Pronunciation developments in the *Oxford English Dictionary (OED)* 2016-18

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We will present and invite discussion about three recent and forthcoming developments in the way that written and spoken pronunciations appear in *OED*.

OED's new approach to combining forms and sub-lemmas

A combining form in *OED* is an element used in combination with another element to form a word, differentiated from a prefix or suffix in its more substantive lexical meaning and more noun- or adjective-like nature, and rarely spoken in isolation. Our presentation will explain why we are in the process of eliminating headword-level pronunciations previously given for these elements, and replacing them with notes on typical stress patterning, cross-references, and thousands of new written and spoken pronunciations at sub-lemma level.

OED's expanded coverage of World Englishes

Recent updates include regionally-accurate transcriptions and audio recordings for entries originating from or heavily associated with Singapore & Malaysian English (SME) and Hong Kong English (HKE), with Manx and Welsh Englishes forthcoming. The merged SME model is intentionally broad and centred around those features most consistent between Colloquial Singapore English and mesolectal Malaysian English (drawing on e.g. Baskaran 2008; Wee 2008; Low 2012; Hashim & Tan 2012). The descriptions of Setter, Wong & Chan (2010) and Cummings & Wolf (2011) provided the starting point for the HKE model. Meanwhile, audio recordings now supplement region-specific transcriptions in Canadian, New Zealand, and Caribbean English entries. Our presentation will follow the process through from researching and defining the transcription model to making live-speech recordings which are published on *oed.com* alongside the written pronunciations. We will give particular consideration to how sociophonetic data are best interpreted for lexicographical purposes.

Transformable transcriptions for *OED*, other OUP dictionaries, and beyond

OED's written pronunciations differ from those in OUP's current, learners', American, and children's dictionaries, but a single piece of audio can be a perfect match for several written forms. Our presentation will explore how we might develop a super-specified master transcription, linked to a sound file, which could be transformed to suit a range of end uses.

References

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