

Accent and dialect fieldwork

Often students come to their BA dissertations and say 'I was in Australia/California/Scotland/London during my time abroad, and would like to write something about the accent/dialect there'.

Unfortunately, though, they had not thought to collect data while in Australia, etc, thereby limiting the potential for what could be done within the realms of the dissertation. We would encourage you, therefore, when you are on visits to Anglophone countries, as part of your study abroad time or otherwise, to think about what you might need for your dissertations and to collect appropriate data while there. We hold small corpora for some, mostly British accents and dialects, but it would be useful if the Department were able to hold more, both for people to use for their BA (and MA) dissertations and for use for other teaching and research purposes. You can gain 2 ECTS if you collect a corpus of *spoken* informal conversational English from a coherent sample of 12 speakers of the following structure: 3 women aged 60-70; 3 men aged 60-70; 3 women aged 18-25; 3 men aged 18-25 from a single pre-agreed location. Each recording should last one hour and should be made with acceptable digital recording equipment. Such data gathering will give you real insight into the joys as well as difficulties of gathering linguistic data. The corpora will then be held on the Department's password-protected corpus computer and would only be made accessible to staff and students of the Department for academic purposes. You could then use these recordings for your own dissertations. The recordings must be collected ethically, with signed consent forms collected from all people you record. Please see Prof Britain if you are interested. You may wish to collect a somewhat differently structured corpus from a relevant community, but it is important for that corpus to have a more general relevance and application and to be usable by others as well as yourself.