

Title:

Bury, Greater Manchester

Shelfmark:

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Recording date:

23.03.2005

Speakers:

Daniel, Otuata (aka O2), b. 1978 Sierra Leone; male; rap artist (mother b. Nigeria, librarian)
 Hussain, Asif Quamar, b. 1981 Bolton; male; pizza delivery boy (father b. Pakistan, bus driver; mother b. Manchester)



Both interviewees are rap artists.

PLEASE NOTE: this recording is still awaiting full linguistic description (i.e. phonological, grammatical and spontaneous lexical items).

A summary of the specific lexis elicited by the interviewer is given below.

ELICITED LEXIS

- △ see New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English (2006)
- ◇ see Green's Dictionary of Slang (2010)
- ◆ see Urban Dictionary (online)
- ◊ no previous source (with this sense) identified

pleased	<i>safe; chilling[◇]; I'm cool; pleased</i>
tired	<i>knackered; tired; wasted[△]; exhausted</i>
unwell	<i>ill; sick</i>
hot	<i>hot; boiling</i>
cold	<i>freezing; frabeezing^{◊1} ("back slang" for "freezing" [fɹæbi:zɪŋ])</i>
annoyed	<i>annoyed; vexed (also common in rap lyrics); vexated[◆] (used in rap)</i>
throw	<i>dash (of e.g. ball, "can you just dash that over here"); thrust[△]; chuck; throw</i>
play truant	<i>wagging school; evade; wagging; leg it</i>
sleep	<i>sleep ("I'm going to sleep"); catch some zees[◇] ("catching zees" commonly used in rap); snooze; get some shut-eye</i>

¹ Paul Janeczko and Jenna LaReau's *Top Secret: A Handbook of Codes, Ciphers and Secret Writing* (2004, p. 24) records insertion of <ab> between vowels as 'Turkish Irish', a variant of 'Pig Latin'.

play a game	<i>playing; play; gaming</i> (of e.g. computer game)
hit hard	<i>bang; mash; crush</i>
clothes	<i>clothes; gear; gears; wears</i> [♦] (“as in the clothes you wear”)
trousers	<i>pants; trousers</i>
child’s shoe	<i>pumps</i> (used when at school); <i>plimsolls</i>
mother	<i>ma; mum; mummy</i> (suggested jokingly, used when wanting something)
gmother	<i>grandma</i>
also supplied ²	<i>dadi</i> (Punjabi for ‘grandmother’)
m partner	<i>boyfriend; man; fella; partner; guy</i>
friend	<i>friend</i> (“precious” word); <i>mate</i> (suggested by interviewer, used); <i>acquaintances; associates; peers; my bredrin</i> [△] (thought to be derived from ‘brother’, used in Bible); <i>my people; my friends; homies, pals, pallies</i> [△] (“street”)
gfather	<i>grandpa; pops</i>
also supplied ²	<i>dada</i> [♦] (Punjabi for ‘grandfather’)
forgot name	<i>whatchamacallit; thingy; “I make a hand gesture sometimes”</i>
kit of tools	<i>tool-box; tool-kit</i>
trendy	<i>scallies; wannabe</i> (“50 Cent ³ wannabe” used of character in ‘Soul Plane’ ⁴)
f partner	<i>baby; boo; girl; honey; my apple pie</i> [△] (used occasionally as affectionate form of address)
baby	<i>baby; bambino</i>
rain heavily	<i>peeing it down; raining cats and dogs</i>
toilet	<i>toilet; taboilet</i> ^{△2} (“back slang” for ‘toilet’ [təbɔɪlɪt?]); <i>loo</i>
walkway	<i>alley-way</i> (of narrow passage between buildings); <i>alley; ginnel</i> (of narrow passage from estate to main road)
long seat	<i>couch; settee; sofa</i>
run water	<i>stream; gutter</i>
main room	<i>living room; parlour</i> (used at home as child); <i>lounge</i>
rain lightly	<i>it’s showering; drizzle</i> (also used for ‘drink’ [♦] , learnt from Snoop Dogg ⁵); <i>shower</i>
rich	<i>paid</i> [△] ; <i>loaded; fedded</i> [△]
left-handed	<i>lefty</i>
unattractive	<i>ugly</i> (“with a capital ‘U’”); <i>dutty</i> [△] (thought to be derived from ‘dirty’); <i>ug</i> [△] , <i>skank</i> (commonly used in rap)
lack money	<i>pepped</i> [△] ; <i>peppered</i> [♦] ; <i>broke; skint; poor; financially challenged</i> [♦] (liked)
drunk	<i>pepped</i> [△] ; <i>peppered</i> [♦] ; <i>broke; skint; poor; financially challenged</i> [♦] (liked)
pregnant	<i>preggers; pregnant; ballooned up</i> [△] (idiolectal)
attractive	<i>boom</i> [△] ; <i>stush, criss</i> (“slang”); <i>fine; attractive</i>
insane	<i>crazy; psycho</i> (liked); <i>mad; insane</i>
moody	<i>“don’t hate”</i> [♦] , <i>“why are you hating?”</i> [△] (expression commonly directed at moody person); <i>down; moody</i>

² Transliteration of lexical items based on *Digital Dictionaries of South Asia* (<http://dsal.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/>).

³ American rap artist and actor (real name Curtis James Jackson III, b. 1975).

⁴ 2004 US comedy film with several hip hop acts among the cast.

⁵ American rap artist and actor (real name Calvin Cordozar Broadus Jr., b. 1971).

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