

Curriculum subject: English Language

Level: Key Stage 5, Undergraduate (English

Language/Linguistics)

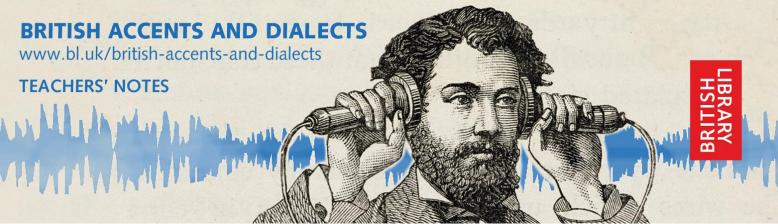
Topic: Lexical change

**Article** 

Lexical change in the English language

## **Activities**

- 1. Make a list of items of vocabulary that you associate with the older generation in your family/community? Vocabulary related to technology, fashion and lifestyle is particularly prone to change and therefore a good starting point ask older members of your family/community for their contributions.
- 2. Make a list of words or phrases that you use that would sound out of place if used by older speakers? Terms of approval and disapproval words for 'good' or 'bad' are very often readily identified with a particular generation and so might be an interesting area of research.
- 3. Listen to a selection of Traditional Dialect recordings on this site (between five and ten) from different parts of England and list any items of vocabulary that you consider to be old-fashioned or unfamiliar. Use a dictionary to find the meaning of the words and try and categorise each word or phrase according to the following criteria:
  - Do you and your friends use the word/ phrase or not?
  - Do you still hear it used by older speakers in your area?
  - Do you think it is peculiar to certain regions?
- 4. Look at the list (below) of 'unmediated' recordings featured on this site. Listen to a couple of recordings one from near where you live and another in a different part of the country and list any unusual items of vocabulary. Use a dictionary to find the meaning of the words and try and categorise each word or phrase according to the following criteria:



- Do you and your friends use the word/ phrase or not?
- Do you still hear it used by older speakers in your area?
- Do you think it is peculiar to certain regions?

England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland
<u>Whitehaven</u>	<u>Uig</u>	<u>Bangor</u>	Londonderry
Middlesbrough	Portsoy	Resolven	<u>Downpatrick</u>
<u>Bradford</u>	New Cumnock		
Salford			
<u>Boston</u>			
Bristol			
Castle Bromwich			
<u>Peckham</u>			
Southall			