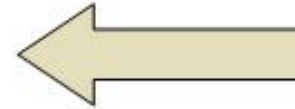


**Appalachian Mountains**  
Destination of many Ulster  
Scots emigrants in the 18th  
century (up to 250,000)

# Transportation of Irish English overseas in the colonial period



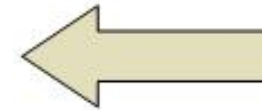
**Australia / New Zealand, 18c and 19c**



# Transportation of Irish English overseas in the colonial period

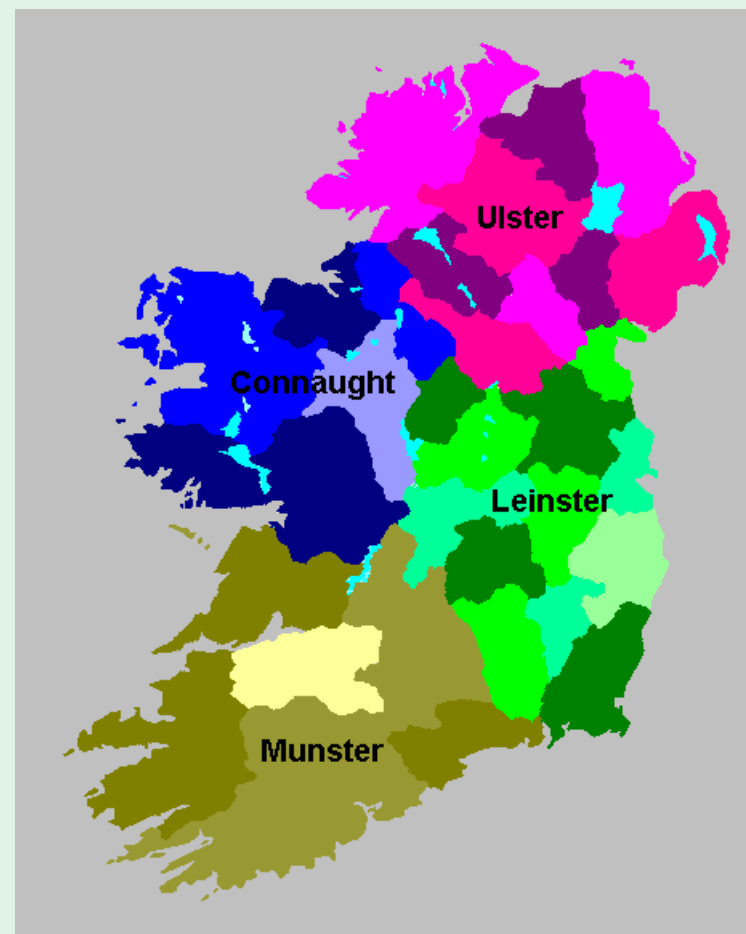


United States / Canada, 19c + early 20c





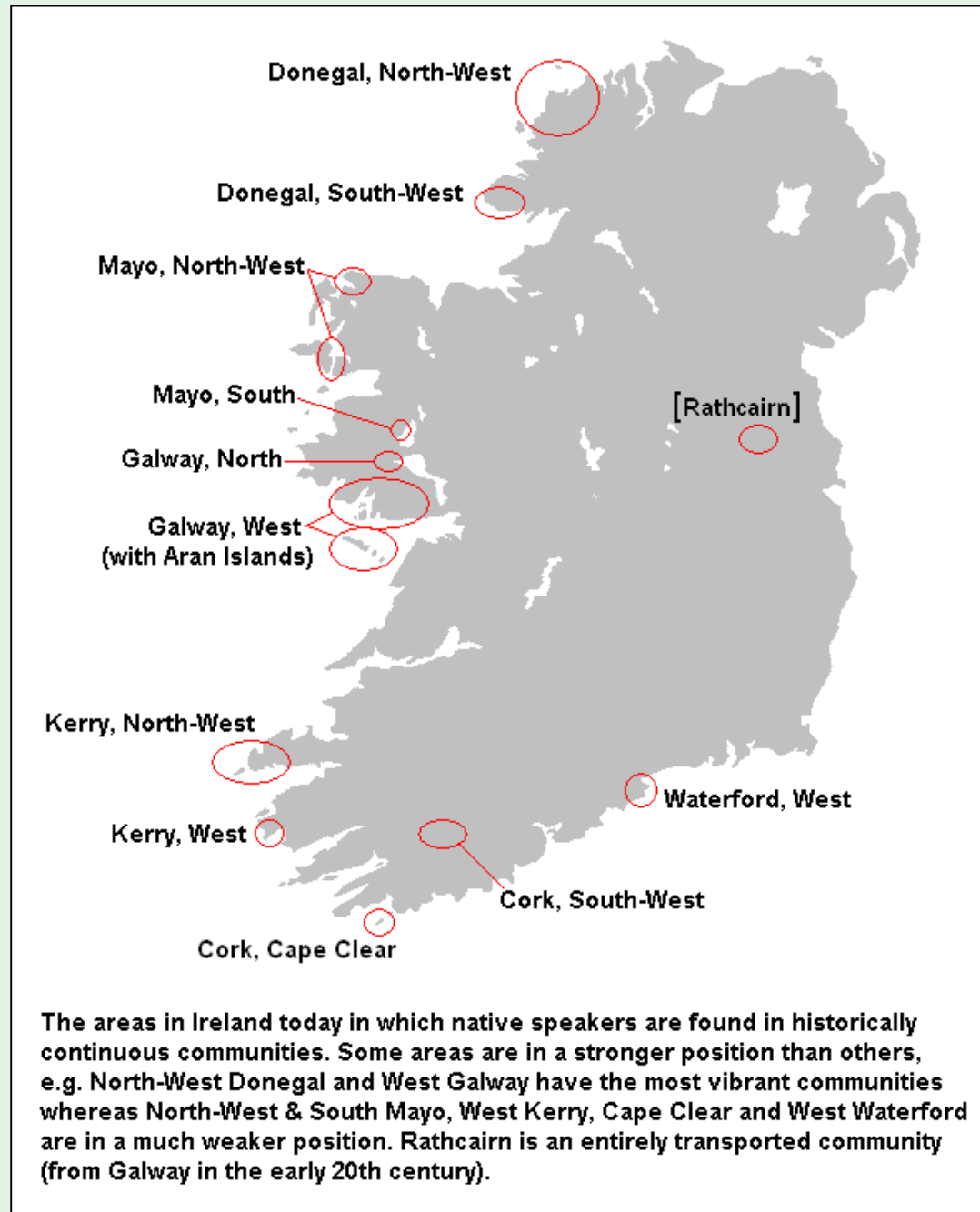
# The development of the English language in Ireland





In Ireland the Celtic language Irish has been spoken for about two millenia. Nowadays the language only survives in a few small pockets on the western and south-western seaboard.

# Irish-speaking areas in present-day Ireland

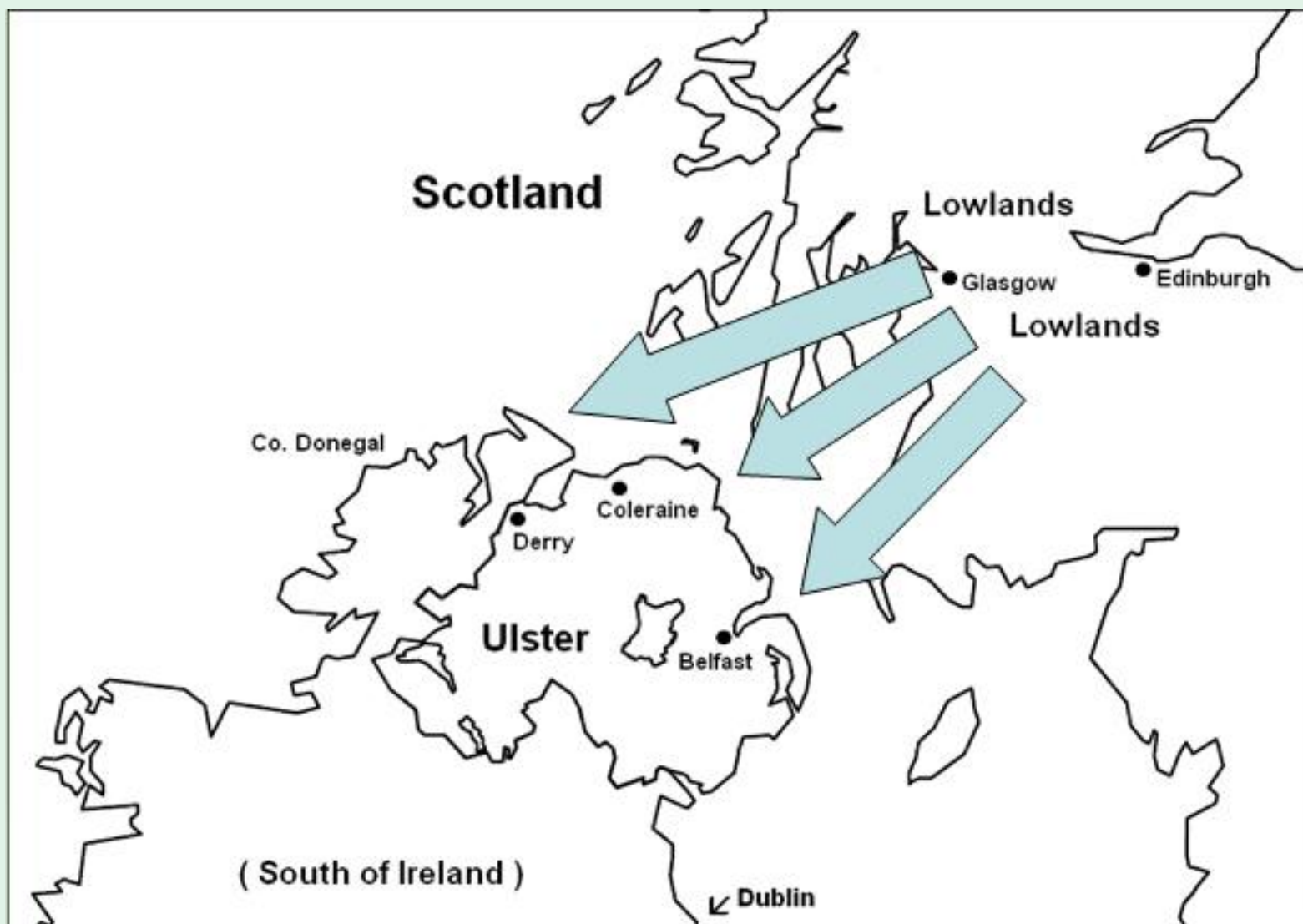


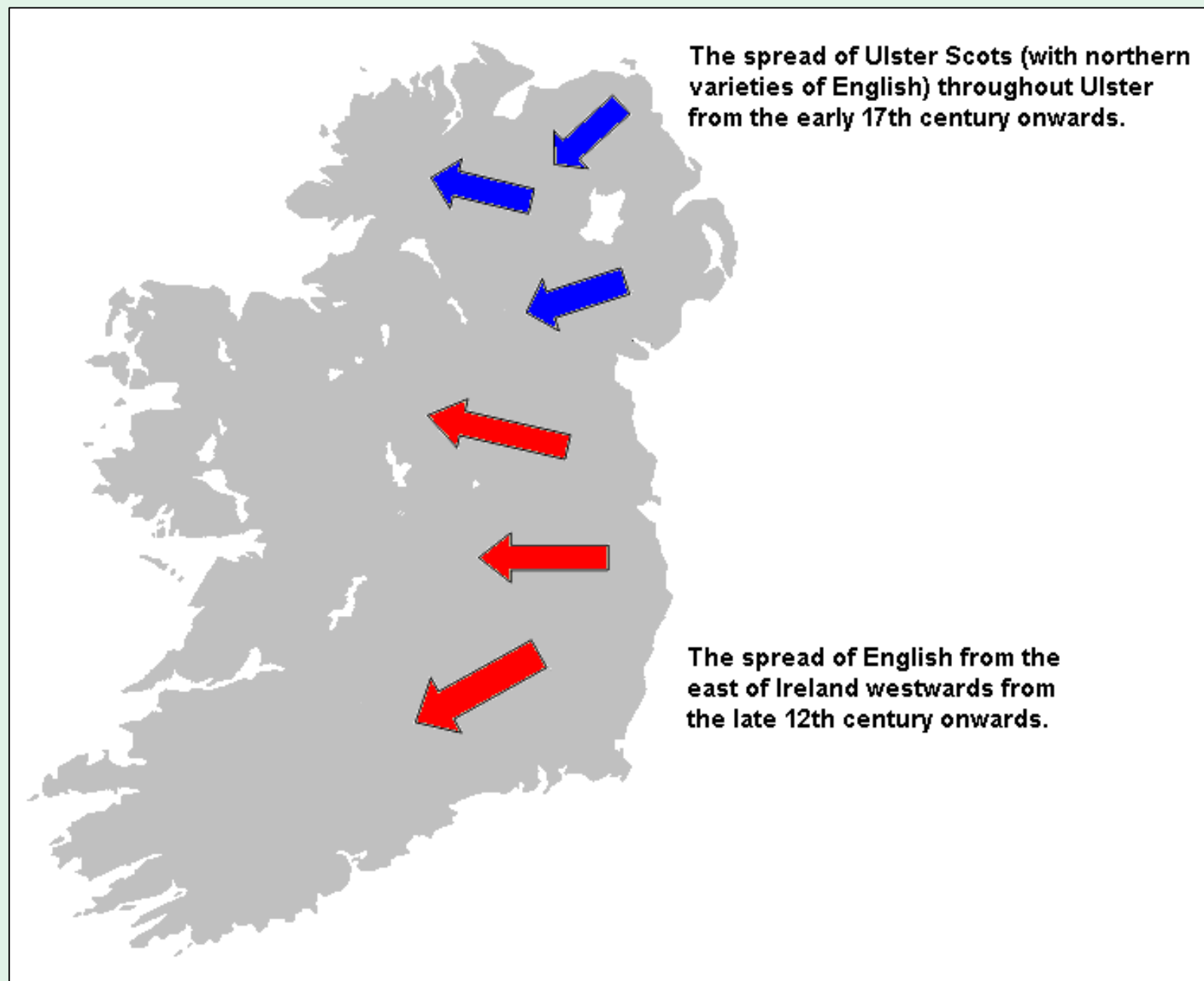


Initial settlement of eastern Ireland by Anglo-Normans from Wales as of the late 12th century



## Migration of Lowland Scots to Ulster in the 17th century





# Periods in the development of Irish English



## 1) **First period** *Late 12th century to 1600*

Establishment of English on the east coast in a band from Dublin down to Waterford. English is above all present in the towns; Anglo-Norman — and of course Irish — in the countryside. Increasing Gaelicisation in the centuries after the initial invasion led to the demise of English outside the major towns. The low point for English is reached in the 16th century with Irish in a correspondingly strong position.

## 2) **Second period** *1600 to present-day*

This begins with a decisive military defeat for the Irish. The north of the country is particularly affected with settlers from Lowland Scotland moving to Ulster and establishing a firm presence there. Later on in the 17th century there are vigorous plantations of the south of the country (under Cromwell). By the end of the 17th century, the position of English is unassailable and the general decline of Irish sets in with events like the Great Famine in the late 1840's and the ensuing mass emigration dealing a final blow to the language.



## Irish English: some features

Prominent features of the Irish pronunciation of English include the lack of interdental fricatives (no 'th'-sounds), a fricative *t* in open positions (*cat*, *put*) and the continuing presence of historical *r* (as in *car*, *card*).

In the area of grammar several features are present which can be traced to the language shift or to the retention of earlier English input to Ireland. Here are some instances:

*They're after selling their house* 'They have just sold their house'

*She has the work done* 'She has now finished the work'

*He likes the life in Dublin* 'He likes life in Dublin'

*Where are ye/youse going?* 'Where are you going?'

[more than one person intended]

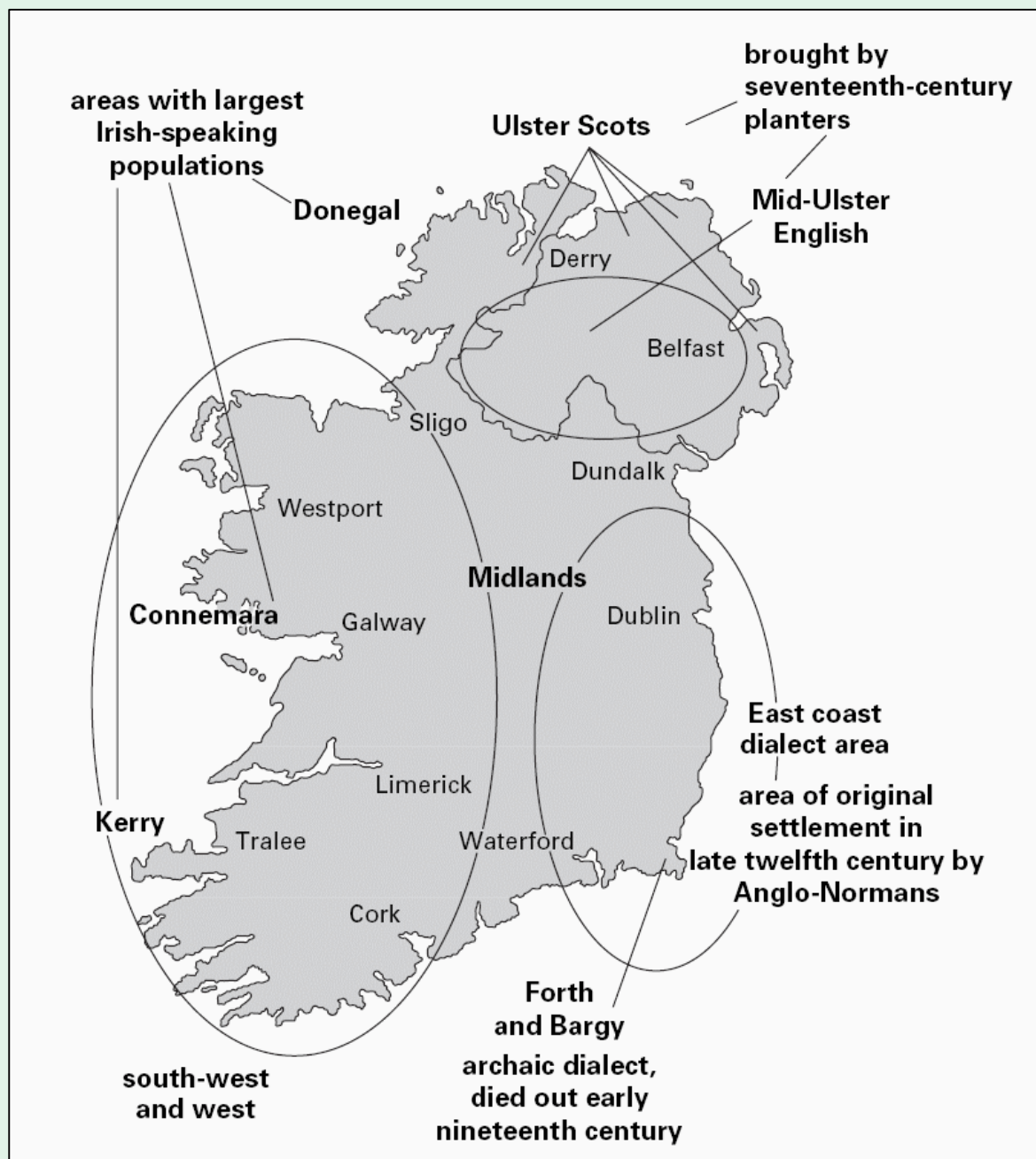
*He does be at home in the morning* 'He is always at home in the morning',

*They didn't cause no trouble* 'They didn't cause any trouble'.



## Possible sources of features in Irish English

- 1) Transfer from Irish
- 2a) Dialect forms of English
- 2b) Archaic forms of English
- 3) Features deriving from the context in which English was learned (adult second language acquisition)
- 4) Features with no recognisable source (independent developments)



## Dialect areas in present-day Ireland

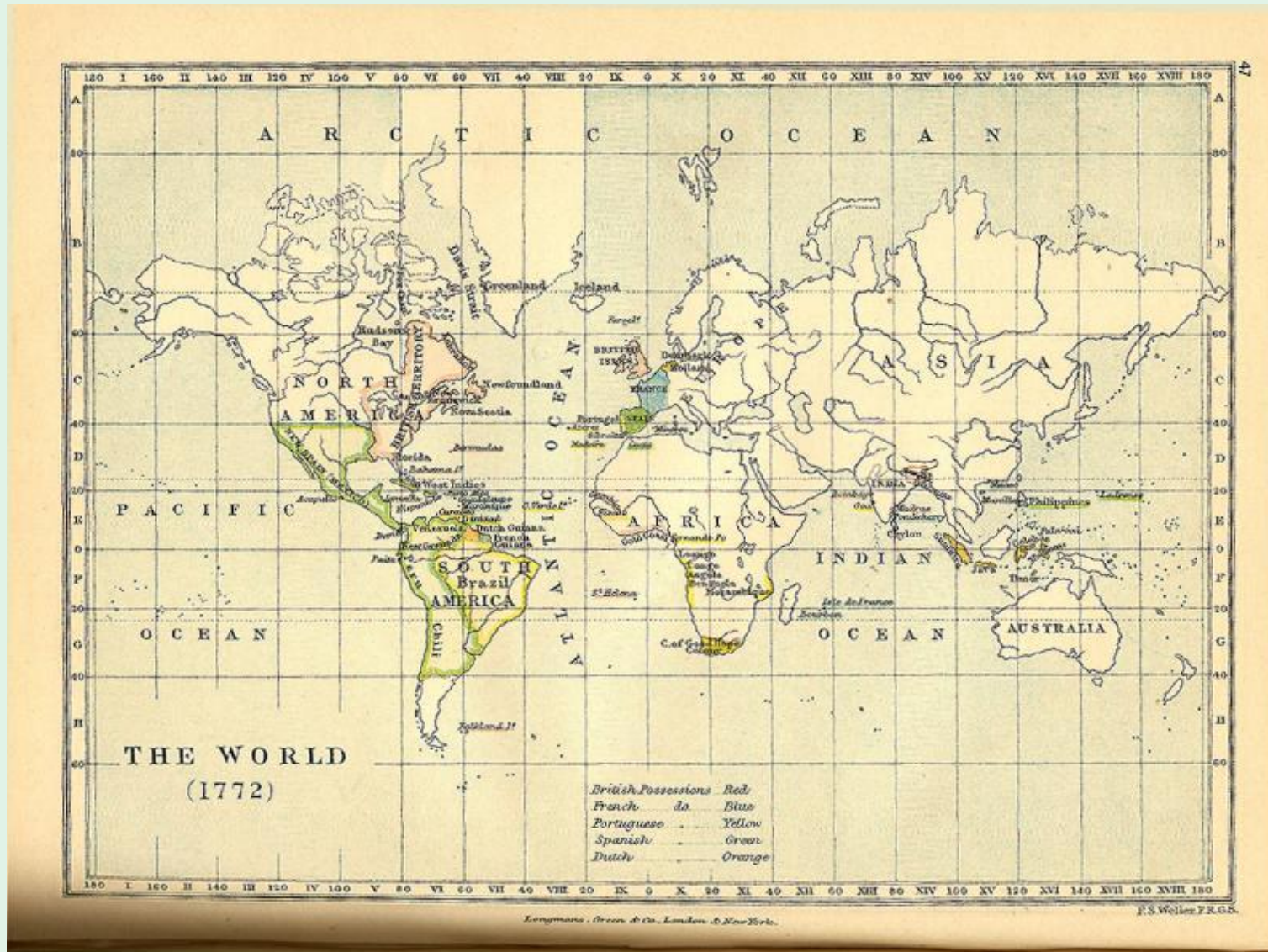


# The colonial enterprise and the spread of English

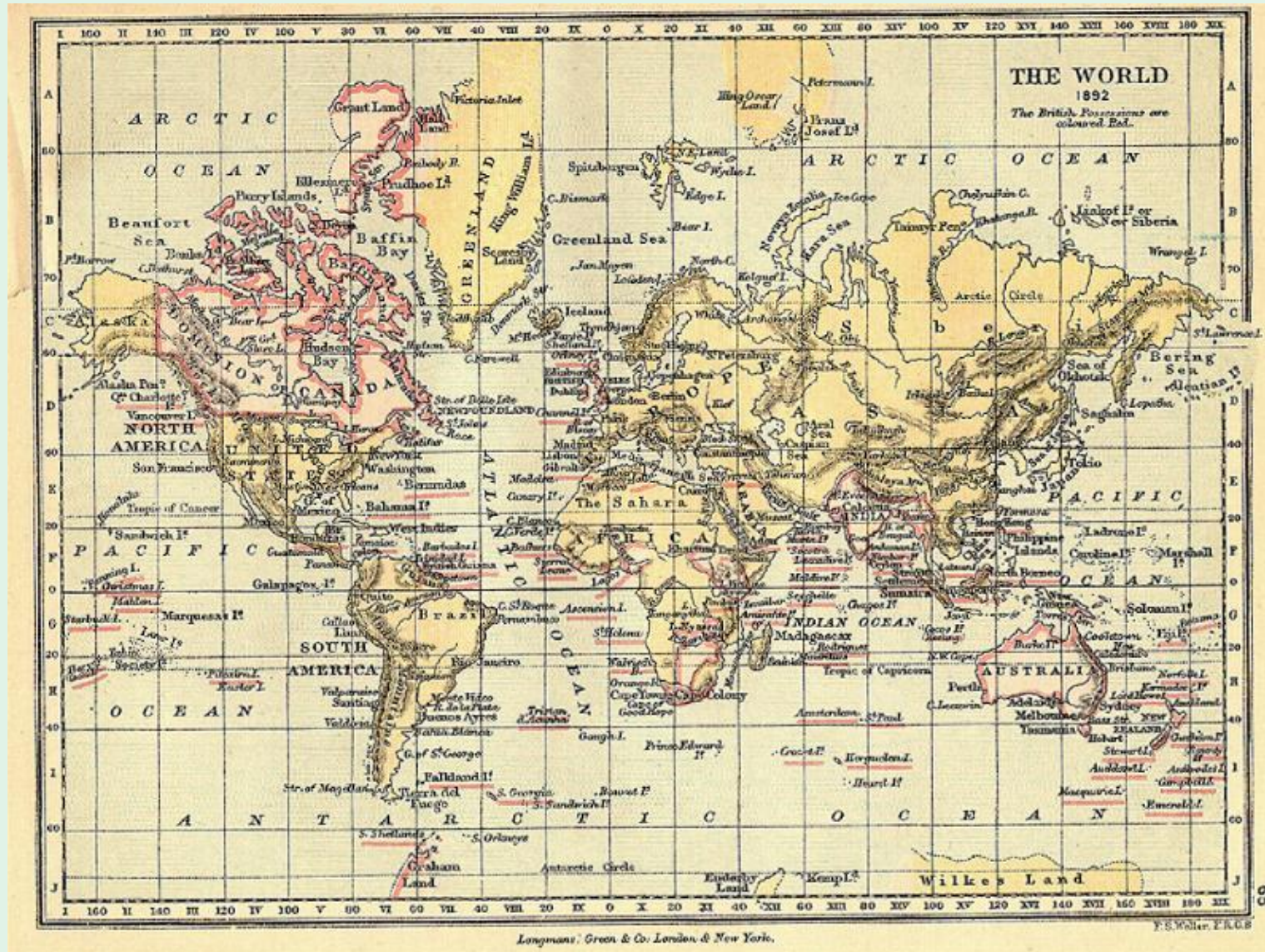
# A New and Accurate Map of the World (1627) by the English cartographer John Speed



# The colonial world in the late 18th century

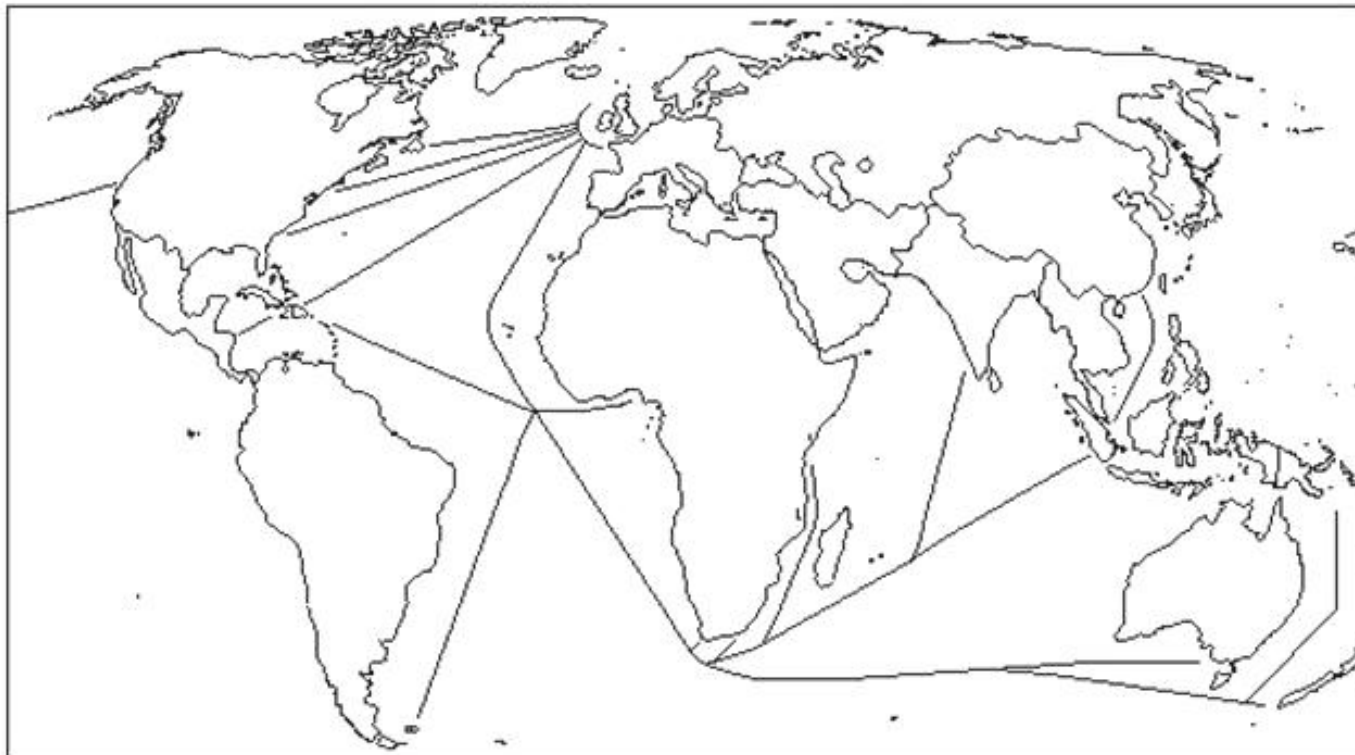


# The colonial world in the late 19th century

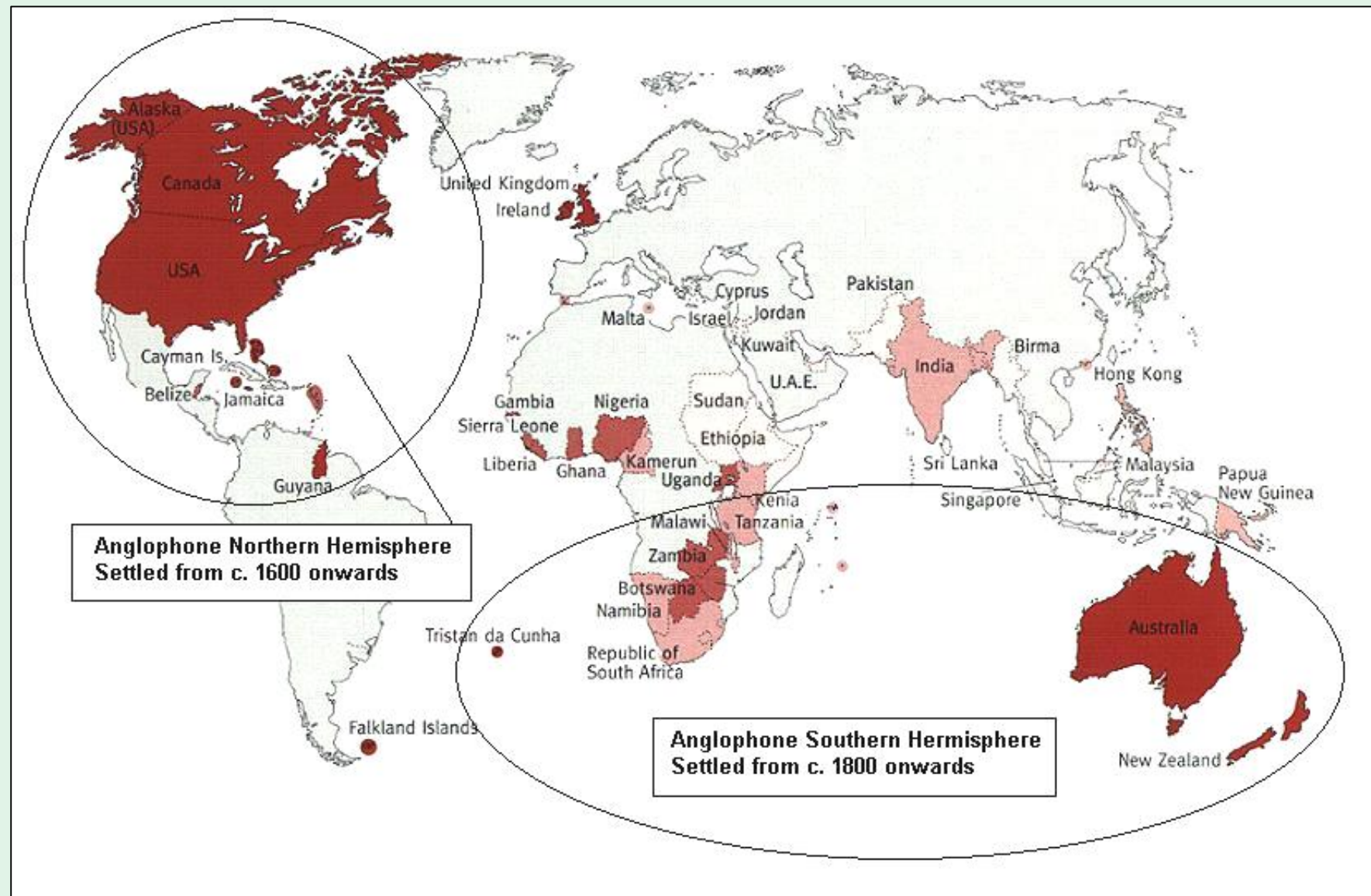


# Spread of English in colonial period

**Routes taken during the spread of English from the British Isles in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries by the English, Scottish and Irish**



# Two halves of the anglophone world



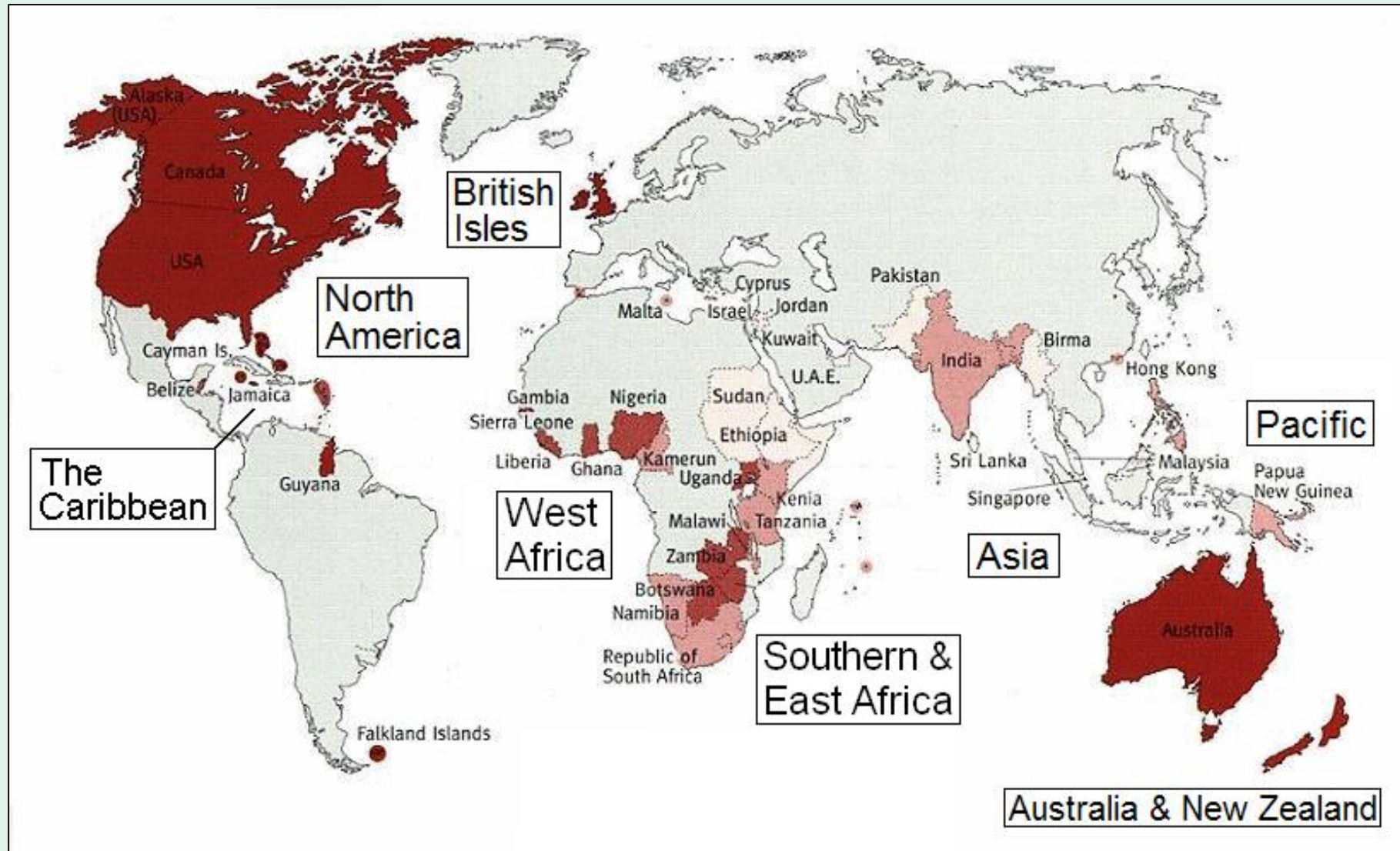


## Some major differences

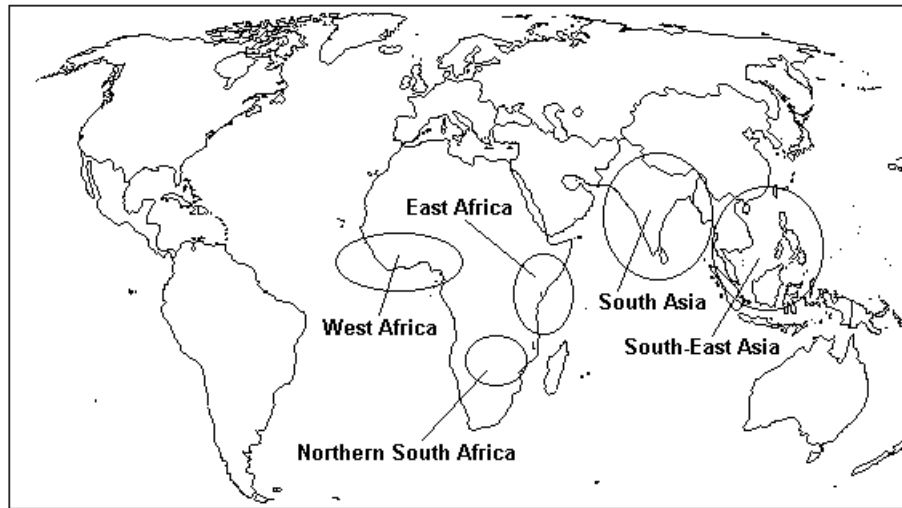
The northern hemisphere was settled first (after 1600) while the southern hemisphere was settled much later (after 1800). This means that forms of English there are closer to English in south-east England today, e.g. in not having syllable-final /-r/ in words like *car* or *card*.

Other major differences between the two hemispheres involve the pronunciation of vowels, e.g. the short front vowels (as in *bad*, *bed*, *bid*) have a raised pronunciation whereas the long vowels and diphthongs (as in *tape*, *time*, *toy*, *taught*) tend to be lowered and/or retracted.

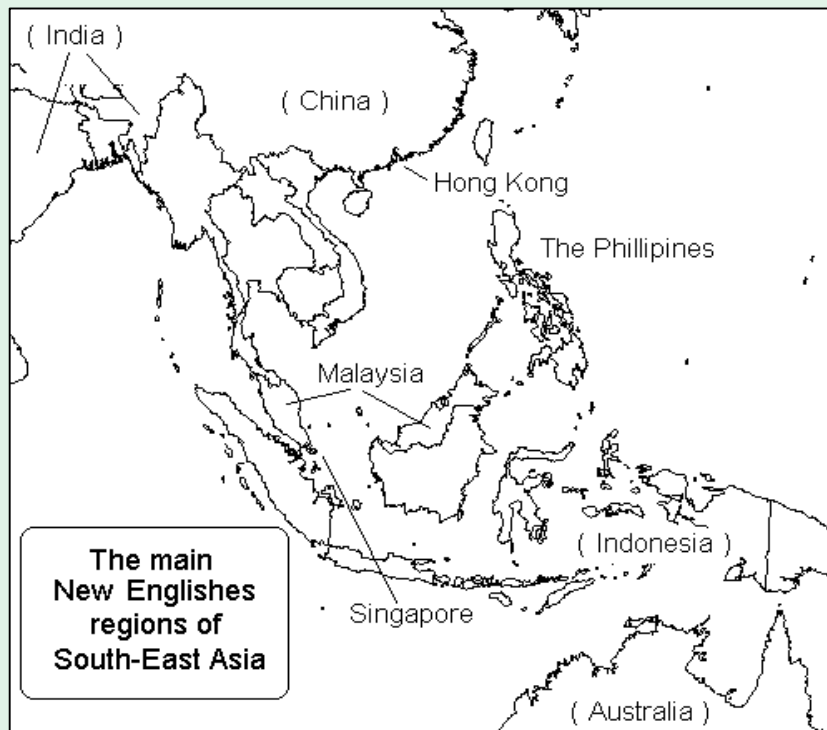
# Main blocks of the anglophone world



'New Englishes' regions in Africa and Asia



# 'New Englishes'



## Scenarios for the English language overseas

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Several factors are responsible for the types of English which have arisen outside Europe during the colonial period, roughly from the early 17th to the late 19th century. Early settlers went to the New World, first to the Caribbean then to eastern Canada and the later United States (to form the original 13 colonies). Some people left the Britain and Ireland of their own free will, some were forcibly deported, some served as indentured labourers.

At the new locations, settlers sometimes mixed with indigenous peoples, with other settlers or with slaves from Africa. This mixture had an effect on the forms of English which arose at the new locations.



# The Caribbean Sea with its islands



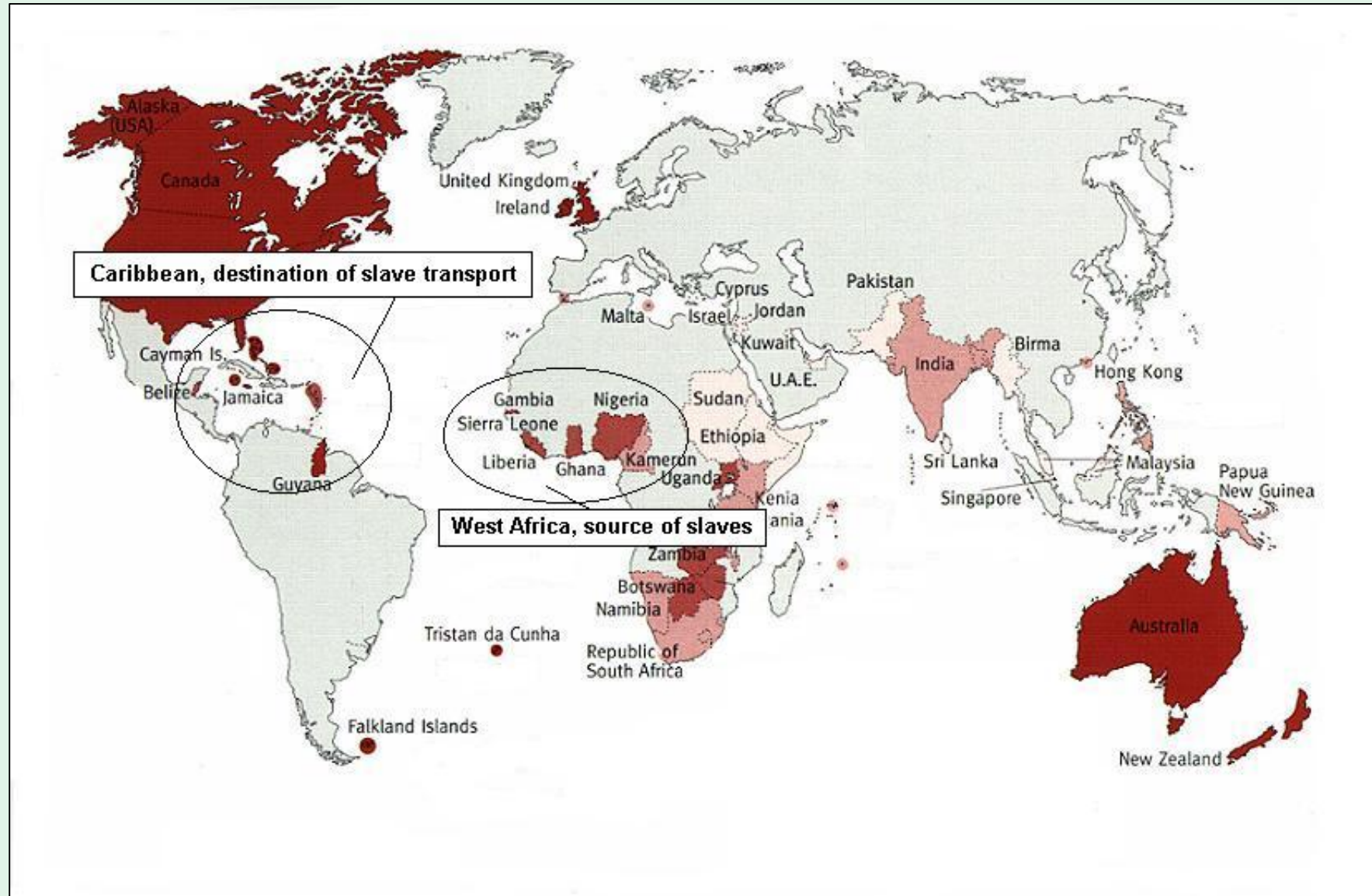
# Main periods in the history of the Caribbean



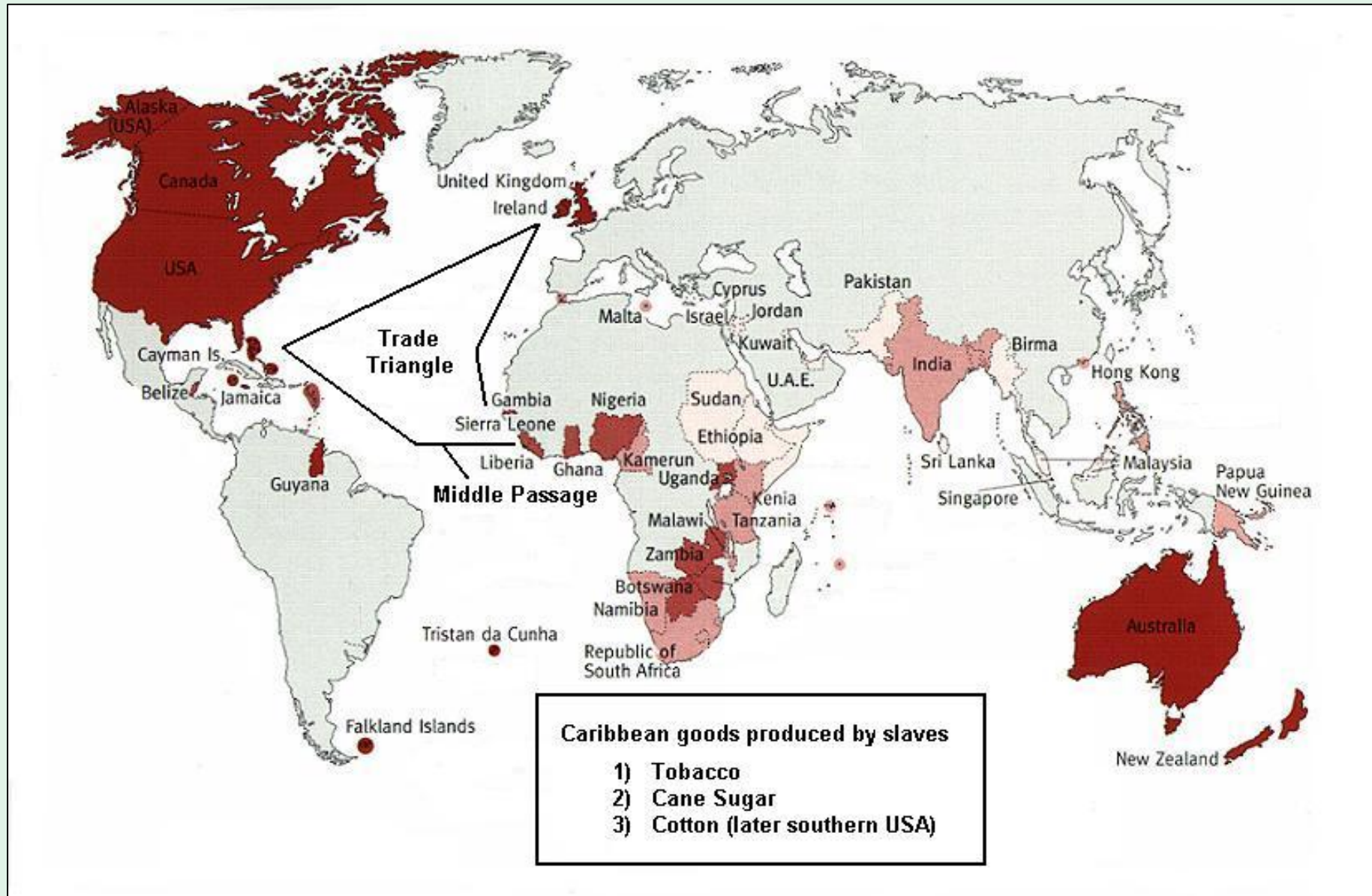
- **Pre-Columbian Period**  
(before 1492)
- **The Spanish Period**  
(after 1492)
- **British Involvement**  
(from the early 1600s onwards)



# Source and destination of slave transportation



# The Trade Triangle



## English in the Caribbean area



The first Caribbean islands to be settled by the British were St Kitts (1623/4) in the north-east and Barbados (1627) in the south-east corner of the Caribbean Basin. When this island filled up, English-speakers left for other locations, especially for Jamaica after it was taken by the British in 1660.

Initially, the Caribbean was populated by whites, during the so-called 'Homestead Phase', later by blacks taken from West Africa as slaves and transported across the Atlantic along the infamous Middle Passage.

Many other smaller islands were populated by English-speakers and many changed hands between the colonial maritime powers, namely England, France, Spain, Portugal and the Netherlands. Most of these islands gain their independence in the mid 20th century.

In the late 17th century a number of Caribbean slaves were transported to the south-east of the United States to work on the large cotton plantations. Later slaves were transported directly. The system of slavery lasted until the end of the American Civil War (1860-65).

# Major English-speaking Caribbean islands



## Jamaica



## Barbados



## English in the Caribbean area



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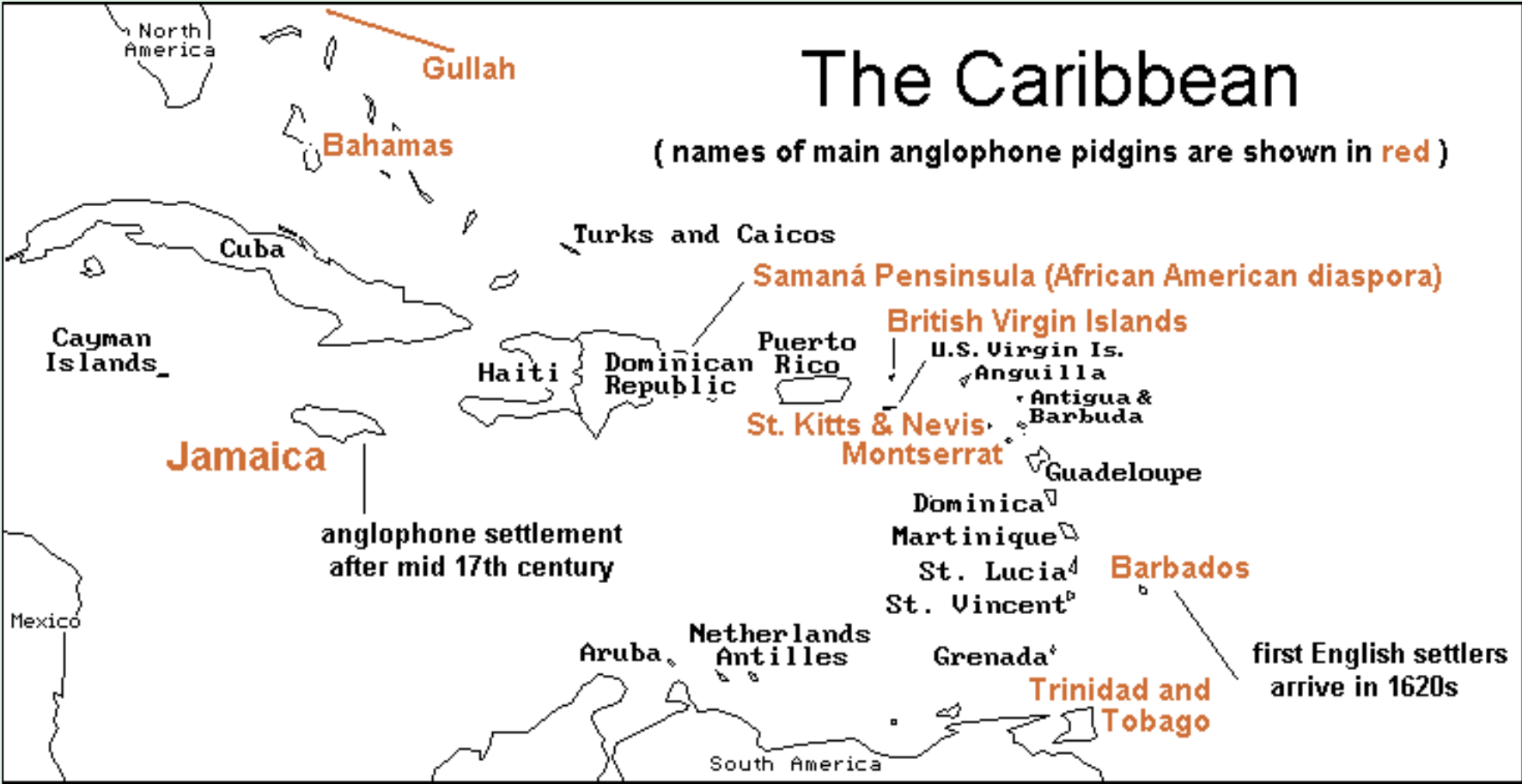
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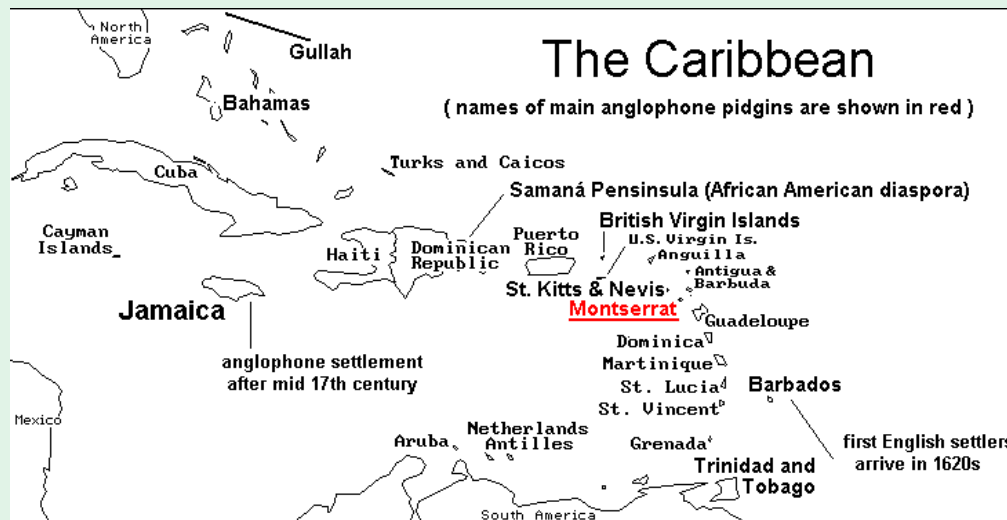
# Anglophone locations in the Caribbean



# Montserrat



Montserrat was first colonized in 1632 by Irish and English Catholics fleeing persecution on nearby St Kitts. Later more Irish settlers came from the Virginia colony on the American mainland. Plantations to grow tobacco, later sugar and cotton, were set up; from 1664 slaves were imported from Africa to work them.





## The settlement of North America

- 1) Newfoundland (eastern Canada)
- 2) East coast of the later United States



Newfoundland is the oldest English colony in Canada. It was settled at least two centuries before the United Province of Canada was set up in 1841 with the Dominion of Canada following in 1867. The province was independent until it decided by a narrow majority to join the Canadian Federation in 1949, after having experienced considerable economic difficulties (with technical bankruptcy in 1934) and direct administration by Britain until shortly after the Second World War.



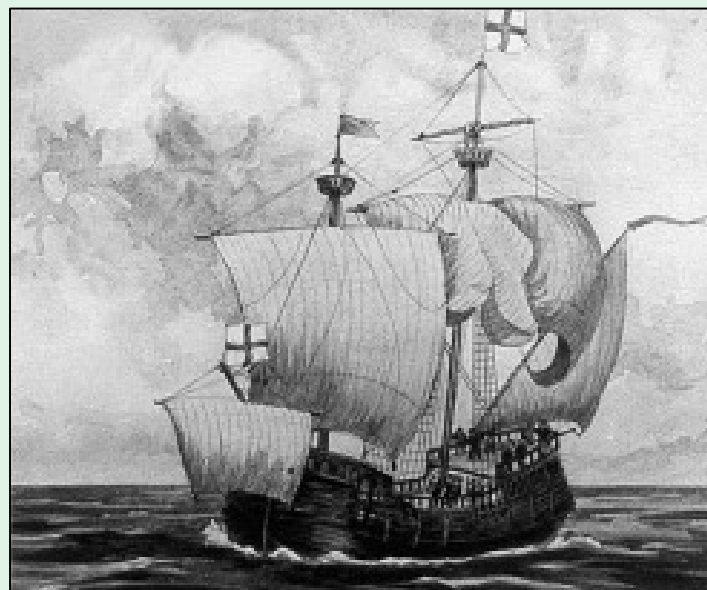
## Europeans reach Newfoundland

Newfoundland was (re)discovered in 1497 by John Cabot, seeking like Columbus before him, a short route to Asia.

Cabot departs from Bristol



Cabot's ship, the Matthew



Newfoundland later formally annexed for Britain by Sir Humphrey Gilbert in 1583.

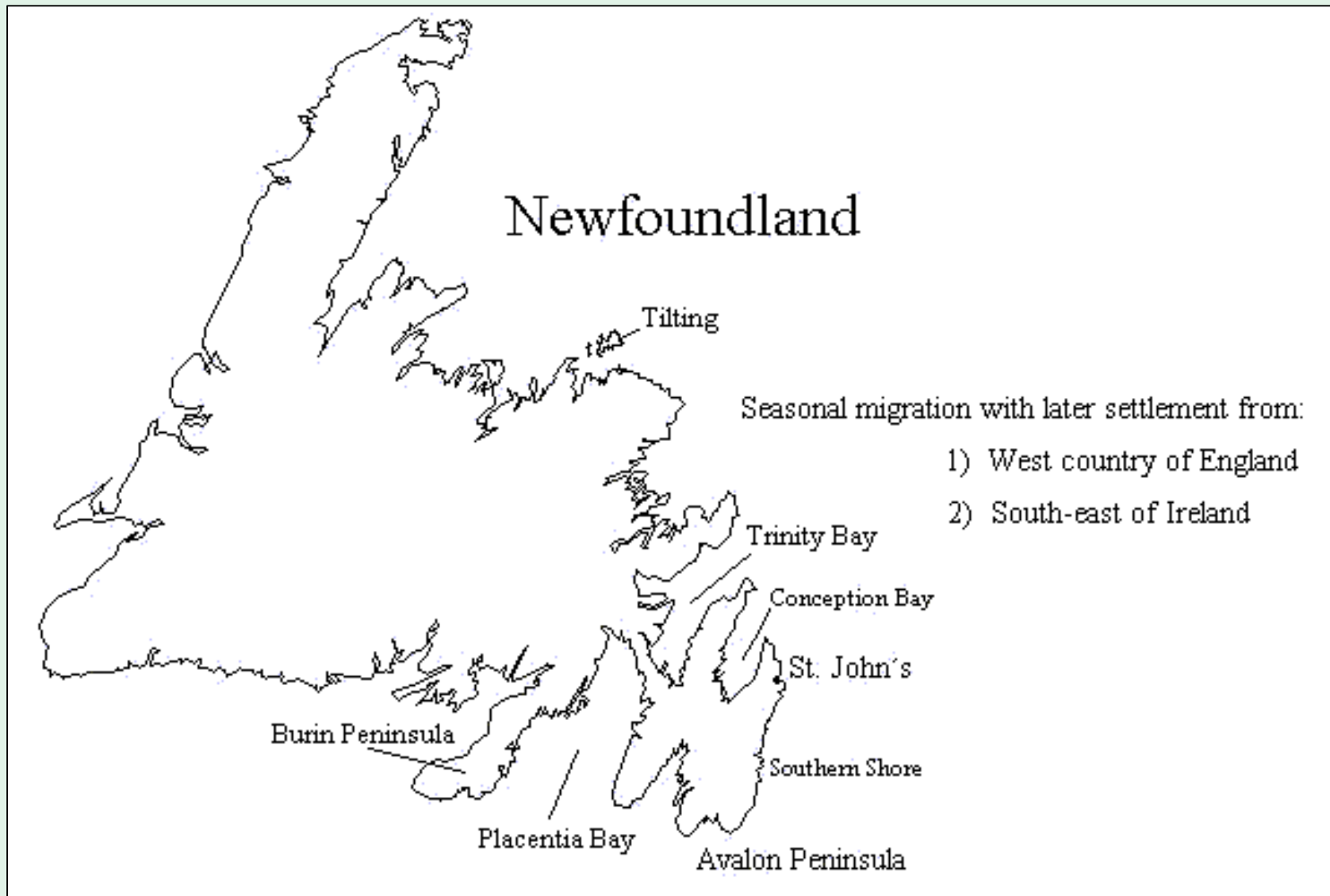


# Early map showing Newfoundland (with Grand Banks)

The Grand Banks are fishing grounds off the south-east coast of Newfoundland which gave the Irish name for the island: *Talamh an Éisc* 'Ground of Fish'

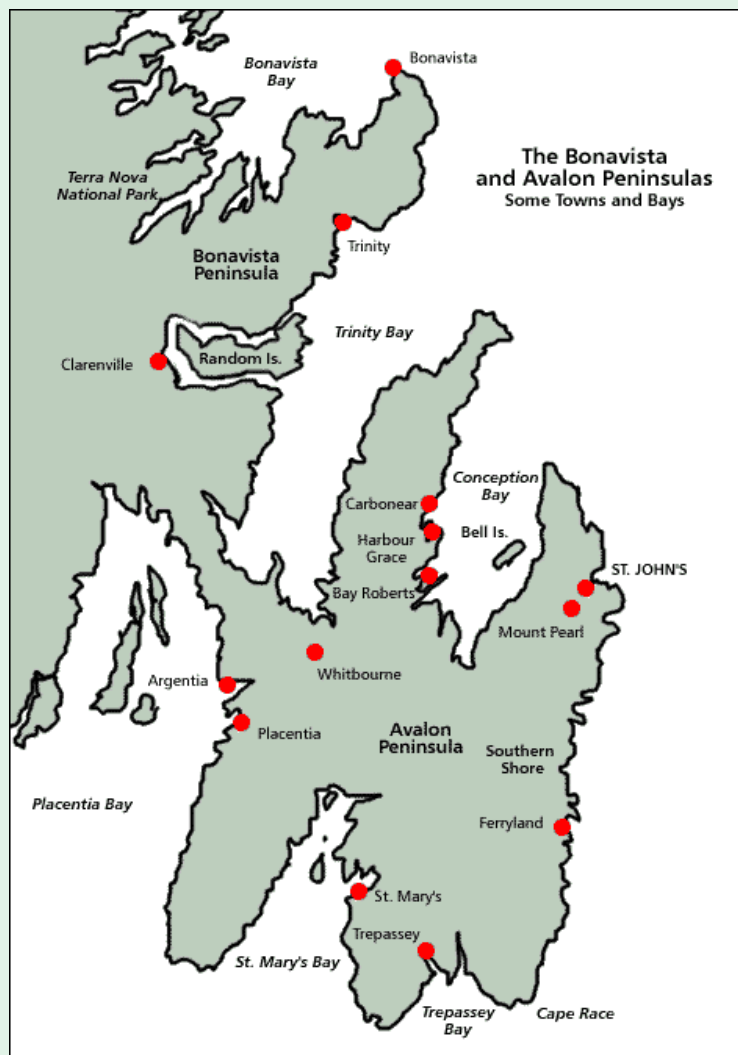


# Relevant locations for English in Newfoundland





## The Avalon Peninsula in South-East Newfoundland



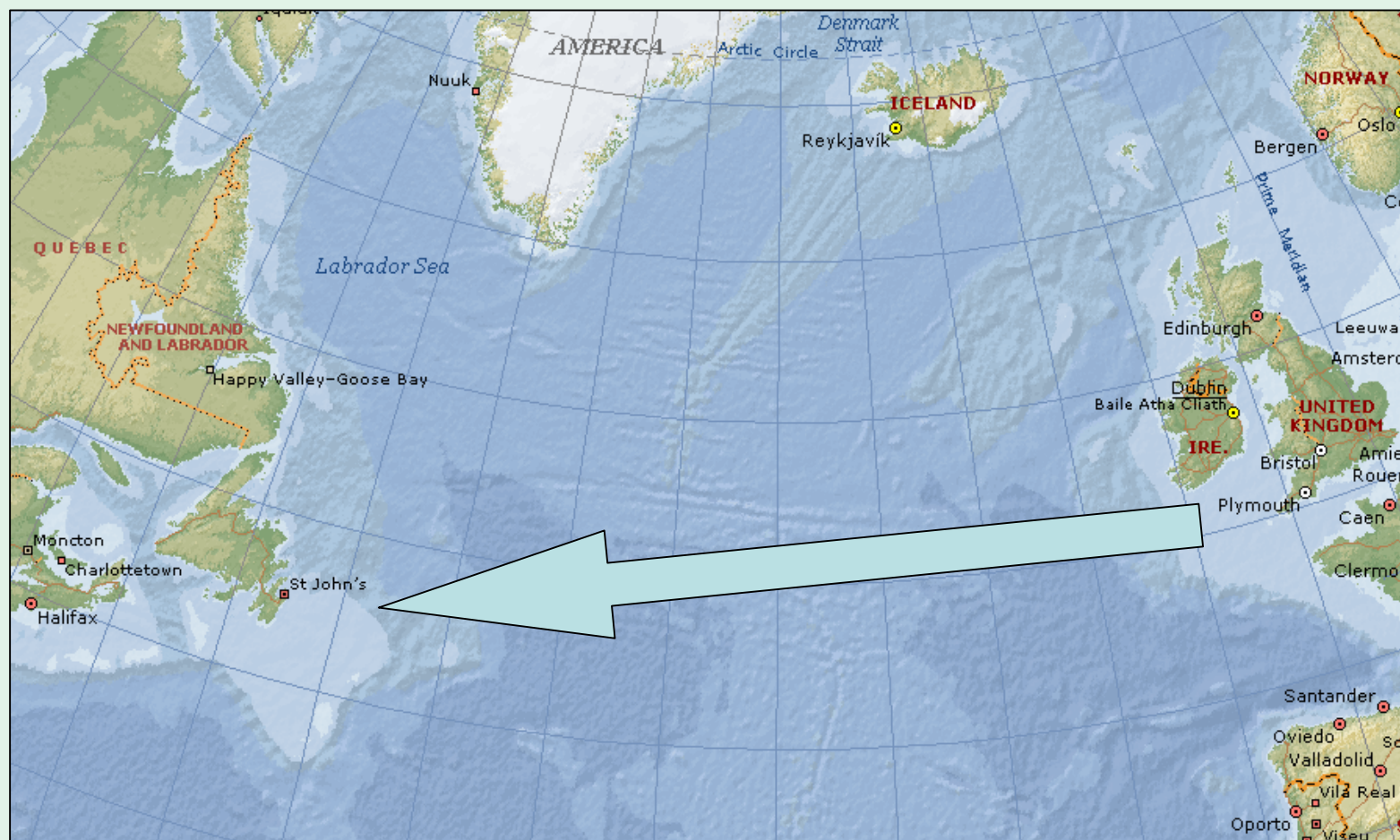


## St. John's, capital of Newfoundland (view from Signal Hill)





## How was English taken to Newfoundland?



Transatlantic route for seasonal fishing on the Grand Banks





# Linguistic features

## Second person plural forms

There is a gap in the personal pronouns of standard English: there is no special form for the second person plural. But virtually all varieties of English have some means of distinguishing formally between the singular and plural in the second person.

Newfoundland English is no exception in this respect and has at least the forms *ye* and *youse* (along with the much more recent American import, *you guys*).

*Ye* is an older English form (actually the original second person plural personal pronoun). *Youse* is an Irish form consisting of *you* + plural *s*, created by speakers when shifting from their native language Irish to their new second language English.



## Linguistic features

	Singular	Plural
English	<i>thou (N), thee (W, SW)</i>	<i>you, ye</i>
Irish English	<i>you</i>	<i>ye, youse, yez</i>
Scottish English	<i>you</i>	<i>yous, yous yins</i>
Newfoundland English	<i>you</i>	<i>ye</i>
Southern American English	<i>you</i>	<i>y'all, y'uns</i>
African American English	<i>you</i>	<i>you, y'all</i>
Caribbean English	<i>you</i>	<i>unu, wuna, yina, etc.</i>
South African English	<i>you</i>	<i>youse, y'all</i>
Australian English	<i>you</i>	<i>youse</i>
New Zealand English	<i>you</i>	<i>youse</i>
Pacific Creole English	<i>yu</i>	<i>yupela, yumi</i>

*Second person pronouns in varieties of English*



# Linguistic features

## Demonstrative *them*

The use of *them* for *those*, *Them shoes are cheap*, is ubiquitous in vernacular forms of English deriving from settler varieties, including English in Newfoundland (both varieties). This usage was, however, found in careful and formal usage up to the seventeenth century and only disappears from such registers during the following century with the rise of prescriptivism.

So demonstrative *them* is a typical example of a feature which was transported to many overseas locations and which has survived in vernacular forms of speech there.

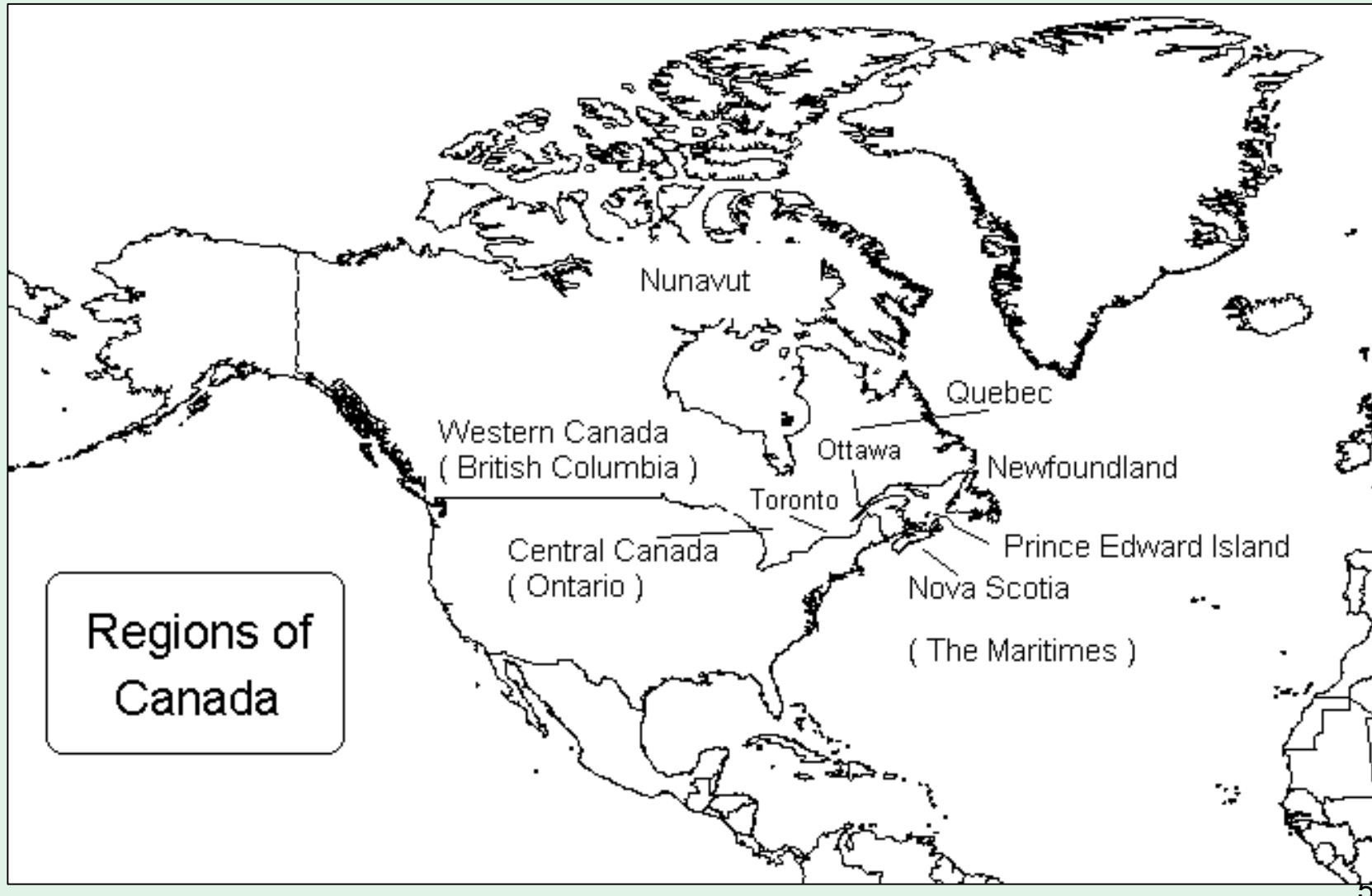


# Linguistic features

## ***After-perfective***

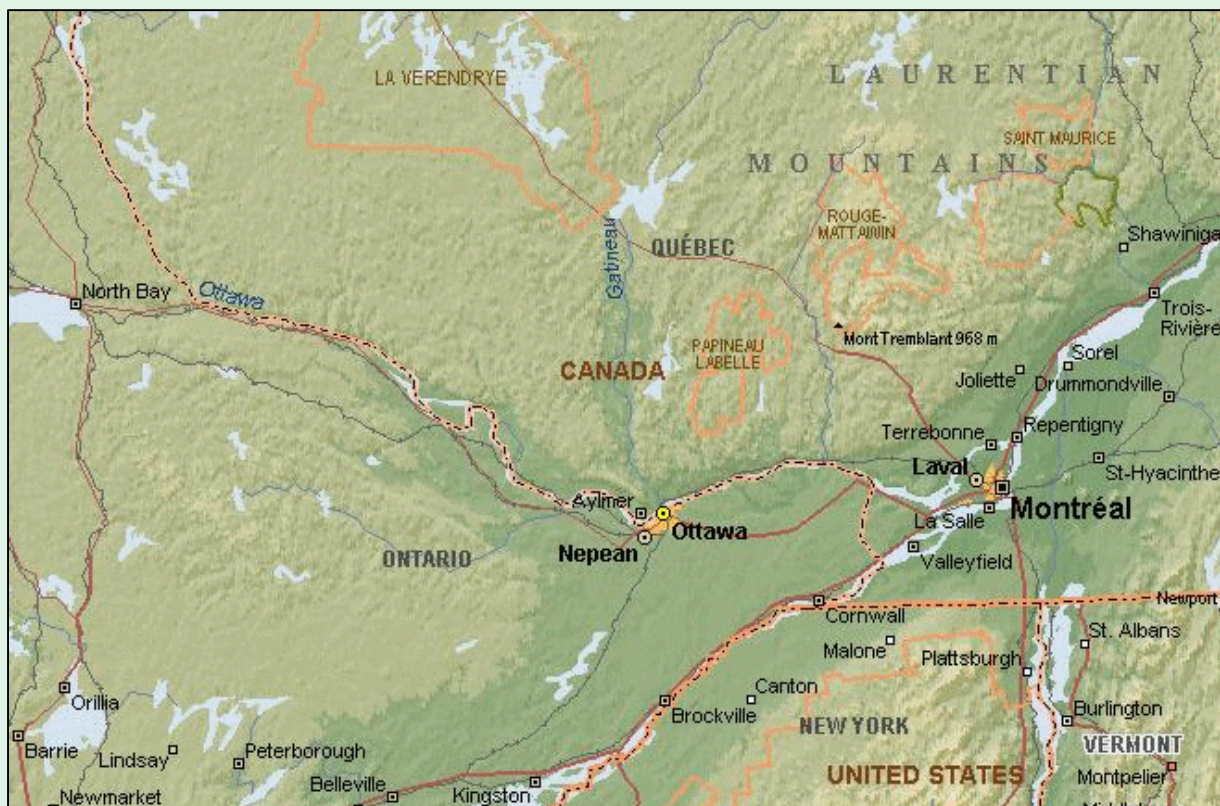
*After* is a temporal adjective which can have a prospective use, as in current standard English *He is after a new car*, i.e. 'He is looking for a new car' or a retrospective use as in vernacular Irish English, *He is after breaking the glass* 'He has just broken the glass'. The latter usage is easy to understand by reversing the direction in which *after* is interpreted. The cognitive ease with which this can be done explains why the structure spread from the Irish community in Newfoundland to the English one as well.

# Dialect regions of Canada





# Ottawa Valley (central Canada)



Ottawa Valley had a considerable Irish settlement during the 19th century and traces of an Irish accent remained among Canadians in the area well into the 20th century.



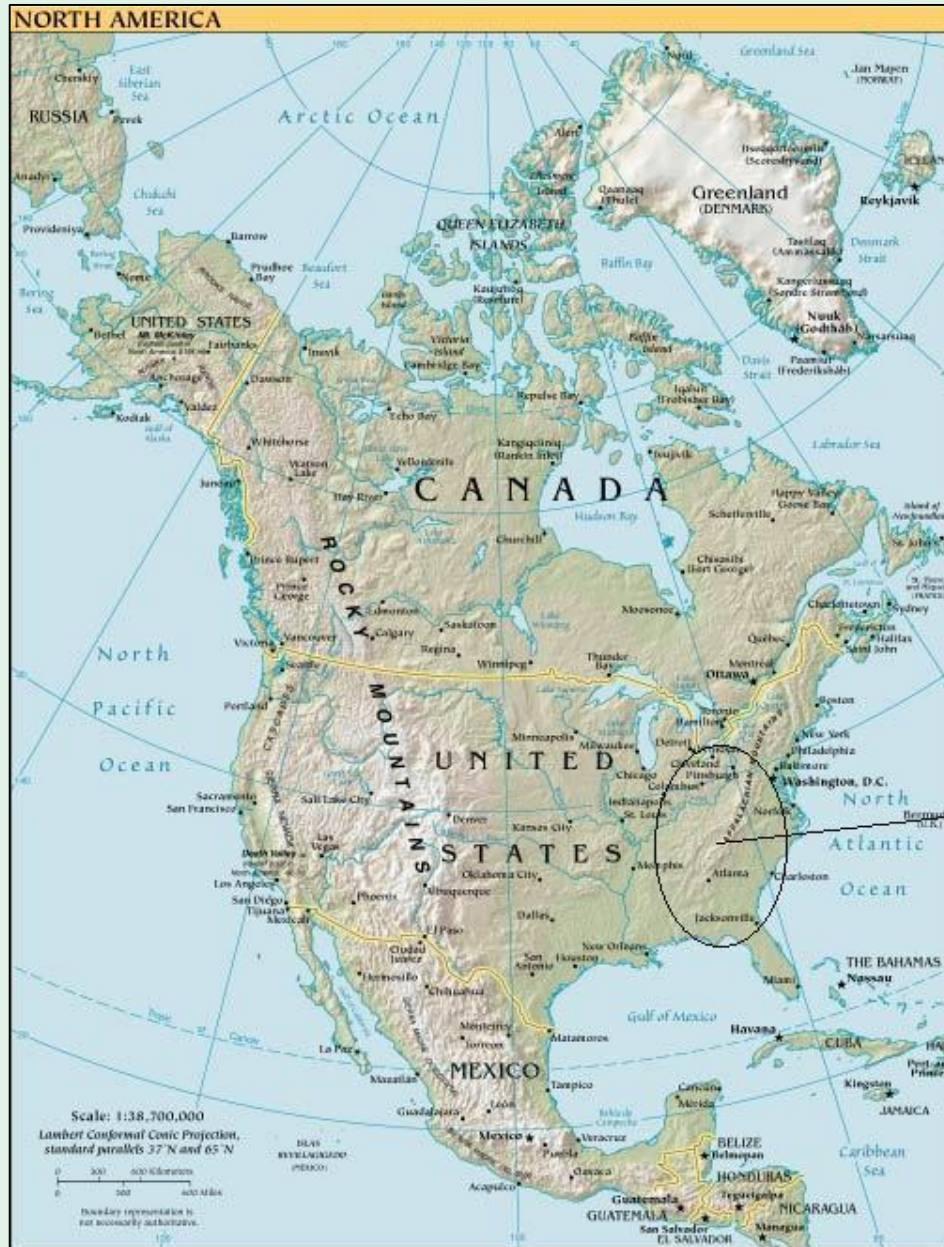
# Emigration to the United States

## ***Scotch-Irish***

During the 18th century upwards of a quarter of a million Scots and Ulster Scots emigrated to the east of America. They settled in states along the coast from Pennsylvania down to South Carolina. Many of them also settled in the Appalachian mountains and the speech of this region shows many traces of Scots input to this day.

## ***Irish Catholics***

Later in the 19th century many millions fled Ireland as a result of famine (e.g. the Great Famine of 1845-8). These largely Catholic emigrants settled in the cities of the north-eastern United States, such as New York and Boston. Because they were considerably later than the Scots their speech did not have a comparable effect on American English, though locally there are traces of this Irish English input.

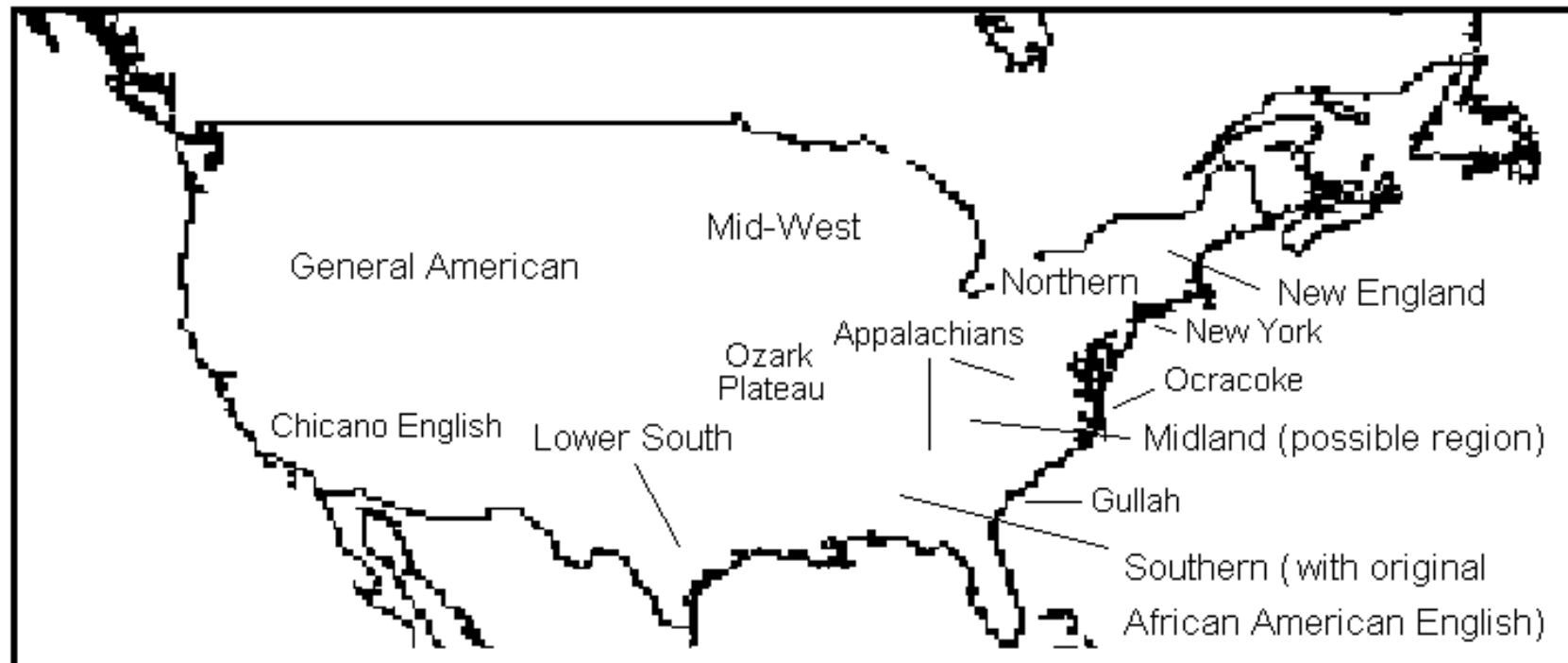


East Coast of United States (roughly from Pennsylvania down to South Carolina). Destination of many Ulster Scots emigrants in the 18th century (up to 250,000)



Note the concentration of dialect different in the eastern United States which is due to the diverse nature of early emigration to this area.

### Main dialect regions of the United States



# The Southern Hemisphere

The anglophone southern hemisphere consists primarily of South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. These are countries where 'settler English' continues.

Irish input to South Africa was minimal but quite significant in Australia where many Irish were deported in the early days of the country as a penal colony (in the later few decades of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th centuries). Later there was normal emigration to Australia and to New Zealand where mass emigration began after the treaty of Waitangi between the British and the local Maori in 1840.

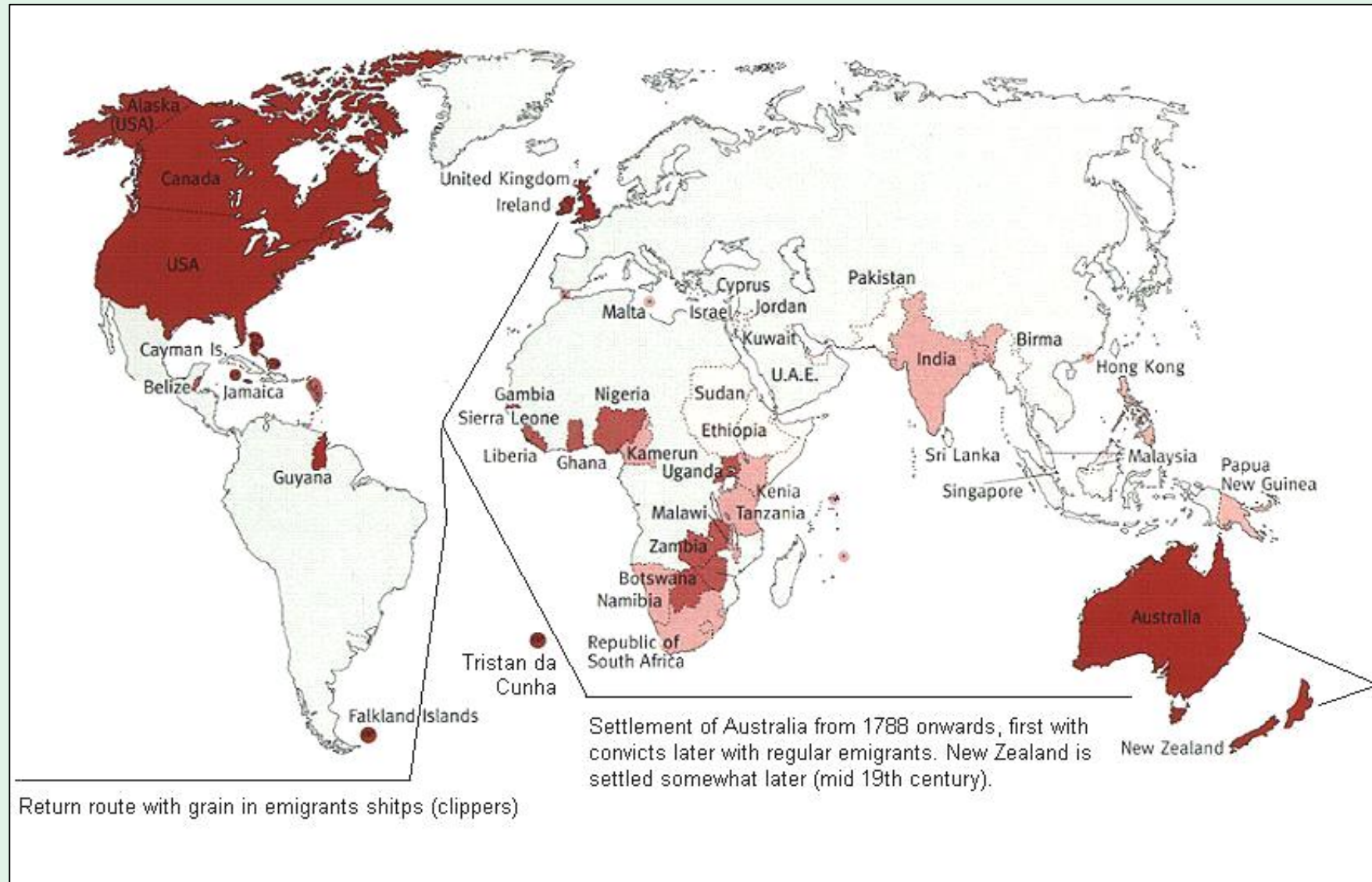
# The early anglophone settlement of South Africa



Western Cape, settled as of 1795

Eastern Cape, settled in 1820's

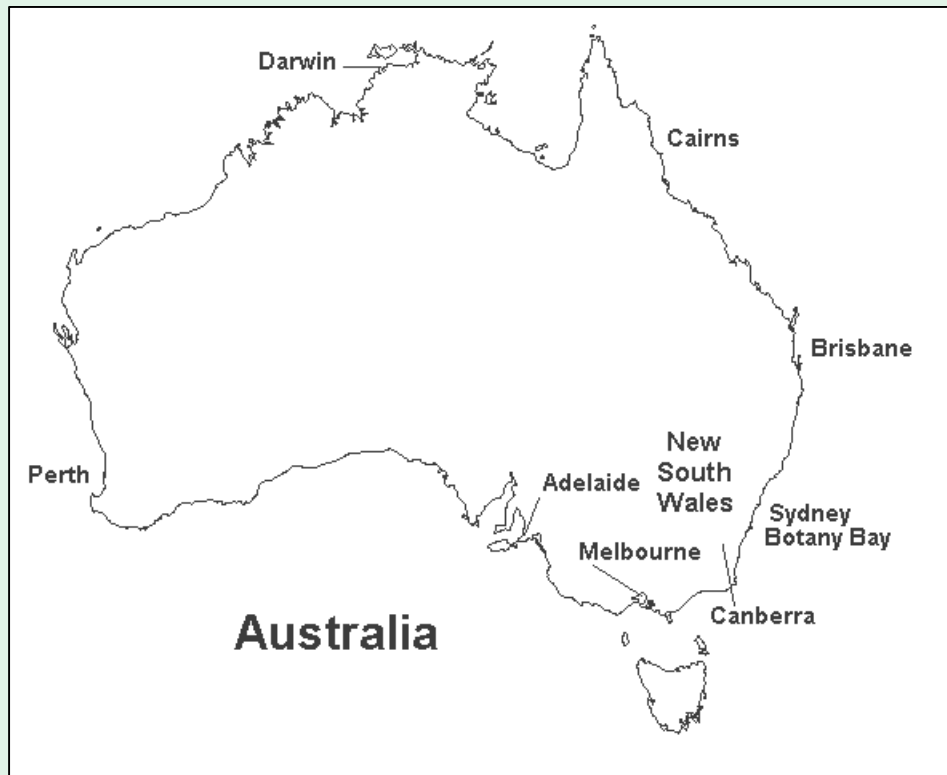
# Transportation to Australia / New Zealand



# Australia and New Zealand

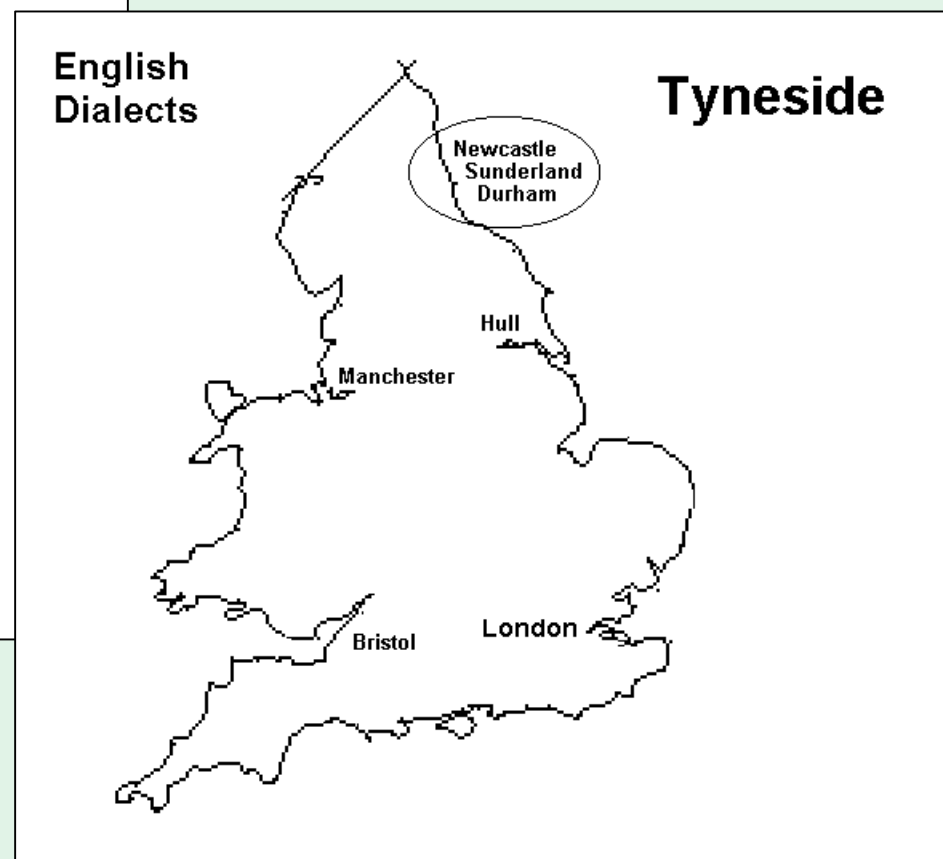


Both Australia (1788 - ) and New Zealand (1840 - ) had considerable Irish input (between 25% and 30% of the original settlers). However, their speech was not continued at either location, probably because of the dominance of English speech models, given that both countries were colonies of Britain.





# And what about Britain?





# And what about Britain?

## Merseyside

There has also been an influence by the many migrants from Ireland to the Liverpool area in the nineteenth-century. This sector of the population of that city are, or at least were, working-class Catholics and had one feature of Irish English – the soft *t* as in *pit* or *pity* – which to this day is still typical of Liverpool English.

## Newcastle upon Tyne

This city also saw Irish emigration in the nineteenth century. Among its features which could be of Irish origin would be (i) the use of *ye* for *you* in the plural, (ii) the clear *l* in words like *field* or *deal* and (iii) the use of *mustn't* for *can't* as in *He musn't be Irish*.

# Literature on Varieties of English



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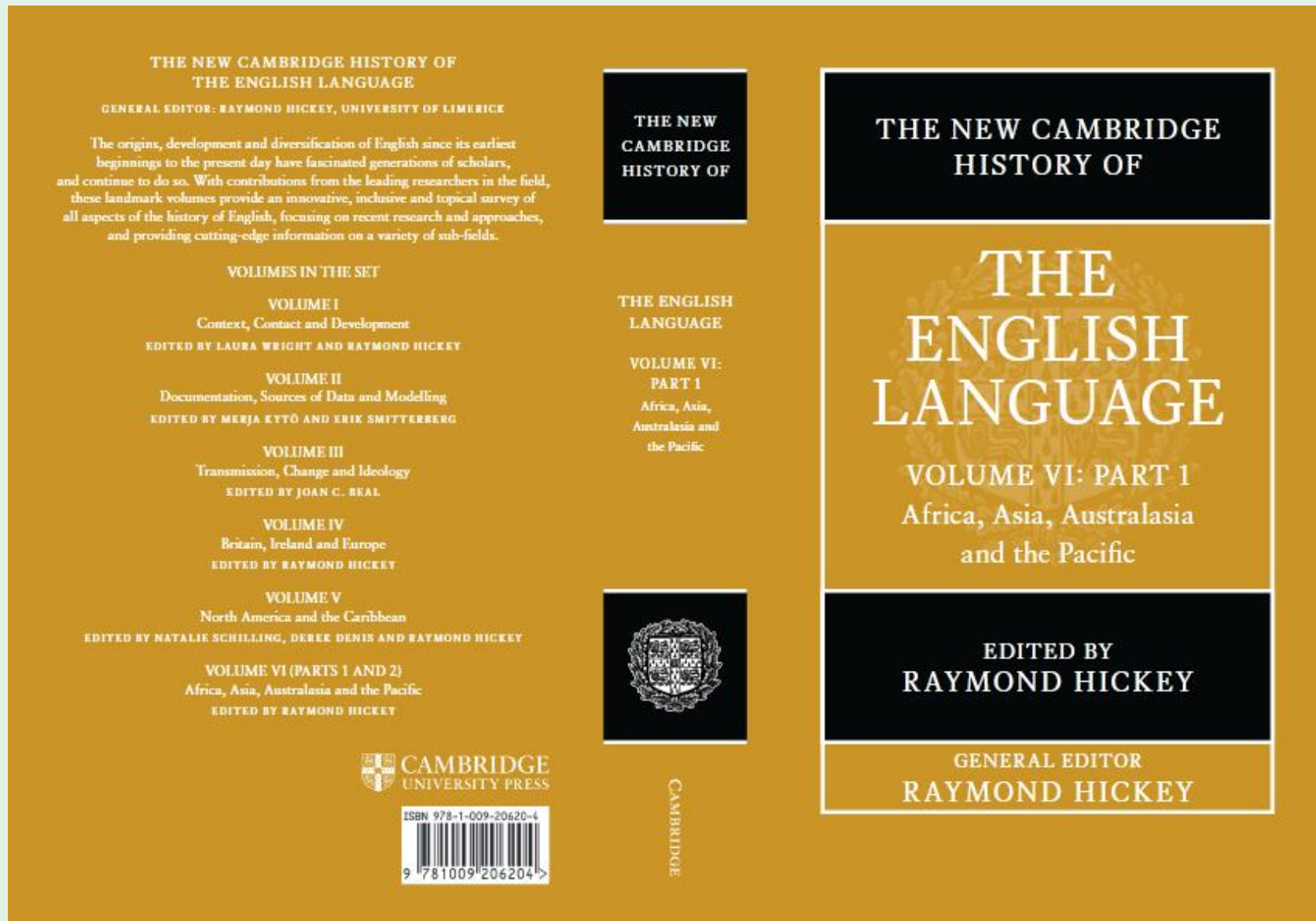
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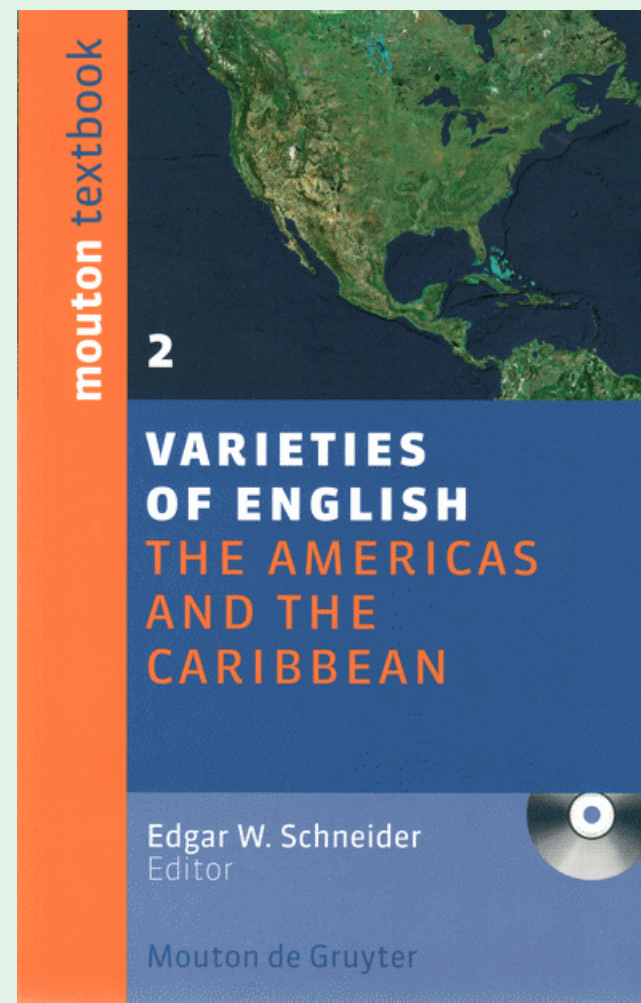
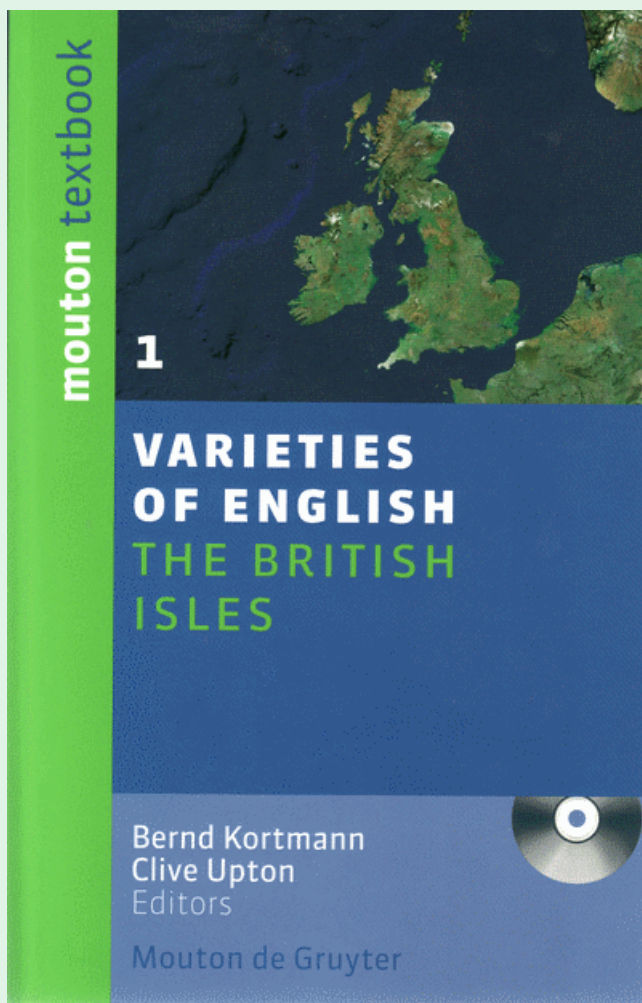
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# Literature on Varieties of English



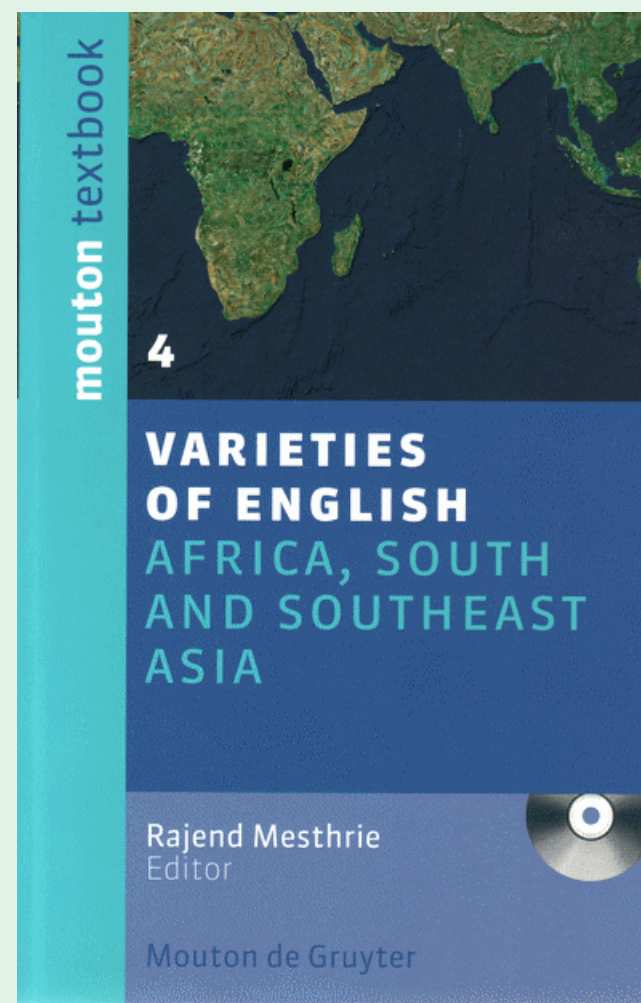
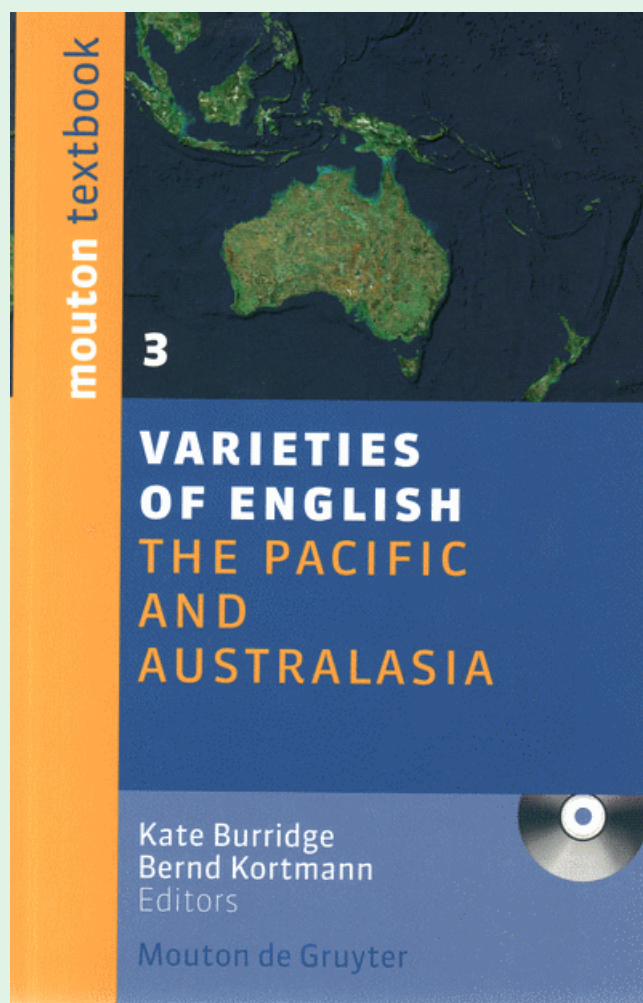


# Literature on Varieties of English

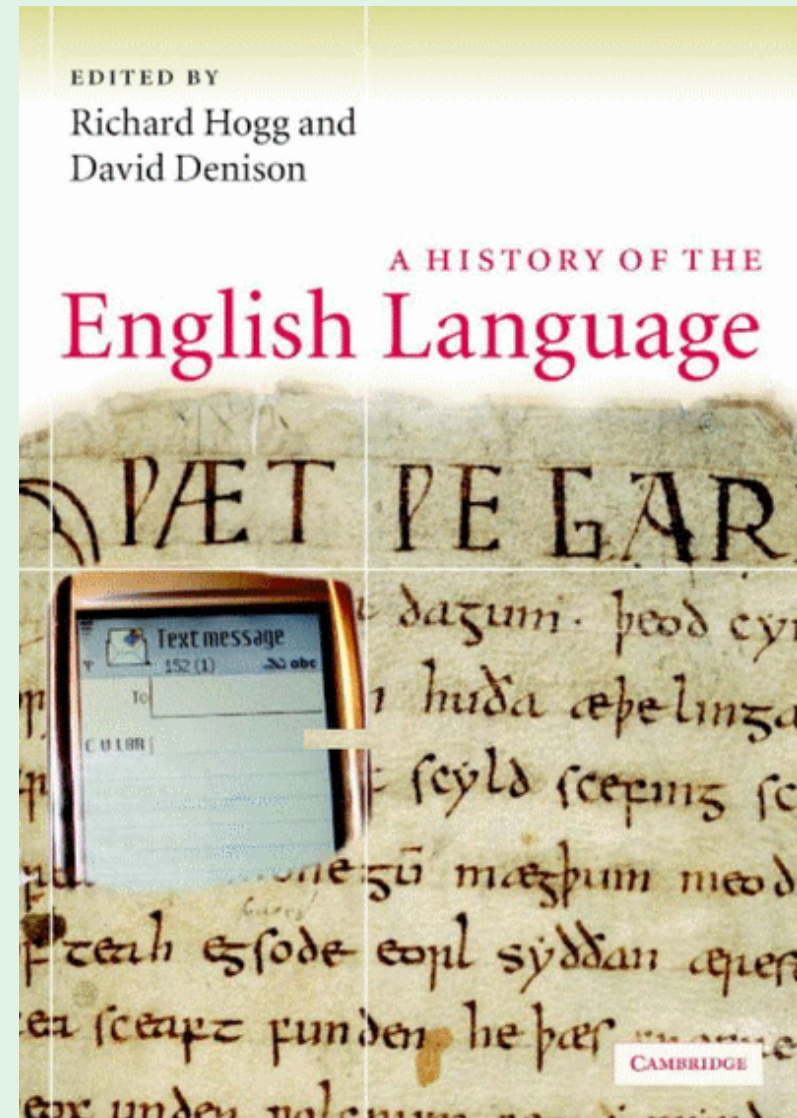
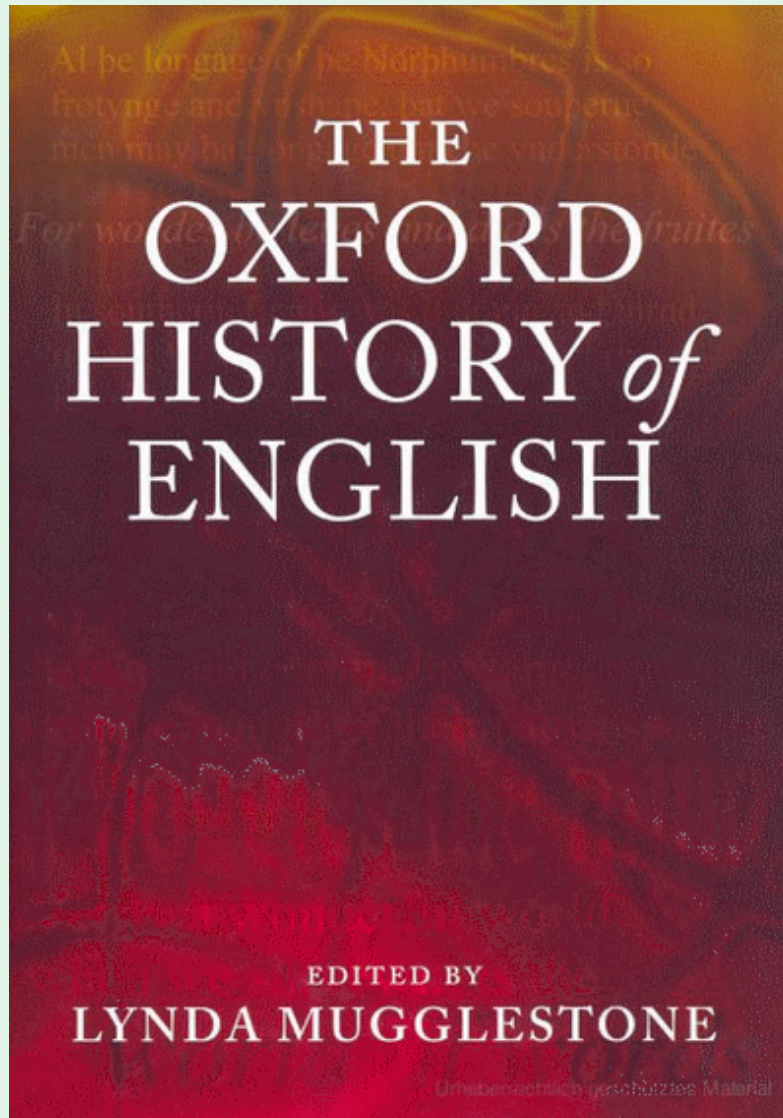




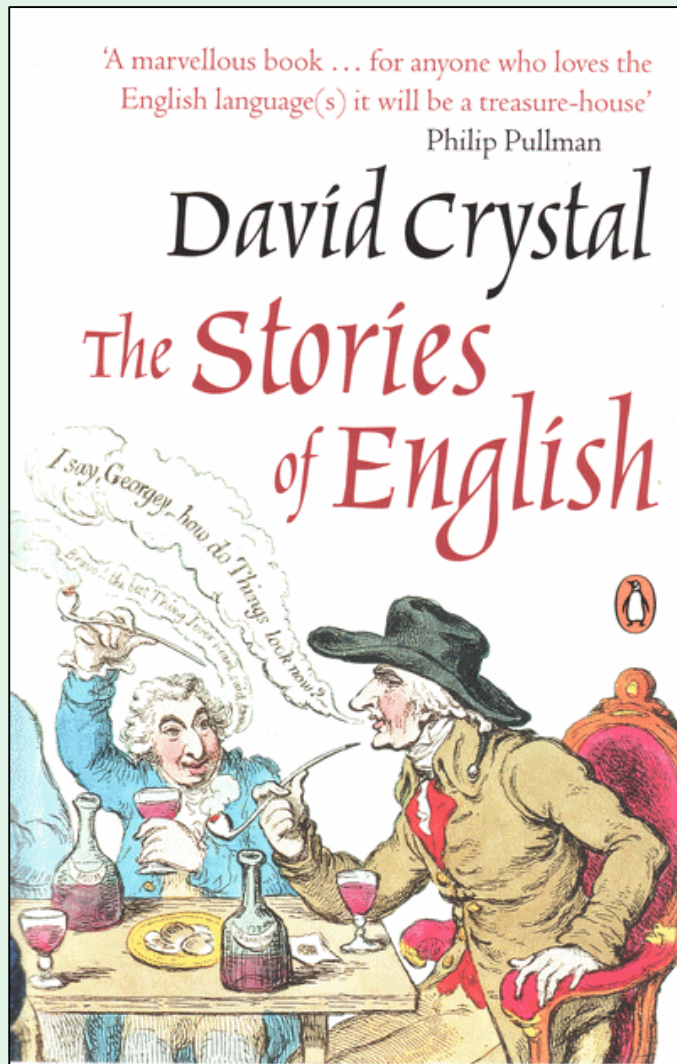
# Literature on Varieties of English



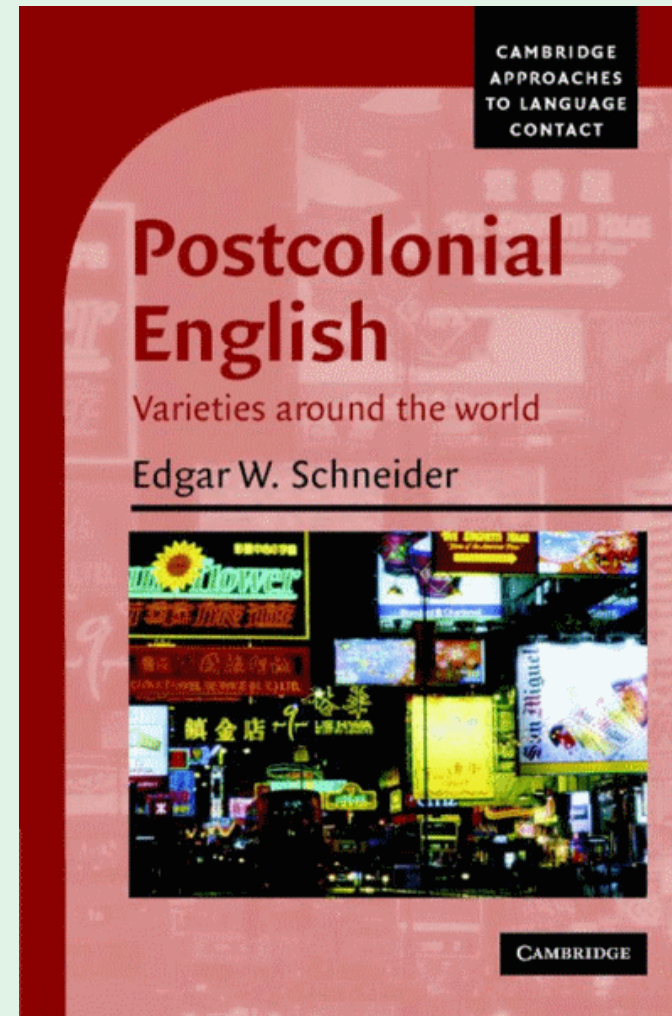
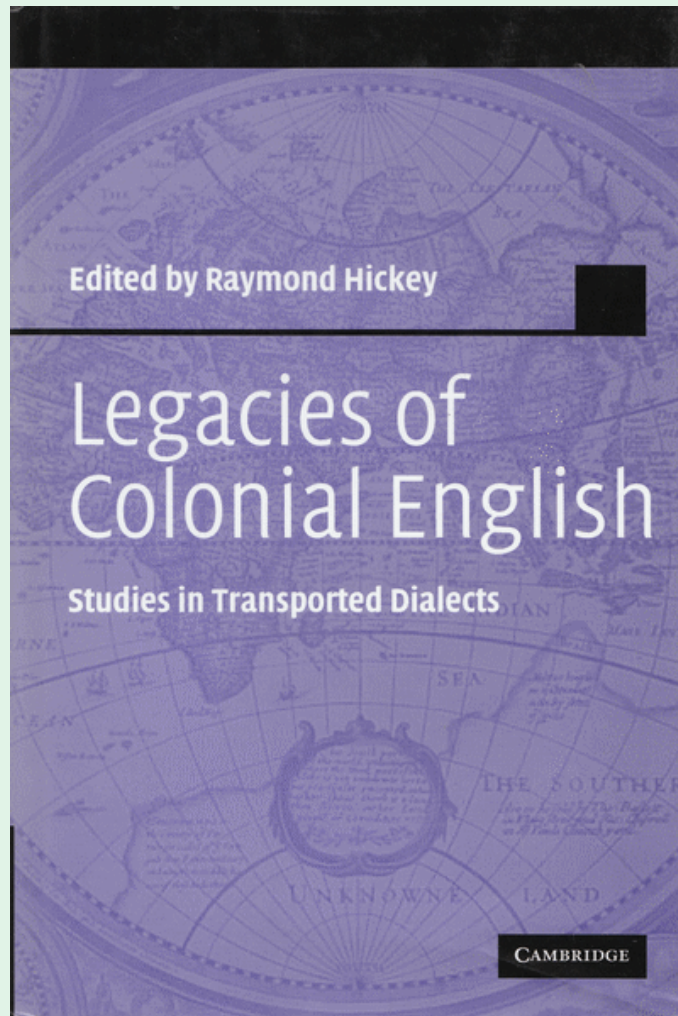
# Conventional histories of English



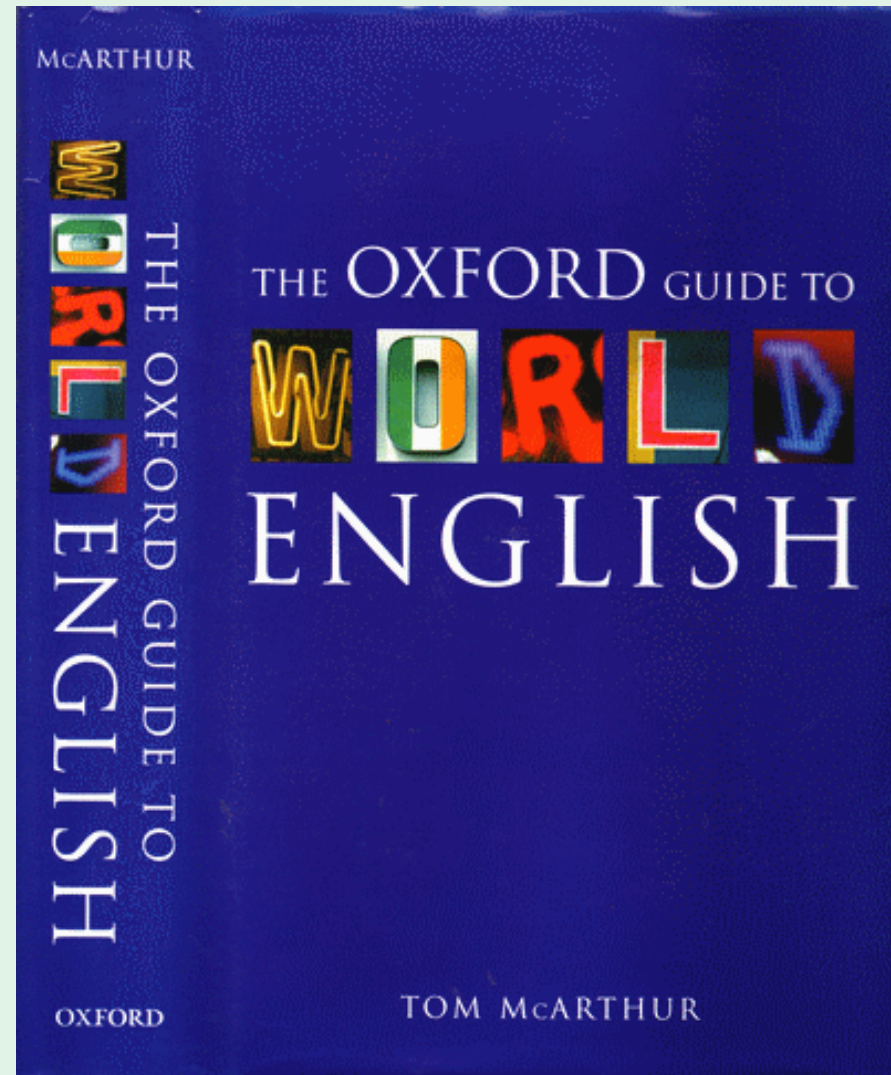
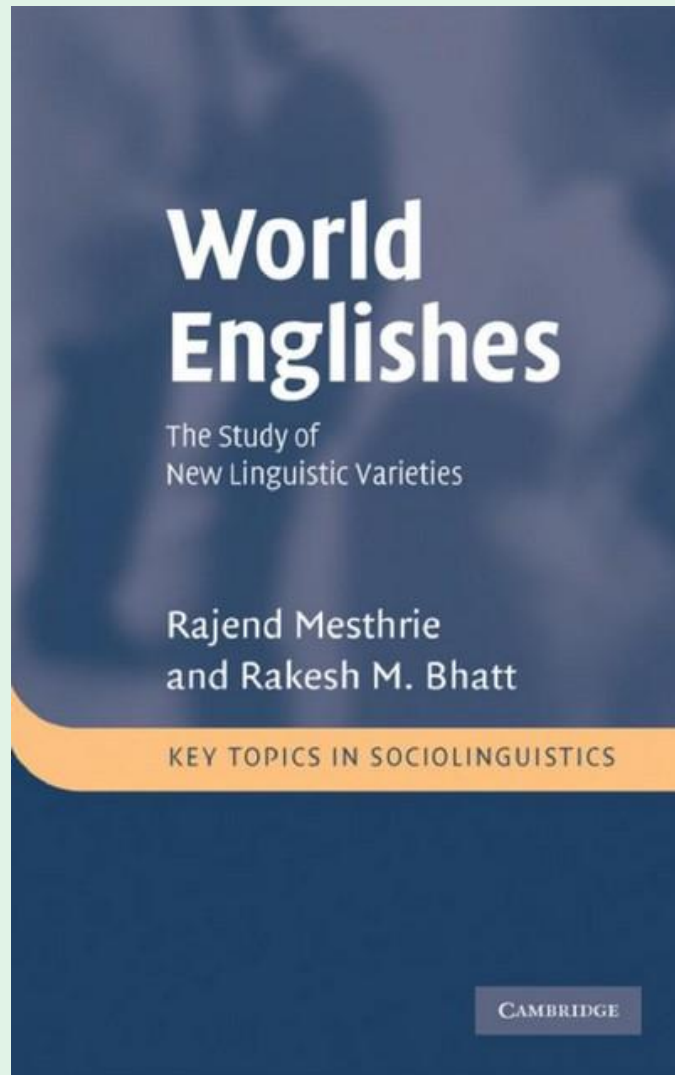
# More inclusive overviews of English



# Literature on the spread of English



# Literature on World Englishes





## Studying Varieties of English

- [-] +
- [-] Introduction
  - [+] Themes
  - [+] Research trends
  - [+] Technical help
  - [+] About this website
  - [+] Glossary
- [-] Preliminaries
  - [+] Terminology
  - [+] Dialectology
  - [+] Variety studies
  - [+] Sources for varieties
- [-] Overviews
- [-] Divisions
- [-] Developments
- [-] Models
- [-] Timelines
- [-] Gallery
- [-] Maps
- [-] References
  - [+] Overviews
  - [+] Sets of references
  - [+] References for varieties
- [-] Search website
- [-] Dictionary update

Last update: January 2026

[< back](#) [forward >](#)

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### Themes in *Studying Varieties of English*

<a href="#">Overview information on website</a>	
<a href="#">Themes discussed on website</a>	
<a href="#">Timelines</a>	<a href="#">Glossary</a>
<a href="#">Gallery</a>	<a href="#">Maps</a>
<a href="#">History</a>	<a href="#">References</a>
<a href="#">Sources</a>	<a href="#">Site map</a>

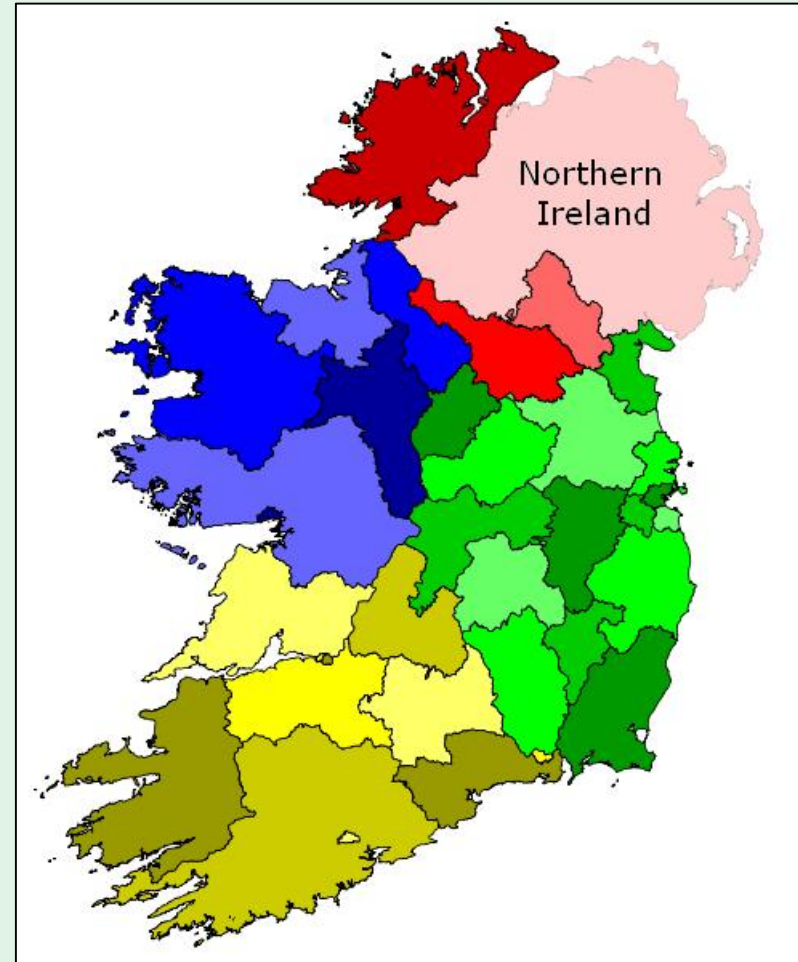


The present website offers information about varieties of English around the world. It contains factual information about these varieties but also summaries and discussions of the methods used in variety studies and the various theoretical proposals for analysing varieties of English. To consult any of the modules click on a link in one of the following lists. The present module shows what is contained in the website thematically. If you don't find something via the theme list, try the options in the tree on the left (make sure you open the branches by clicking on the plus sign). If you click on an option below you can return to the theme list by clicking on the button *back* at the top of the window you have moved to (hitting the LeftArrow-key while holding the Alt-key down has the same effect) or just click on the option *Themes* in the tree on the left. You can also [search the website](#) for text content. A wide range of definitions with extensive information are contained in the [glossary](#). There is also a module offering [technical help](#).

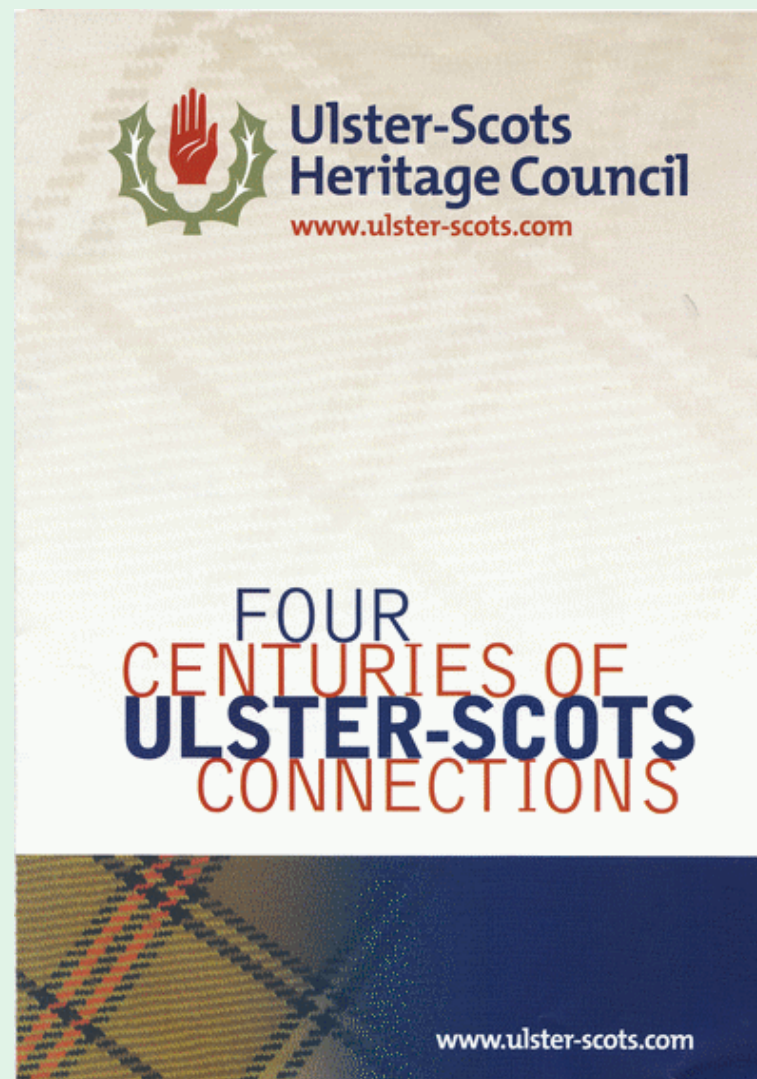
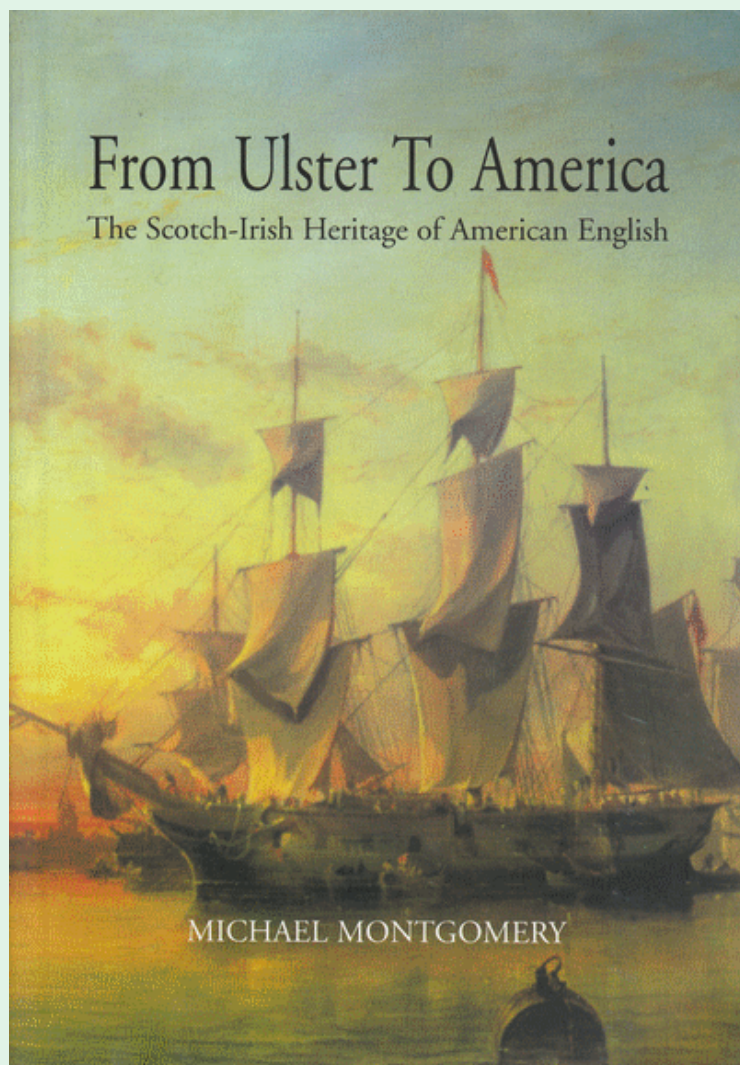


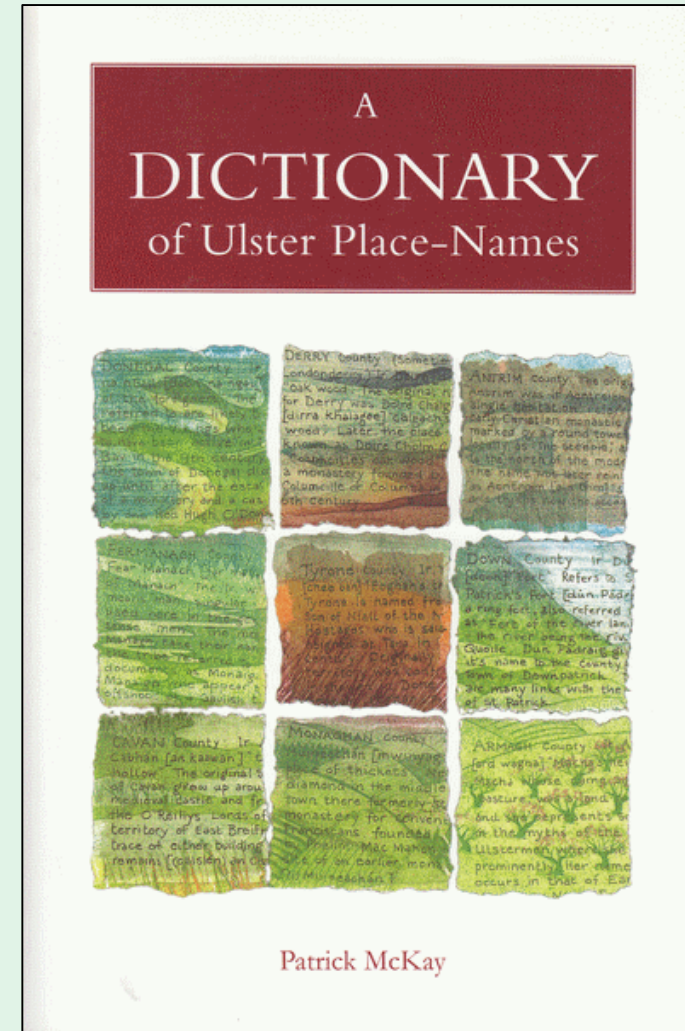
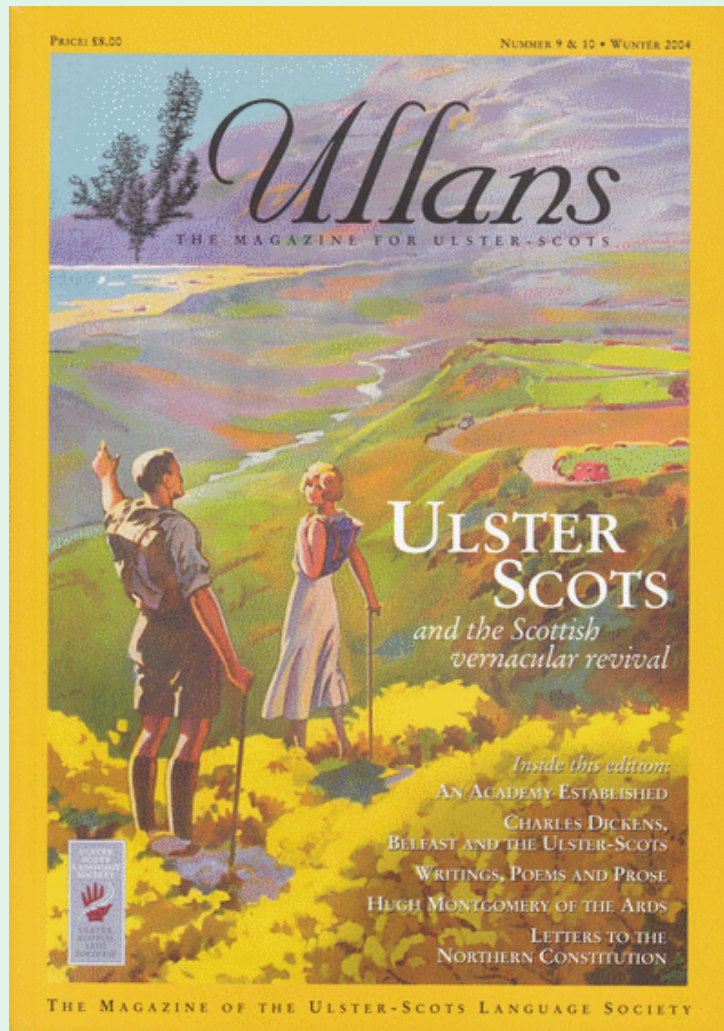
Overview information

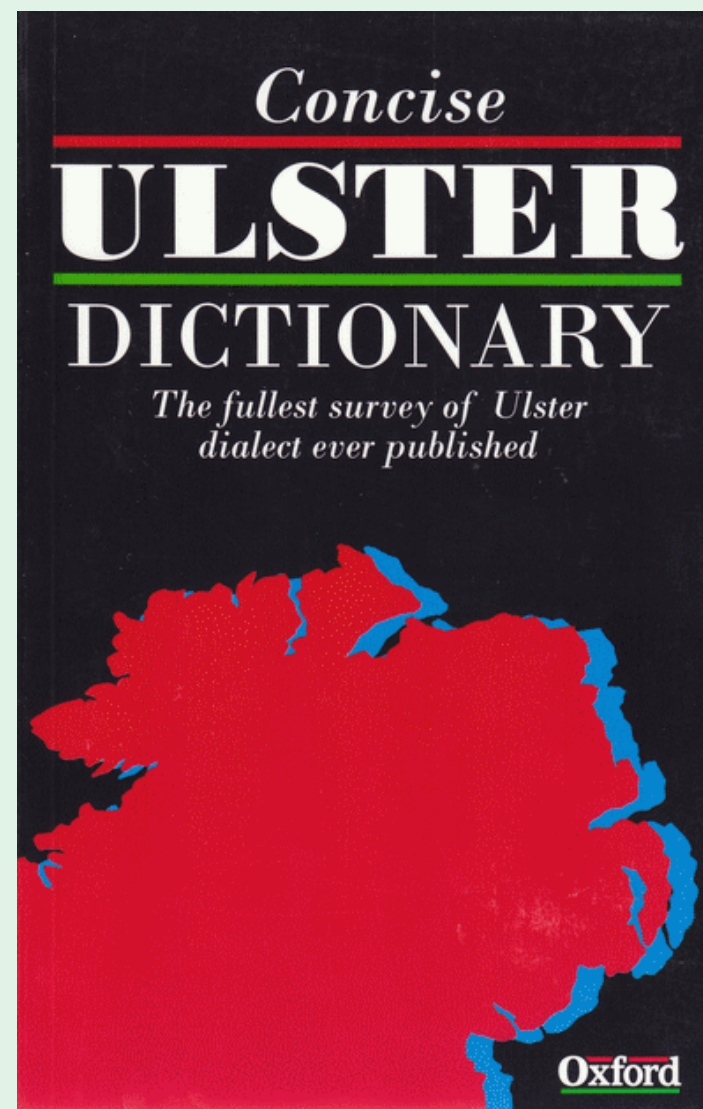
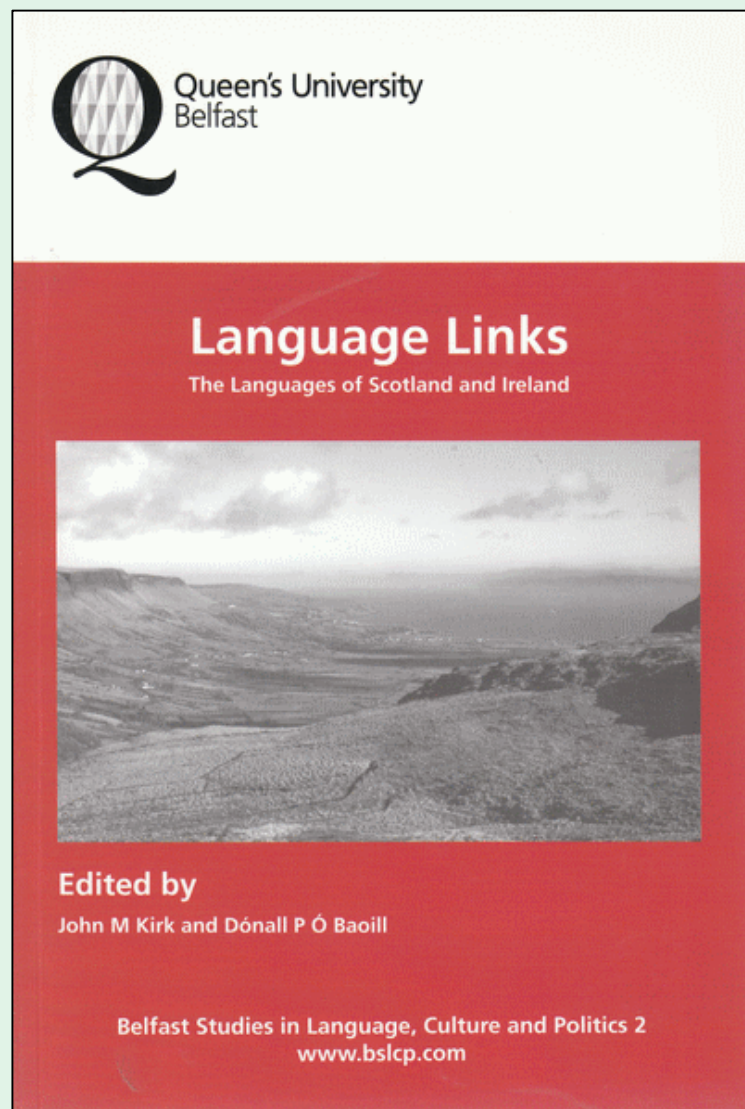
# The development of English in the north of Ireland



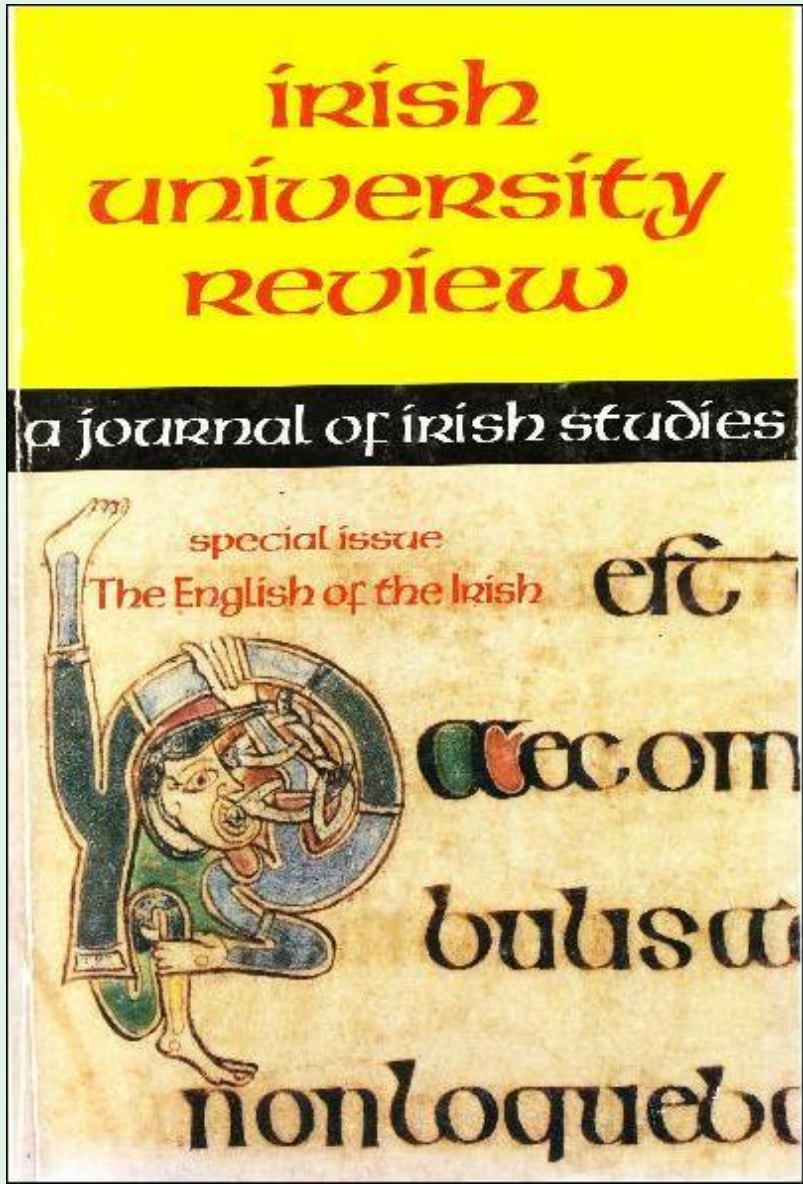
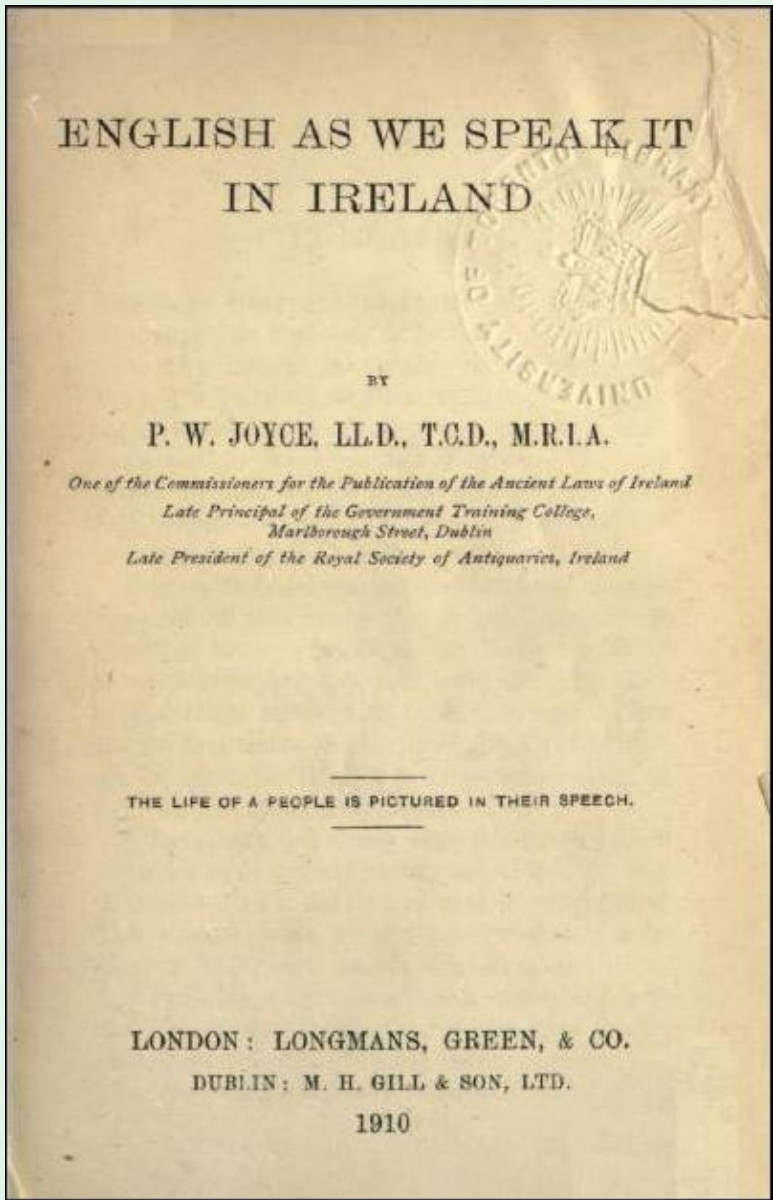
website: [http://www.raymondhickey.com/index\\_\(IERC\).html](http://www.raymondhickey.com/index_(IERC).html)

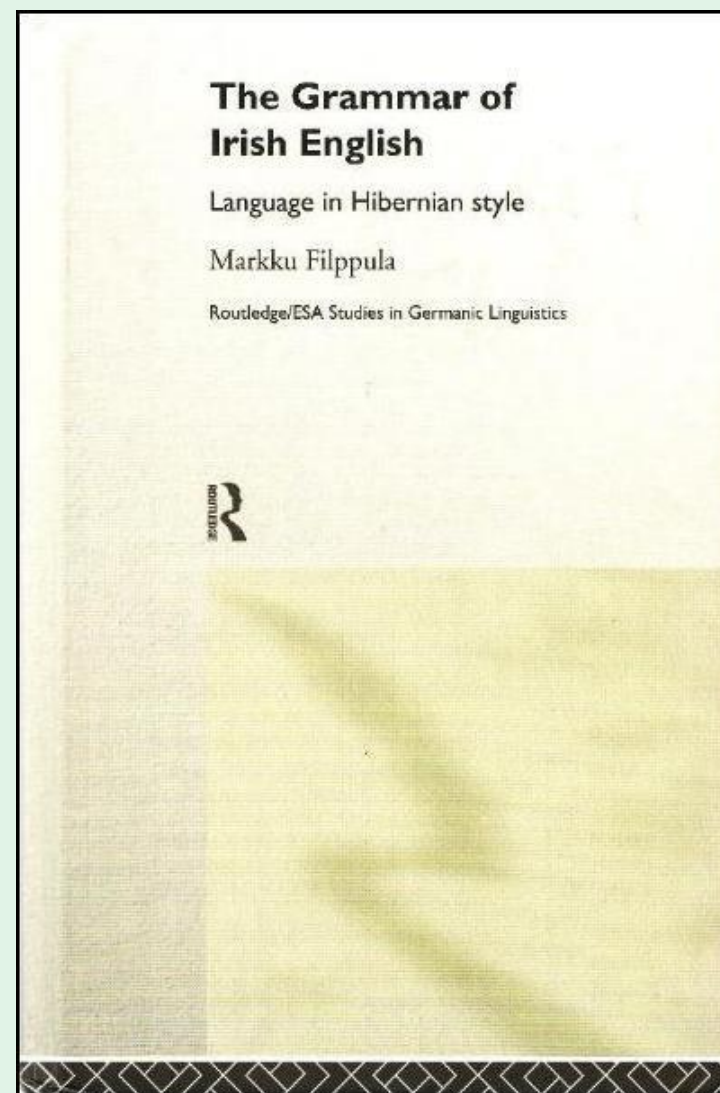
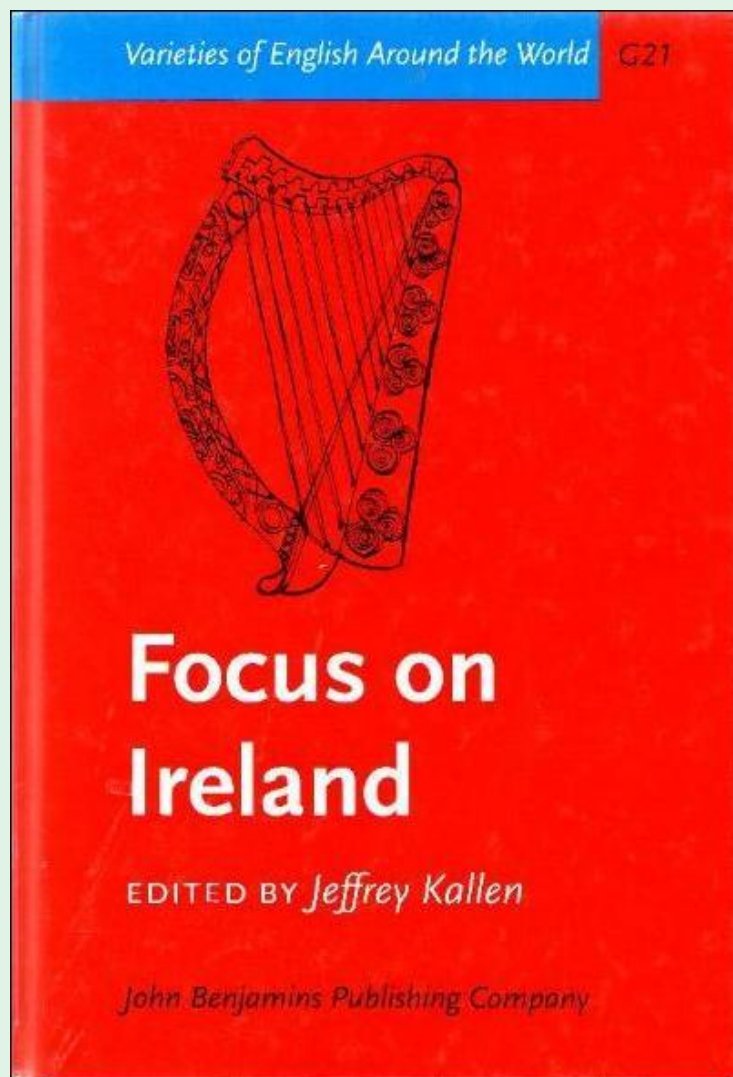


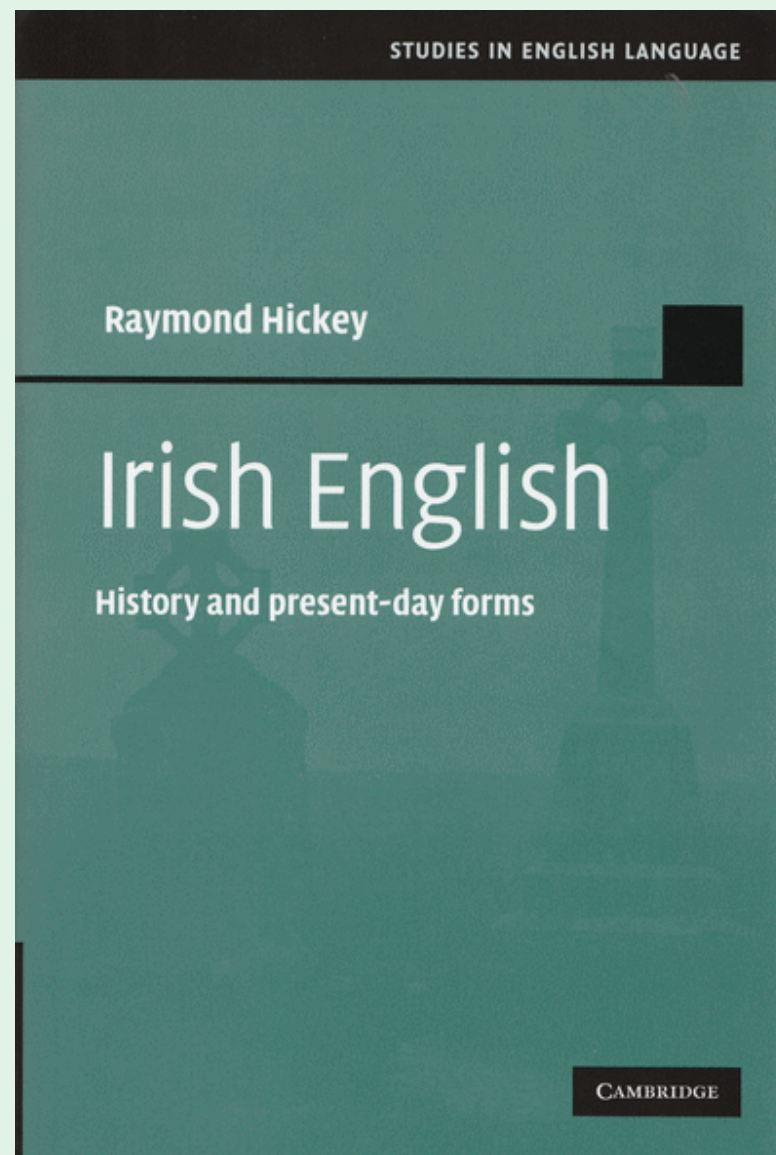
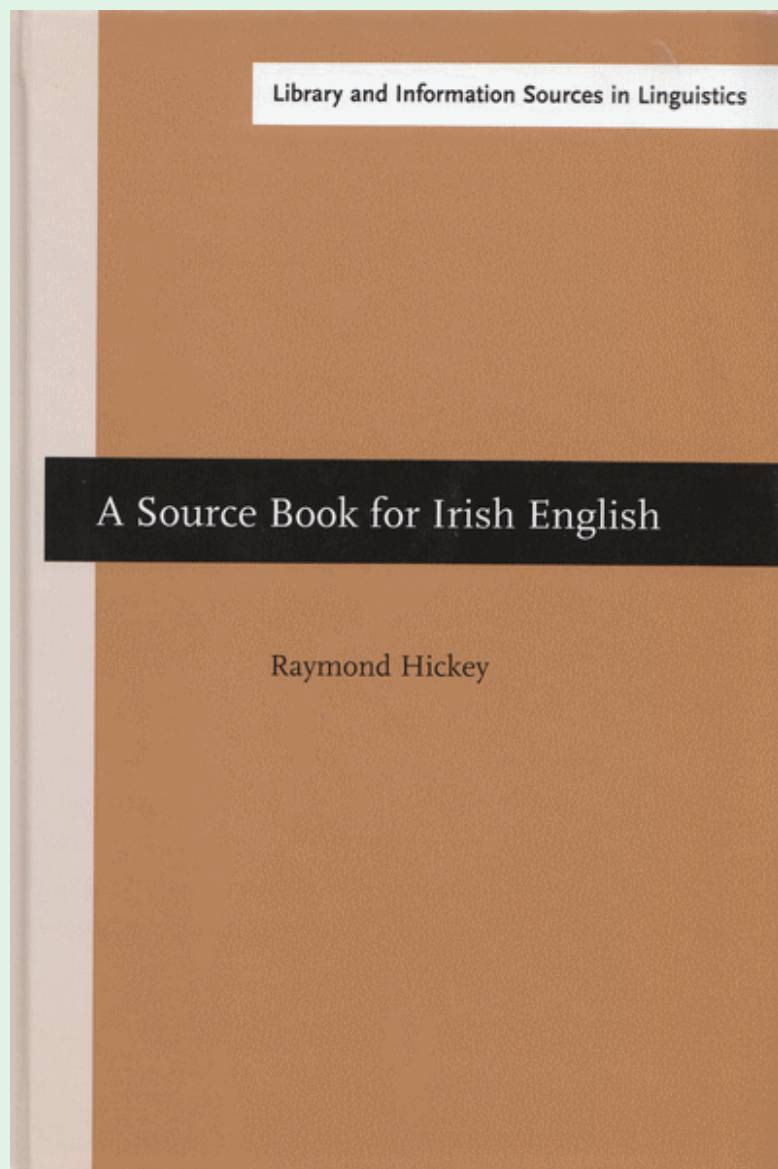


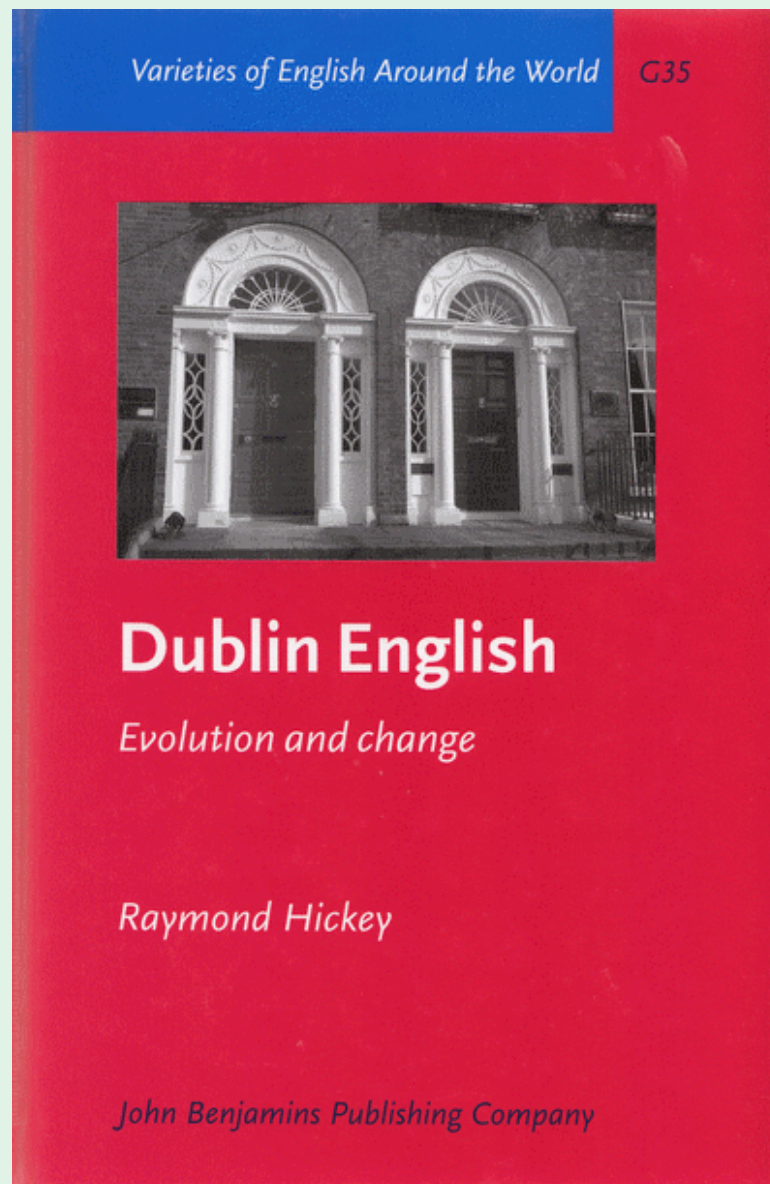
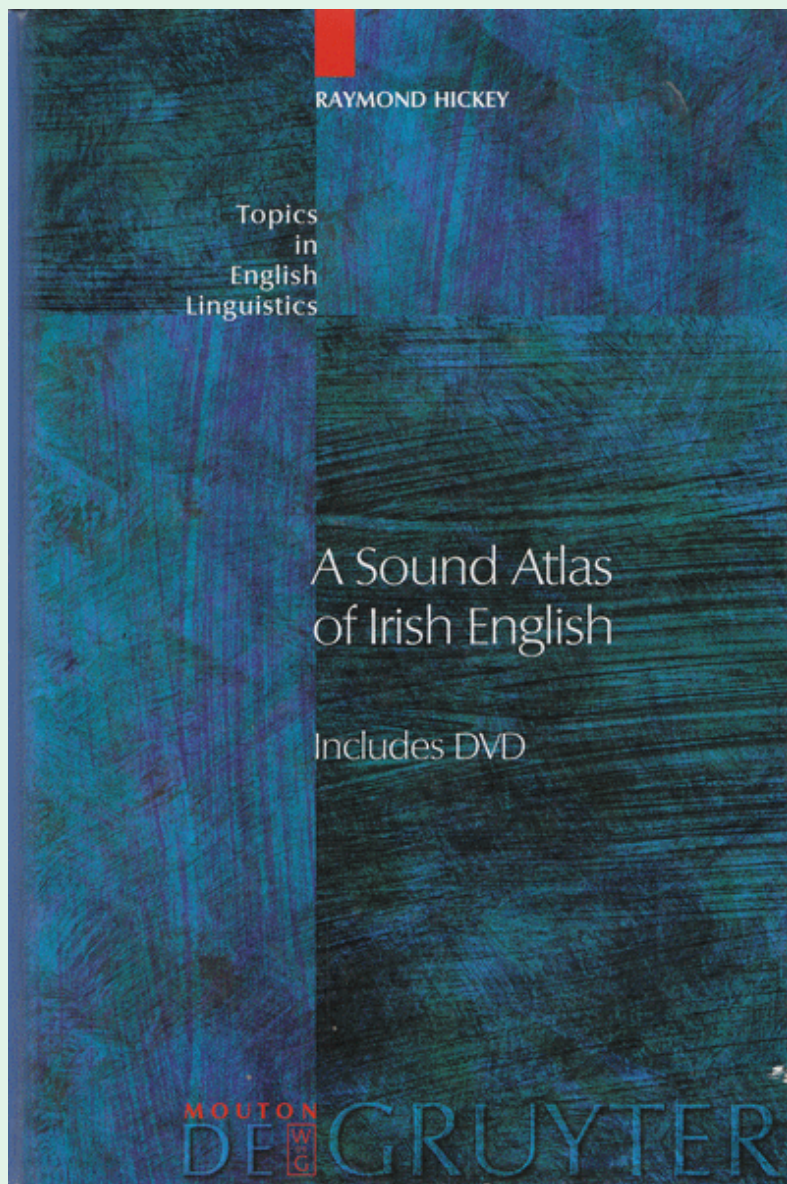


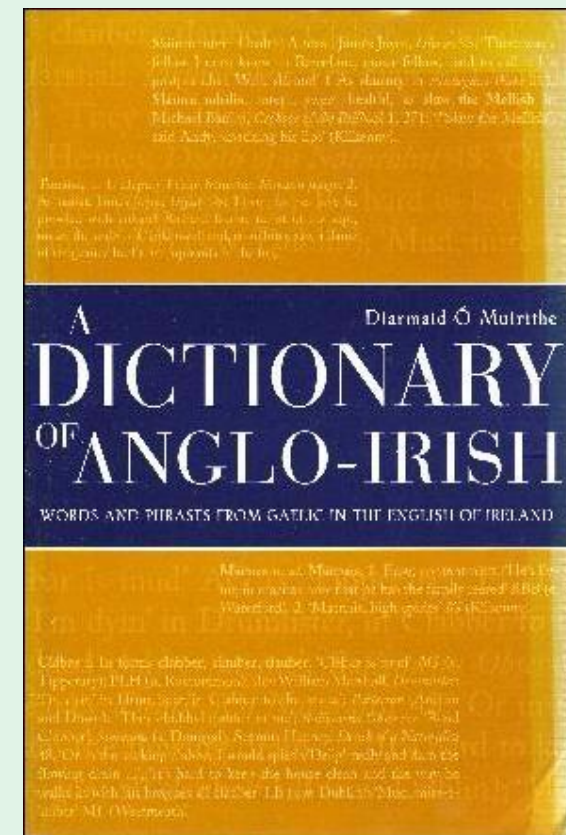
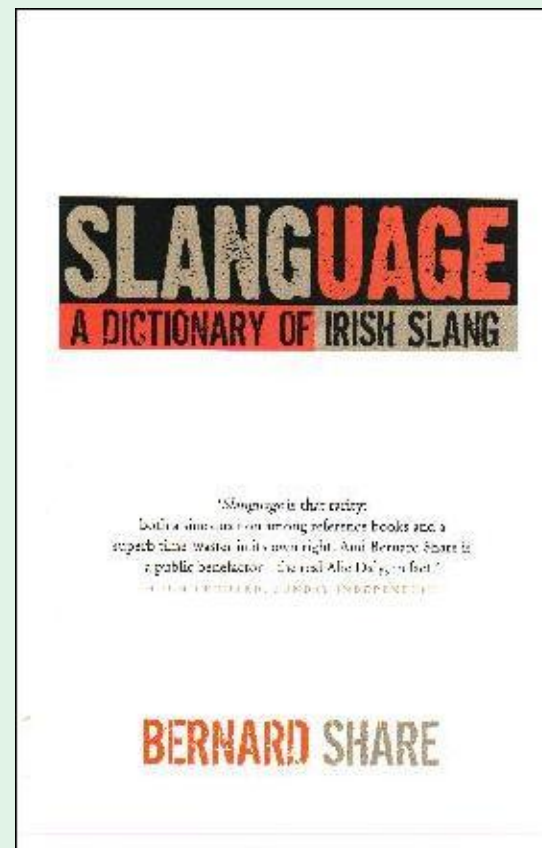
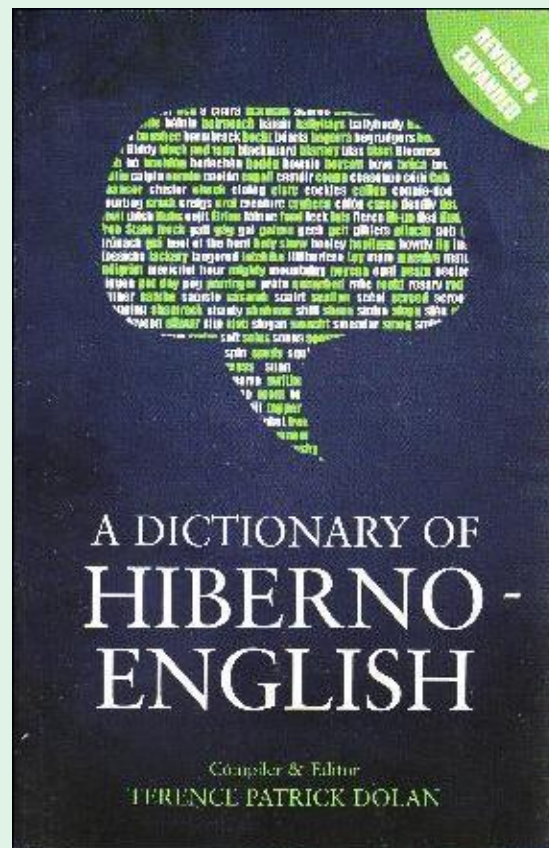
# Some general literature references for Irish English

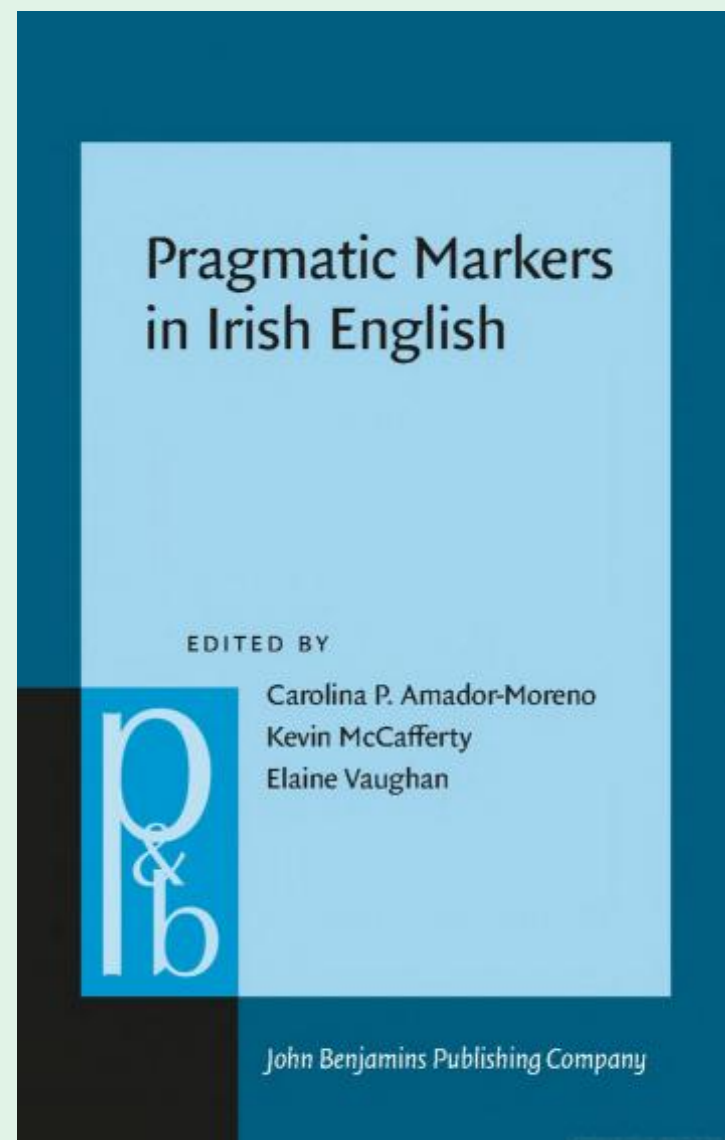
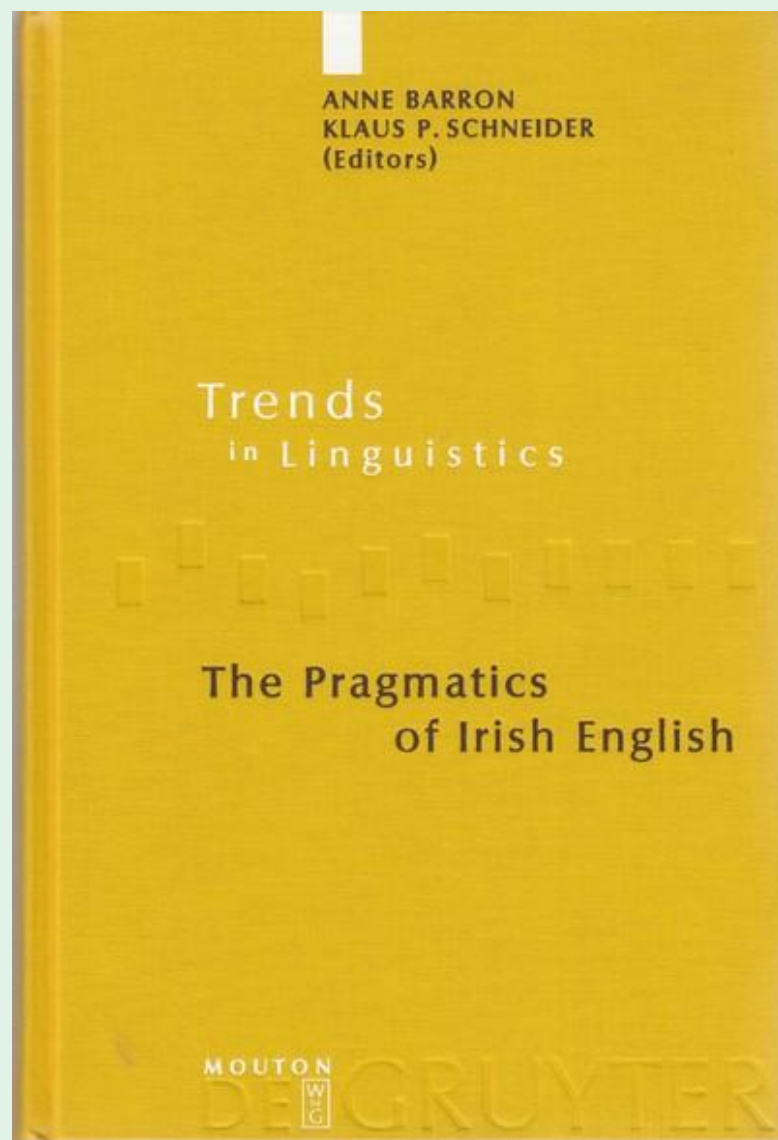


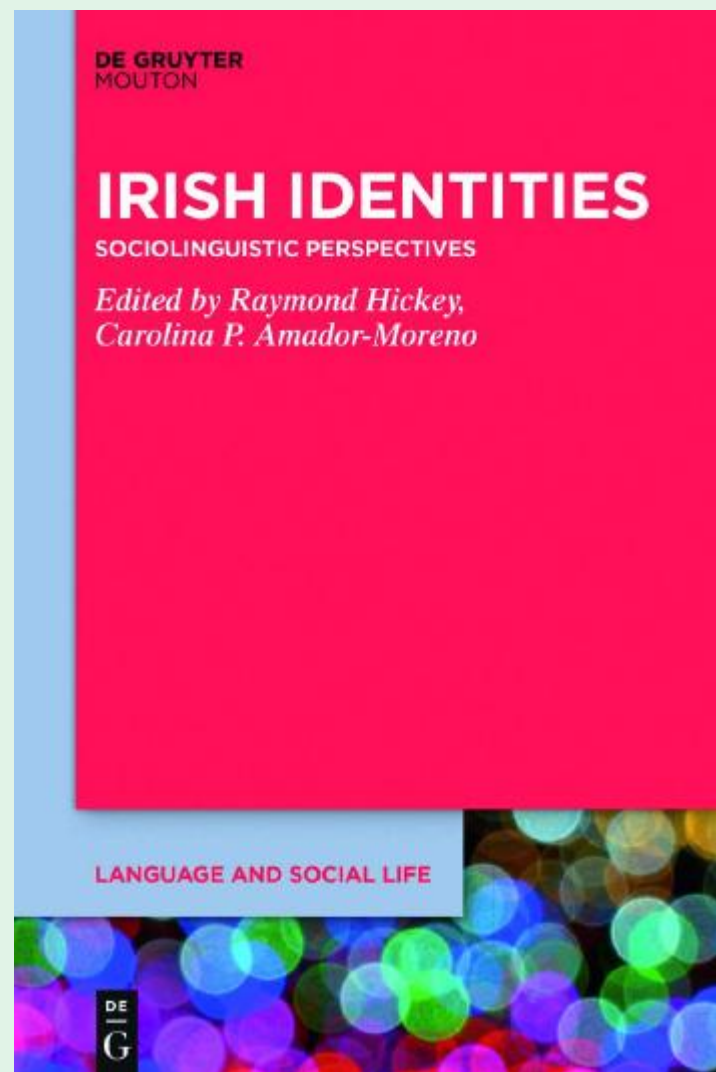
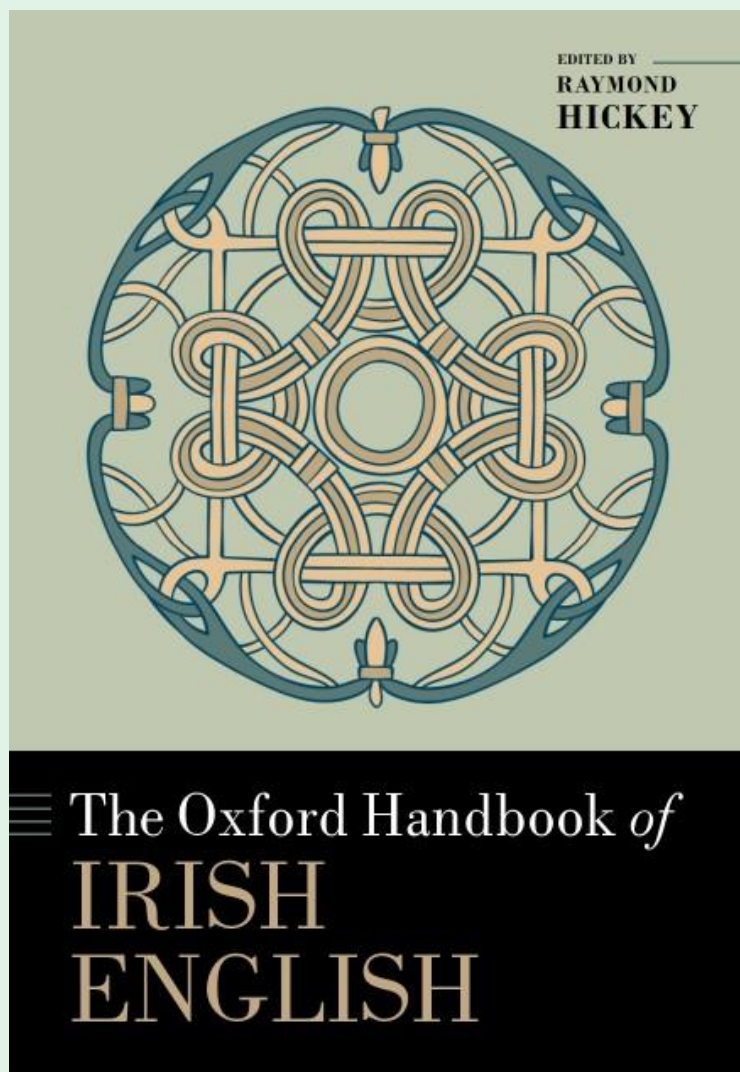














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