

The Synchrony and Diachrony of *Youse* and *Thees* in Northern England

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Although the urban dialects of Tyneside and Sheffield are both recognisably ‘Northern’ they also display divergence. At the lexical and morpho-syntactic levels, Tyneside arguably shows more affinity with Celtic Englishes as a result of Irish migration in the late nineteenth century (*cf.* Beal, 1993: 189ff.; Mess, 1928). Beal (1993), Mess (1928) and Watt (1998) all cite the contribution of this diaspora to Newcastle, but the effect of Irish-English on N. Eastern dialects has never been systematically investigated. We argue here that this may serve to explain some features of Tyneside English such as *youse* for second person plural that are uniquely shared with other Celtic English dialects and are not found in Northern Englishes like that of Sheffield which had minimal contact with such allochthonous groups and have instead their own distinctive second person pronominals.