

Title:

Dudley, West Midlands

Shelfmark:

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Recording date:

27.02.2005

Speakers:

Dakin, Brian, b. 1952 Oldbury; male; retail manager (father b. Oldbury, steelworker; mother b. Oldbury)
 Hawthorn, Brendan, b. 1961 Tipton; male; museum assistant (father b. Great Bridge, manager; mother b. Tipton, print room office worker)
 O'Dea, Gary, b. 1962 Tipton; male; university administrator (father b. Tipton, steelworker; mother b. Tipton)
 Stokes, Greg, b. 1955 Dudley; male; clinical chemist (father b. Dudley, butcher's clerk; mother b. Leicestershire, comptometer operator)

All four interviewees are friends proud of their Black Country roots.

ELICITED LEXIS

- ◊ see English Dialect Dictionary (1898-1905)
- * see Survey of English Dialects Basic Material (1962-1971)
- ▼ see Ey Up Mi Duck! Dialect of Derbyshire and the East Midlands (2000)
- see The Black Country Dialect (2007)
- △ see New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English (2006)
- « see Roger's Profanisaurus: The Magna Farta (2007)
- ◇ see Green's Dictionary of Slang (2010)
- ◆ see Urban Dictionary (online)
- ◊ no previous source (with this sense) identified

- pleased** *happy as a pig in muck*[◊] (used frequently); *chuffed*; *nice one*, *good one*, *good 'un*, *nice 'un* (used as term of approval)
- tired** *dog-tired*; *knackered*, *shattered* (most common); *bolloxed*[◆]; *tuckered out* (“*I'm plain tuckered out*” used frequently when young)
- unwell** *poorly*; *on the box*¹ (used locally for ‘on sick leave’); *ailing*
- hot** *boiling*
- cold** *freezing*; *froz*^{*}; *froze*; *fruz*^{*} *to death*; *brass monkeyed*[◊]

¹ ‘Ow We Spake: Black Country Dialect’ (<http://www.sedgleymanor.com/dictionaries/dialect.html>) includes ‘on the box’ in this sense.

annoyed	<i>umbraged</i> (“take the umbrage with somebody” commonly used in Black Country of extreme annoyance, thought to be related to ‘take the hump’)
throw	<i>chuck</i>
play truant	<i>trotter</i> ² ; <i>wag it</i> (most common locally); <i>done a bunk</i> ; <i>bunked off</i> ; <i>wagging it off</i>
sleep	<i>kip</i> ; “we’re going up to the wooden hill” ³ (old, commonly used to children of ‘going to bed’); <i>forty winks</i> ; <i>shut-eye</i>
play a game	<i>have a go at/with it</i> (of e.g. board game); <i>tip it</i> ⁴ (“you’re going to tip it?” used in Oldbury in past of ‘going out to play’, also name of game ³)
hit hard	<i>lamp</i> (“gie ^o him a good lamping”), <i>hammer</i> , <i>pail</i> ^o , <i>thrape</i> ^o (“I’m gonna gie ^o you a thraping”), “gie ^o it a coal-heaver ^o /cock-heaver” ⁴ , <i>back-hander</i> (used in past); <i>thump</i> ; <i>smack</i> ; “gieing ^o somebody bell-oil” ^o , <i>leathered</i> , <i>pailing</i> ^o (used in past)
clothes	<i>clobber</i> ; <i>wrap-rascal</i> (used by father in past)
trousers	<i>strides</i> (used in past, considered Cockney); <i>kecks</i> ; <i>kegs</i> ^o (“put your kegs on”, associated with canal workers); <i>loons</i> (heard, not used)
child’s shoe	<i>pumps</i> (“put your pumps on” used to own children of ‘trainers’ “to wind the kids up”, “pump bag” used of ‘PE bag’); <i>plimsolls</i> (suggested by interviewer, not used)
mother	<i>the old wench</i> (of but not to own mother, also used of neighbour/older woman and considered “endearing/affectionate” locally, not used to/of own grandmother as considered “disrespectful”); <i>mother</i> (to/of own mother in her presence); <i>the old lady</i> (“term of respect” used in Tipton in past); <i>the woman</i> (“our old woman” [ʊmən] common in Dudley/Netherton/Cradley); <i>mom</i> (most common locally, frequently frustrated at lack of commercial greetings cards addressed to ‘mom’); <i>mum</i> , <i>mam</i> (not used)
gmother	<i>granny</i> ; <i>nan</i>
m partner	<i>bloke</i> (“my bloke”); <i>chap</i> (“my old chap”); <i>old man</i> (“my old man” [mɒn] used in past by mother, not used to/of own father in mother’s presence)
friend	<i>mates</i> (suggested by interviewer, used); <i>blade</i> (used in past); <i>mucker</i> (considered widespread); <i>butty</i> , <i>ark</i> ^o (used by aunt in past, thought to be contraction of ‘our kid’); <i>musher</i> ^A (used in Tipton, featured in song ‘Two Tipton Musers’); <i>mush</i> (“all right, mush?” considered Cockney); <i>old pal</i>
gfather	<i>grandad</i> ; <i>grandfather</i> ; <i>sir</i> (to own grandfather, suggested jokingly)
forgot name	<i>thingy</i> ; <i>thingummy</i> ; <i>whatsit</i> ; <i>whosit</i>
kit of tools	<i>tool-kit</i> (suggested by interviewer); <i>tool-box</i> ; <i>bag of tools</i>
trendy	<i>twat</i> ^o (suggested jokingly); <i>chav</i> (of males, modern); <i>slapper</i> (used by females of “trashy” female); <i>skinheads</i> , <i>rockers</i> , <i>punks</i> (used in past to distinguish individual youth subcultures); <i>bobby-dazzlers</i> , <i>spivs</i> , <i>fly-by-night</i> (used by older speakers in past)
f partner	<i>the missus</i> ; <i>the old wench</i> ; <i>better half</i> (“is your better half with you?”)
baby	<i>babby</i> ^o ; <i>the littl’un</i> ^A ; <i>sprog</i> (“sprogging out” used for ‘to give birth’); <i>kid</i> ; <i>scobie</i> ^A (old, now rare)
rain heavily	<i>chuck it down</i> ; <i>piss down</i> ; <i>throw it down</i> ; <i>teem down</i> ; <i>stair-rods</i> ; <i>pour down</i>

² *New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (2006) records ‘trotter’ as ‘deserter from the military’.

³ Possibly type of children’s ‘chase’ game – Steve Roud’s *The Lore of the Playground* (2010, pp.30-31) includes ‘tip’ as one of many regional variants.

⁴ ‘Ow We Spake: Black Country Dialect’ (<http://www.sedgleymanor.com/dictionaries/dialect.html>) includes ‘cockaver’ and ‘cork-aiver’ in this sense.

toilet	<i>khazi</i> [△] (used in past of outside toilet, now rare); <i>bog</i> ; <i>loo</i> (used now); <i>outdoor convenience</i> (used in past of outside toilet, “ <i>posh</i> ”)
walkway	<i>ginnel</i> ; <i>entry</i> ; <i>gully</i> [○] ; <i>alley</i> ; <i>passage</i>
long seat	<i>sofa</i> (“ <i>keep off that sofa</i> ” [sau ^{fi}]); <i>couch</i> ; <i>settee</i> ; <i>squab</i> (old)
run water	<i>brook</i> ; <i>stream</i>
main room	<i>best room</i> (used in past of room reserved for Sundays); <i>parlour</i> ; <i>living room</i> ; <i>front room</i> (used in past of room reserved for special occasions, e.g. Christmas)
rain lightly	<i>drizzle</i> ; <i>mizzle</i> ; <i>drizzling</i> ; <i>mizzling</i>
rich	<i>loaded</i> ; <i>worth a bob or two</i> ; “ <i>tidy bit of money tied to the coat</i> ” [△] , “ <i>I wish I was a pound/twopence behind you</i> ” [△] (used by colleague from Gornal)
left-handed	<i>caggy</i> [○] , <i>caggy-handed</i> [○] (most common); <i>left-hooker</i> [△] (“ <i>you ’m a left-hooker</i> ” heard occasionally)
unattractive	<i>bag of spanners</i> [△] ; <i>hit with the ugly stick</i> [△] ; <i>fell out the ugly tree and hit every branch on the way down</i> [△] ; <i>couldn’t kick a pig that ugly</i> [△] (heard used); <i>face like a busted arsehole</i> ^{△5}
lack money	<i>brassic</i> ; <i>skint</i> (most common); “ <i>halfpenny to scratch me arse with</i> ” [△] ; “ <i>ai* got two halfpennies to rub together</i> ” [△]
drunk	<i>rat-arsed</i> ; <i>pissed</i> ; <i>out your face</i> ; <i>kaylied</i> ; <i>has a drop</i> ; <i>half-cut</i> ; <i>three sheets to the wind</i> ; <i>well-oiled</i> ; <i>blotto as a bob-owler</i> ⁶ ; <i>legless</i> ; <i>pie-eyed</i> ; <i>plastered</i> ; <i>smashed</i> ; <i>seeled</i> [△] ; <i>tiddly</i> ; <i>pickled as a newt</i> ; <i>smelt the barmaid’s appund</i> ⁷ ; <i>dipso</i> ; <i>stewed</i> ; <i>stoned</i> ; <i>tight</i> ; <i>bladdered</i> [△] ; <i>tied one on</i> [△] ; <i>had enough</i> ; <i>addled</i> ; <i>blind</i> ; <i>sozzled</i> ; <i>had a crooked elbow</i> ⁸ ; <i>have a skinful</i> ; <i>rattled</i> [△]
pregnant	“ <i>her carried everything afore her</i> ” [△] (“ <i>old Bessie’s carrying everything afore her</i> ” used in past, learnt recently from aunt); <i>up the duff</i> ; <i>up the stick</i>
attractive	<i>boster</i> [△] ; <i>bosting</i> (most common); <i>brama</i> [△] ; <i>sweet</i> ; <i>bonting</i> [△] (heard used)
insane	<i>nutter</i> ; <i>yampy</i> [■] ; <i>loony</i> ; <i>soft</i> ; “ <i>if he’s right I know where there’s houseful</i> ” [△] ; <i>Barnsley Hall</i> ⁹ <i>bloke</i> (i.e. reference to local mental hospital); <i>doolally tap</i> (common in past, thought to come from India)
moody	<i>got the hump</i> ; <i>grumpy</i> ; <i>cab-hoss</i> [△] ; <i>mizzling</i> ; <i>misery guts</i> ; <i>mizzle-head</i> [△]

SPONTANEOUS LEXIS

afore = before, in front of (0:31:22 *I went to me aunty on on interviewed me aunty on Sunday for a university project and I said, “look I can never ever remember anything calling anybody anything if they was pregnant” and she says, “oh you used to say ‘her call... her carried everything afore her’” which is a logical expression*)

ah^{*} = yes (0:16:26 *do you ever hear that one a ‘scobie’ (no) “how’s your scobie?” ‘how’s your kid?’ (no) ah, that was another one I ai heard that for years but that was an old one (I have heard it) ‘scobie’*; 0:32:00 *I’ve got ‘rat-arsed’ ‘pissed’ and ‘out your face’ (yeah, ‘out your face’) ‘out your face’, ah*; 0:35:11 *(what about the ‘long soft seat in the main room’?) ‘sofa’ (‘sofa’) (the ‘sofa’) ‘sofa’, ah, “keep off that sofa” (you posh gits) (and we’d have ‘couch’, ah, ‘settee’ ‘couch’ ‘couch’ and ‘settee’) ‘settee’, ah*; 1:09:51 *we found out we’d both come from Ocker Hill, don’t we, so (Ocker Bank) which Ocker Hill itself (same block of flats) same block of flats, ah, different altitude but the same block*; 1:15:29 *(and*

⁵ See entry for ‘face like a smashed arse’.

⁶ David Wilson’s *Staffordshire Dialect Words: a historical survey* (1974) records ‘bob-owler’ in this sense.

⁷ Aynuk’s *Secund Black Country Waerd Buk* (1979) records ‘appund’ for ‘apron’; Roger’s *Profanisaurus: The Magna Farta* (2007) records ‘sniff the barmaid’s apron’ for ‘drunk’ in definition of ‘miner’s snot’.

⁸ See entry for ‘elbow-crooker’.

⁹ Former psychiatric hospital in Bromsgrove demolished in 2000.

she'd be the one who'd be putting penny old copper pennies on somebody's eyes and laying them out down one end of the street) that's right my grandma used to lay them out, ah (and then her'd be down the other end helping somebody give birth); 1:29:17 do you know what 'wapple' is? ('wapple' ah) 'sleep in your eye', ah ('sleep in your eye', yeah, "get the wapple out your eye")

and all = as well, too (0:36:11 *it used to be the 'outdoor convenience' (yeah) and all, hadn't it, when if you was trying to be posh at home; 1:30:28 another one as well if you stuck your head out of a window and this this was also in factories and all [...] one of the put-downs'd be, "put your head in they'll think it's a cattle-truck"*)

bob-owler^o = large moth (0:32:17 *'has a drop' 'half-cut' 'three sheets to the wind' 'well-oiled' 'kaylied' 'blotto as a bob-owler' 'legless' 'pie-eyed' 'plastered' 'smashed' 'sealed' 'tiddly' 'pickled as a newt' that's the way it get you 'smelt the barmaid's appund' 'dipso' 'stewed' 'stoned' 'tight' 'bladdered' 'tied one on' 'had enough' 'addled' 'blind' 'sozzled' 'had a crooked elbow' 'half-cut' 'have a skinful' drink on and you'm 'rattled'*)

bosting = excellent (1:28:38 *'bosting fittle' ('bosting') which is a pub in Dudley which is, like, 'good food' 'bosting fittle', you know)*

busted = broken (0:33:24 *'face like a busted arsehole' (say it again) 'face like a busted arsehole')*

Brummy = person from / dialect of Birmingham (0:53:38 *I mean you look at some of the adverts if they want somebody who's slow on the uptake or somebody who do... just doh quite get it first time they always use a Midland stroke Brummy stroke Black Country accent; 0:56:51 I certainly doh feel any I I'm I'm not anti-Brummy or anything like that (oh no, no, no) it's not nothing like that)*

cag^o = to gossip, chat (1:04:54 *so Bessie from next door would come in and she'd lean on the canting patch while me nanny Murray'd make a cuppa and they'd just cant cant and cag about what went on)*

cant^o = to gossip, chat (1:04:54 *so Bessie from next door would come in and she'd lean on the canting patch while me nanny Murray'd make a cuppa and they'd just cant cant and cag about what went on)*

clack^o = epiglottis, muscles used for swallowing (1:28:11 *there's a good 'un for drinking 'you got no clack in your wazzen' (yeah) (ah) which means you can dr... 'you can drink a pint with the greatest of ease' basically [...] 'got no Adam's apple in your throat' (so it just goes down) yeah (right))*

cuppa = cup of tea (1:04:54 *so Bessie from next door would come in and she'd lean on the canting patch while me nanny Murray'd make a cuppa and they'd just cant cant and cag about what went on)*

cut = canal (1:46:03 *I'm interested in the bloke who stood on the cut bank on a F... Saturday after he'd had a few jars and he sang (yeah) his heart out)*

ferk[■] = cigarette (1:37:15 *"and then he'd sit there all soft-faced his bald head a-glowing like a furnace fire waiting for his dinner and as he finished the last mouthful he'd send me to the shop for his ferks"¹⁰⁾*

fittle[■] = victuals, food (1:28:38 *'bosting fittle' ('bosting') which is a pub in Dudley which is, like, 'good food' 'bosting fittle', you know)*

fold[■] = back yard (1:33:59 *and we were talking about being 'out on the fold', wor we, the other day (ah, 'out on the fold', yeah) 'out on' which is like the small yard at the back, you know, like a court well it's a courtyard or a yard, isn't it, (yeah) at the back of a back-to-back [...] so if you were chucked out on the fold you was basically outside)*

fuckwit = idiot, contemptible person (1:00:15 *within by the end of the week the whole town was basically just clamming up and all they was left with was your local fuckwits basically up Princes End sticking an effigy with somebody in overalls that hit the papers, do you know what I mean)*

Geordie = person from Newcastle upon Tyne (0:52:37 *I'm sure it'd be the same if you were a Geordie and somebody said you had come from Sunderland when you're on holiday, you know)*

get one's rag off^{o11} = to lose one's temper (1:26:27 *Steve was uh a bloke who I worked with the other day and um he got his rag off with a customer anyway and the customer left)*

¹⁰ This passage is 'performed' by a speaker reciting dialect verse.

¹¹ See entry for 'get your rag out'.

gie^o = to give (1:02:19 *when Thatcher*¹² *gied us a kicking and places started to shut [...] we played Manchester City in the League Cup*¹³ *on a December night and they was gieing us they they was just opposing fans always used to call us Brummies and then everybody just stood up and said started chanting, “we don’t come from Birmingham”*; 1:15:29 *and she’d be the one who’d be putting penny old copper pennies on somebody’s eyes and laying them out down one end of the street (that’s right my grandma used to lay them out, ah) and then her’d be down the other end helping somebody gie birth*; 1:27:46 *somebody who’s mean ‘wouldn’t gie him a blow off the ragman’s trumpet’ [...] (or ‘the droppings off their nose’)*; 1:32:12 *there ain’t that many but, like, there’s ‘pailing’ and ‘paling’ now ‘pailing is ‘gieing you a pailing’ and then a ‘paling’ is a ‘fence’ [...] you can have a pailing for getting stuck on the palings)*

inesⁿ = lazy woman (1:27:21 *an industrial term they used to use in the steelwork if somebody was um a shirker [...] mainly used in the women’s uh mills and they used to call them ‘ines wenchies’ which meant, you know, they were ‘a waste of space’ especially if they were on piecework and if they were, like, dropping behind they’d say, “oh” you know “Elsie’s an ines wench” which meant her weren’t pulling her weight really)*

it’s black over Bill’s mother’s^v = expression commonly used of imminent rain (1:25:11 *my brother lives in Nottingham and even now if he says it and, “it’s black it’s black over Bill’s mother’s” and even now nobody who he’s said to it for the first time has got a clue what it’s on about and it actually means ‘it’s cloudy and it’s gonna rain in a second or it’s gonna be raining quite hard’)*

keep out the hoss road^v = common local farewell expressing good luck (1:27:12 *‘keep out the hoss road’ is like kind of ‘best of luck’ in a way, ai it, (yeah) ‘be lucky’ ‘keep out the hoss road’ ‘doh get run over by an horse and cart’, like, you know)*

knock-out = great, excellent (1:42:21 *and and you thought, “Jesus, look at the reaction in this room” I mean it was knock-out, wor it? (it was, yeah)*)

mom = mother (0:05:54 *for me I’ve always embraced I mean my my grandparents were all other than me nan who was uh a Tipton wench if you like all me other grandparents on on me dad’s side were Irish me nan and grandad on me mom’s side me grandad was from Plymouth*; 0:14:00 *me mom’d say if me dad was on afternoon shift, “the old man’ll be back at ten” but she wouldn’t say, you know, we wouldn’t be able to call him ‘the old man’ to her face)*

nan = grandmother (0:05:54 *for me I’ve always embraced I mean my my grandparents were all other than me nan who was uh a Tipton wench if you like all me other grandparents on on me dad’s side were Irish me nan and grandad on me mom’s side me grandad was from Plymouth)*

ne’er = no, not any, not at all (1:30:55 *there used to be an old guy he’d go, uh oh, you know, “ten o’clock and ne’er a pigeon home yet” (ah) (‘ne’er a pigeon back’, ah) you know, so or, “ten o’clock and the babby ai washed” that’s another one)*

no clack in one’s wazzen^o = expression used of someone who drinks quickly (1:28:11 *there’s a good ‘un for drinking ‘you got no clack in your wazzen’ (yeah) (ah) which means you can dr... ‘you can drink a pint with the greatest of ease’ basically [...] ‘got no Adam’s apple in your throat’ (so it just goes down) yeah (right)*)

not buy the babby a new coat^o = expression commonly used of something insufficient/inadequate (1:30:44 *‘this woh buy the babby a new coat’ that’s another one, ai it (ah) ‘it just won’t do, that,’ you know, “this woh buy the babby a new coat”)*

not gie someone a blow off the ragman’s trumpet^o/**the droppings off one’s nose**^o = expression commonly used of mean person (1:27:46 *somebody who’s mean ‘wouldn’t gie him a blow off the ragman’s trumpet’ [...] (or ‘the droppings off their nose’)*)

¹² Margaret Thatcher (b.1925), Conservative politician and British Prime Minister 1979-1990.

¹³ Annual knockout competition first contested in 1960 for professional clubs playing in top four leagues of English football pyramid.

not roast snow in a furnace[△] = expression used in response to stupid statement (1:30:19 *say you'd come out with something that'd be, like, s... absolutely stupid he'd say, "well you cor roast snow in a furnace" which means 'you'm just talking out of your backside,' you know, really*)

pack of softness[△] = load of nonsense, load of rubbish (1:28:46 a *'pack of softness' just summat that's (doh make sense) "that's a pack of softness he's talking" (yeah, 'pack of softness', yeah)*)

piece = sandwich (1:13:02 *what was the other one, "if you asked her if her wanted a piece" you know, that was a 'sandwich' a 'piece' "if you asked her if you if her wanted a piece I bet her'd say, 'oh no thank you I've just had apple'"*)

scally = youth, rogue, chancer (0:59:48 *in three days of filming if the best they could come up with [...] was a little old woman [...] and two local scallies that'd just come out the Job Centre*)

sough = drain, sewer (1:33:40 *that's another illogical thing 'cause you'd say, "oh, he's poured it up the sough" which means 'he's chucked it down the drain'*)

speak = speech, language (1:36:01 *"filling the space with tranklements it's only our speak shows who we bin"*¹⁰)

speak to the organ-grinder (not the monkey) = to speak to the person in charge (1:28:54 *say you had a gripe and you was on the shop floor well you'd you'd miss out the underhand and you'd go to the foreman so, you know, he might come and he'd say, "what do you wanna do, Bill?" and you'd say, "I'm gonna speak to the organ-grinder not the monkey"*)

suck[○] = sweets (1:29:56 *"go to the shop for some suck" (ah) do you know that one do you understand that one? ("down down the shop for some suck") 'go to the shop for some sweets' (OK) "down the shop down the shop for summat to suck" um see it make sense; 1:37:27 "I ain't a-going' I'd say and he'd shout, 'you bin get yourself some suck and doh forget your keys'"*¹⁰)

summat = something (0:12:31 *well we've probably got the right vowels in the first place and Standard English has got the wrong vowels but we we would put an 'O' where there's an 'A' but in 'mom' there's an 'O' where there's an 'O' and sort of everybody else has sort of stuck summat else in; 0:46:41 how could you say that a bloke who was [...] a pattern-maker or summat like that in a foundry that that'd got a uh a strong dialect accent who who was building things that were being shipped all round the world [...] these blokes wor thick (no) at all they was anything but; 0:47:20 it's about time s... people recognise the fact that it's a dialect that's that's spoken (yeah) it's not a uh, you know, it's it's it's not an infliction we'm we'm not, like, inflicted with summat that's, you know, we we've got to apologise for; 1:09:39 it's words as well like like 'first' and we say 'first' (yeah) "the first one through the the door", like, (yeah) you know, or or summat like that; 1:14:48 my aunty said that me grandad was an elder because he was self-educated (yeah) and so anybody that had a form or summat they dayn understand would go to him and they'd say, you know, "Mr Murray can you explain this to me?"; 1:28:46 a 'pack of softness' just summat that's (doh make sense) "that's a pack of softness he's talking" (yeah, 'pack of softness', yeah); 1:29:56 "go to the shop for some suck" (ah) do you know that one do you understand that one? ("down down the shop for some suck") 'go to the shop for some sweets' (OK) 'down the shop down the shop for summat to suck' um see it make sense)*

tacky bonk¹⁴ = slag-heap, pit mound (1:32:51 *and it's all to do with the types of ground the spoil mounds and whatever uh I mean 'tacky' dirt'd be, like, 'clay' 'clay and marl' and ('tacky bonks') ('tacky bonks', ah) and it gets changed to 'tacky bonks', yeah, ('marl holes') so so we know it as 'tacky' here and it's 'tacky' over there)*

take the piss out of = to make fun of, mock (1:17:42 *we laugh at ourselves (yeah) we we, you know, but we doh like people taking the piss out of we (no) 'cause we can do that enough ourselves)*

talk out of one's backside[△] = to talk nonsense (1:30:19 *say you'd come out with something that'd be, like, s... absolutely stupid he'd say, "well you cor roast snow in a furnace" which means 'you'm just talking out of your backside,' you know, really*)

¹⁴ Aynuk's *Secund Black Country Waerd Buk* (1979) records 'tacky bonk' in this sense.

tara a bit¹⁵ = goodbye, see you later (0:37:30 *see you, Steve, tara a bit sorry you cor get on Radio 4*¹⁵ with your guitar)

the off¹⁶ = elsewhere, outside the immediate community (0:52:43 *those from 'th' off' who who live off our region um will only um have an understanding of our language from bad actors uh from bad media and um from people who've got no idea about our culture and our language*)

tranklement¹⁰ = trinket, knick-knack, ornament (1:36:01 *"filling the space with tranklements it's only our speak shows who we bin"*¹⁰)

triple whammy = something particularly effective/problematic (1:12:03 *lot of diphthong used in the Black Country as well I mean the best one I ever heard was in Beatties*¹⁶ *in Dudley and this woman says uh in the shoe department, "eh", her says, "what size am these shoes, please?" triple whammy*)

wench = woman (0:05:54 *for me I've always embraced I mean my my grandparents were all other than me nan who was uh a Tipton wench if you like all me other grandparents on on me dad's side were Irish me nan and grandad on me mom's side me grandad was from Plymouth*; 1:27:21 *an industrial term they used to use in the steelwork if somebody was um a shirker [...] mainly used in the women's uh mills and they used to call them 'ines wench' which meant, you know, they were 'a waste of space' especially if they were on piecework and if they were, like, dropping behind they'd say, "oh" you know "Elsie's an ines wench" which meant her weren't pulling her weight really*)

wapple¹⁰ = mucus in corner of eye (1:29:17 *do you know what 'wapple' is? ('wapple' ah) 'sleep in your eye', ah ('sleep in your eye', yeah, "get the wapple out your eye")*)

waste of space = useless or contemptible person (1:27:21 *an industrial term they used to use in the steelwork if somebody was um a shirker [...] mainly used in the women's uh mills and they used to call them 'ines wench' which meant, you know, they were 'a waste of space' especially if they were on piecework and if they were, like, dropping behind they'd say, "oh" you know "Elsie's an ines wench" which meant her weren't pulling her weight really*)

wazzen¹⁰ = gullet, throat (1:28:11 *there's a good 'un for drinking 'you got no clack in your wazzen' (yeah) (ah) which means 'you can dr... you can drink a pint with the greatest of ease' basically [...] 'got no Adam's apple in your throat' (so it just goes down) yeah (right)*)

PHONOLOGY

KIT [ɪ]

(0:04:42 *before setting up my own business [bɪznɪs] I ran that for five years before falling ill [ɪɪ] and at the moment I'm working as a museum assistant [ə'sɪstənt] uh just retraining*; 0:19:25 *I used to love the old uh which [wɪtʃ] I still [stɪɪ] wind my kids [kɪdz] up with [wɪð] it now which [wɪtʃ] is, you know, when we was at sch... you you took your pumps to school, didn't you, you know, your old slip-on pumps [slɪpɒm pumps] and your pump bag*; 0:47:20 *it's about time s... people recognise the fact that it's a dialect that's that's spoken (yeah) it's not a uh, you know, it's it's it's not an infliction [ɪmfɪlɪkʃən] we'm we'm not, like, inflicted [ɪmfɪlɪktɪd] with summat that's, you know, we we've got to apologise for*; 1:43:13 *we I don't do dialect I I write songs and they're they're just songs um I don't sing [sɪŋ] in a Black Country dialect anything [ɛnɪθɪn] like that but I mean I don't as soon as we finish [fɪnɪʃ] the song, you know, I speak how I speak kind of thing [θɪŋg])*

didn't (0:19:25 *I used to love the old uh which I still wind my kids up with it now which is, you know, when we was at sch... you you took your pumps to school, didn't [dæɪ] you, you know, your old slip-on pumps and your pump bag*; 0:23:03 *and then the other one my uncle Des was*

¹⁵ British radio station operated by BBC broadcasting mainly news, documentaries and drama.

¹⁶ Former British department store group founded 1877 in Wolverhampton with stores located mainly in Midlands, acquired 2005 by House of Fraser.

delivering in Stockport and he didn't [dæi] go the next week and they said, "what's happened to Des he was he was supposed to be delivering this week?" he says, "oh, he's on the box" they did a collection 'cause they thought they meant 'in the box' 'dead'; 0:55:38 I've just spoke about, you know, the passion of the industry and stuff like that but I kind of rebelled against that I didn't [dæi] want to work in a factory I didn't [dæi] want to work in a foundry I didn't [dæi] want to do all them jobs; 1:14:48 my aunty said that my grandad was an elder because he was self-educated (yeah) and so anybody that had a form or summat they didn't [dæin] understand would go to him and they'd say, you know, "Mr Murray can you explain this to me?"; 1:25:37 'cause I remember I was driving down to Ipswich once and uh got got my girlfriend with me and I goes, "bloody hell it's black over Bill's mothers" her says, "I didn't [dæi] know you knowed somebody down here"; 1:42:00 Paul McDonald goes on and does a a reading from his book 'Surviving Sting' which is absolute it's set in Walsall in 1979 it's hilarious Brendan gets up and I mean these people to me they were the ones on a on a an high wire um and it just went a treat, didn't [dæi] it?)

<em-, en-, es-, ex-> (0:00:05 and lived there uh probably until I was about four or five when there was the relocation of houses out of the the Oldbury town and into the new council estates [kɛʊnsəʔ ɪstæɪts]; 0:03:43 really with the Black Country it's not so much individual words it's, like, expressions [ɛksprɛʃənz] that we use that um that've got the real force; 0:06:21 I've always kind of embraced [ɪmbɹæɪst] the the uh the thing that this area's always been a uh an area that's integrated um initially from the kind of British Isles but then obviously after from sort of, you know, Asia and the West Indies and what have you; 0:09:25 (it wouldn't necessarily be your mother either because you c... you'd call your neighbour 'the old wench' or you it was like a general term for) (for a woman) (older women, yeah, yeah, I would say) it's kind of an endearing [ɪndɪəɪn] term, though; 0:27:29 when we engage [ɪŋgæɪdʒ] in something we tend to 'have a go at it' or 'have a go with it'; 0:41:26 it was almost like a duality here 'cause I know when I was growing up as a kid I was en... encouraged [ɪŋkɔɪdʒd] not to speak broad which was basically slipping into the dialect; 0:52:28 it's deeply offensive because as Gary says ours is a language and we're extremely [ɪkstɹi:mli] passionate about it; 1:14:48 my aunty said that my grandad was an elder because he was self-educated (yeah) and so anybody that had a form or summat they didn't understand would go to him and they'd say, you know, "Mr Murray can you explain [ɪksplæɪn] this to me?")

willst (0:40:59 and he, you know, if he wanted something doing he'd sday it'd be 'willst' [wʊləst] (yeah) using very definitely German-rooted words)

DRESS [ɛ]

(0:12:01 I'd add 'mom' as opposed to 'mum' or 'mam' [...] with an 'O' 'cause I've just spent [spɛnt] an hour down the card shop in Merry Hill [mɛɪ ɪt] for next [nekst] week and they ain't got one that's spelt [speʔ?] right; 0:31:22 I went [went] to my aunty on on interviewed my aunty on Sunday for a university project [pɹɔʔʒekt] and I said, [sɛd] "look I can never ever [nevə ɛvə] remember [ɪmɛmbə] anything [ɛniθɪn] calling anybody [ɛnɪbɔdi] anything [ɛniθɪn] if they was pregnant" [pɹɛgnənt] and she says, "oh you used to say 'her call... her carried everything [ɛvɪθɪn] afore her'" which is a logical expression [ɛksprɛʃən]; 0:47:20 it's about time s... people recognise [ɹɛkənɔɪz] the fact that it's a dialect [dɔɪələkt] that's that's spoken (yeah) it's not a uh, you know, it's it's it's not an infliction we'm we'm not, like, inflicted with summat that's, you know, we we've got to apologise for)

TRAP [a]

(1:19:22 the philosophy of the the people and the codes and the practices [pɹæktɪsɪz] and the values [vælju:z] that uh things that are that are not here now as such (yeah) not as strongly; 0:52:43 those from

'the off' who who live off our region um will only um have an understanding [ʊndəstændɪŋ] of our language [lɑŋgwɪdʒ] from bad [bɑd] actors [ɑktəz] uh from bad [bɑd] media and um from people who've got no idea about our culture and our language [lɑŋgwɪdʒ]; 1:04:54 so Bessie from next door would come in and she'd lean on the canting patch [kɑntɪm pətʃ] while my nanny [nɑni] Murray'd make a cuppa and they'd just cant [kɑnt] cant [kɑnt] and cag [kɑg] about what went on)

<-am-, -an->, apple, smashed, tacky (0:12:48 (we substitute 'A' for 'O's in 'shop' and 'drop', you know, so it's just) and other way round ins... so it'd be 'bank' [bɒŋk] instead of 'bank' [bɑŋk] (yeah); 0:14:00 my mom'd say if my dad was on afternoon shift, "the old man'll [mɒnəʔ] be back at ten" but she wouldn't say, you know, we wouldn't be able to call him 'the old man' [mɒn] to her face; 0:27:59 that might've been relative to all the, like, the coal tacky banks [bɒŋks] and the clay banks [bɒŋks] around and they just said, "oh, you going tip it" which means 'you're going to play over on the bank' [bɒŋk] really, you know; 0:28:11 ('to hit something hard') oh, there's hundreds 'lamp' [lɒmp] 'hammer' [ɒmə] 'pail' 'thrape' ('thrape' is a good one 'give it a coal-heaver') yeah, 'give it a coal-heaver' (say that again) ('coal-heaver') ('coal-heaver' or 'cock-heaver') (what on earth is) ('cock-heaver', ah) [...] a 'coal-heaver' was like a a 'back-hander' [bɑkəndə] really a 'back-hander', [bɑkəndə] wasn't it, you know; 0:32:17 'has a drop' 'half-cut' 'three sheets to the wind' 'well-oiled' 'kaylied' 'blotto as a bob-owler' 'legless' 'pie-eyed' 'plastered' 'smashed' [smɒʃt] 'sealed' 'tiddly' 'pickled as a newt' that's the way it get you 'smelt the barmaid's apron' 'dipso' 'stewed' 'stoned' 'tight' 'bladdered' 'tied one on' 'had enough' 'addled' 'blind' 'sozzled' 'had a crooked elbow' 'half-cut' 'have a skinful' drink on and you'm 'rattled'; 0:33:04 (and uh anything for 'unattractive?') 'bag of spanners' [spɒnəz] was the great ('hit with the ugly stick'); 1:09:51 we found out we'd both come from Ocker Hill, don't we, so (Ocker Bank [ɒkə bɒŋk]) which Ocker Hill itself (same block of flats) same block of flats, ah, different altitude but the same block; 1:13:02 what was the other one, "if you asked her if her wanted a piece" you know, that was a 'sandwich' a 'piece' "if you asked her if you if her wanted a piece I bet her'd say, 'oh no thank you I've just had apple'" [ɒpɫ]¹⁷; 1:32:51 and it's all to do with the types of ground the spoil mounds and whatever uh I mean 'tacky' [tɒki] dirt'd be, like, 'clay' 'clay and marl' and ('tacky banks' [tɑki bɒŋks]) ('tacky banks', [tɑki bɒŋks] ah) and it gets changed to tacky banks, [tɑki bɒŋks] yeah, ('marl holes') so so we know it as 'tacky' [tɒki] here and it's 'tacky' [tɑki] over there; 1:27:46 somebody who's mean 'wouldn't give him a blow off the ragman's [ɹɑgmɒnz] trumpet' [...] (or 'the droppings off their nose'); 1:28:54 say you had a gripe and you was on the shop floor well you'd you'd miss out the underhand [ʊndəhænd] and you'd go to the foreman so, you know, he might come and he'd say, "what do you want to do, Bill?" and you'd say, "I'm going to speak to the organ-grinder not the monkey"; 1:36:11 "it ain't till you found it you knows where you stand [stænd] like taking your knife out on its sheath"¹⁰; 1:46:03 I'm interested in the bloke who stood on the cut bank [kʊt bɒŋk] on a F... Saturday after he'd had a few jars and he sang (yeah) his heart out)

LOT

[ɒ]

(0:07:08 this is how we felt no matter what you wanted [wɒnɪd] to do that was where you were going so when the school gates opened and we walked out and the factory gates opened and you walked in; 0:31:22 I went to my aunty on on interviewed my aunty on Sunday for a university project [pɹɪɔdʒekt] and I said, "look I can never ever remember anything calling anybody [enɪbɒdi] anything if they was pregnant" and she says, "oh you used to say 'her call... her carried everything afore her'" which is a

¹⁷ This pronunciation is consciously 'performed' in imitation of broad dialect speech locally.

logical [lɒdʒɪkət] expression; 1:26:27 Steve was uh a bloke who I worked with the other day and um he got [gɒd] his rag off with a customer anyway and the customer left)

drop, shop (0:12:01 I'd add 'mom' as opposed to 'mum' or 'mam' [...] with an 'O' 'cause I've just spent an hour down the card shop [kɑ:d ʃɒp] in Merry Hill for next week and they ain't got one that's spelt right; 0:12:48 we substitute 'A' for 'O's in 'shop' [ʃap] and 'drop', [dɹap] you know, so it's just (and other way round ins... so it'd be 'bank' instead of 'bank') yeah; 0:32:17 'has a drop' [dɹap] 'half-cut' 'three sheets to the wind' 'well-oiled' 'kaylied' 'blotto as a bob-owler' 'legless' 'pie-eyed' 'plastered' 'smashed' 'sealed' 'tiddly' 'pickled as a newt' that's the way it get you 'smelt the barmaid's apron' 'dipso' 'stewed' 'stoned' 'tight' 'bladdered' 'tied one on' 'had enough' 'addled' 'blind' 'sozzled' 'had a crooked elbow' 'half-cut' 'have a skinful' drink on and you'm 'rattled'; 1:27:21 an industrial term they used to use in the steelwork if somebody was um a shirker [...] mainly used in the women's uh mills and they used to call them 'ines wench' which meant, you know, they were 'a waste of space' especially if they were on piecework and if they were, like, dropping behind [dɹɒpɪŋ bi'ɪnd] they'd say, "oh" you know "Elsie's an ines wench" which meant her weren't pulling her weight really; 1:27:46 (somebody who's mean 'wouldn't give him a blow off the ragman's trumpet' [...]) or 'the droppings [dɹapɪnz] off their nose'; 1:29:56 "go to the shop [ʃap] for some suck" (ah) do you know that one do you understand that one? ("down down the shop [ʃap] for some suck") 'go to the shop [ʃɒp] for some sweets' (OK) 'down the shop [ʃɒp] down the shop [ʃap] for summat to suck' um see it make sense)

<-ong> (0:11:20 I worked in Cradley and, like, they says, you know, they used to point to me and say, "God, you've you, you know, you got a strong [stɹɒŋ] accent" whereas to me they was like, "Jeff, what you on about?", like you know, and I know it's only, like, two or three mile; 0:12:31 well we've probably got the right vowels in the first place and Standard English has got the wrong [ɹɒŋ] vowels but we we would put an 'O' where there's an 'A' but in 'mom' there's an 'O' where there's an 'O' and sort of everybody else has sort of stuck summat else in; 0:46:41 how could you say that a bloke who was [...] a pattern-maker or summat like that in a foundry that that'd got a uh a strong [stɹɒŋ] dialect accent who who was building things that were being shipped all round the world [...] these blokes weren't thick (no) at all they was anything but; 1:19:22 the philosophy of the the people and the codes and the practices and the values that uh things that are that are not here now as such (yeah) not as strongly [stɹɒŋli]; 1:43:13 we I don't do dialect I I write songs [sɒŋz] and they're they're just songs [sɒŋz] um I don't sing in a Black Country dialect anything like that but I mean I don't as soon as we finish the song, [sɒŋ] you know, I speak how I speak kind of thing)

STRUT [ʊ]

(0:00:33 terms of education went to a normal infant and um junior school and then was lucky [lʊki] enough [ɪnʊf] to scrape into Oldbury Grammar School; 0:40:54 once they were in people didn't 'cause we were surrounded by hills (that's it) there was a great influx [ɪŋflʊks] of people and really we weren't bothered for centuries and centuries nobody wanted to know us [ʊs]; 0:55:53 this area has got a vast amount of, like, creative talent, but we've never had an industry [ɪndʊstri] round it we've never had, like, publishing companies [pʊblɪʃɪŋ kʌmpnɪz] [...] we've never had that kind of thing but we ain't half kicked some [sʊm] stuff [stʊf] out round here in over the years that is as good as anything anywhere but we've got nowhere to take it; 1:41:50 so we put this on in in in the pub [pʊb] it was we sold-out there was over hundred [ʊndɹəd] tickets sold the room was packed)

busted, umbrage (0:25:51 if you 'take the umbrage' [ʊmbɹɪdʒ] with somebody you're really I mean you're really really losing your temper; 0:26:24 but then if you say, "but he was

umbraged” [ʊmbɹɪdʒd] *it just sounds (yeah) it sounds annoying to me, doesn't it?*; 0:33:24 *'face like a busted [bʊstɪd] arsehole' (say it again) 'face like a busted [bʊstɪd] arsehole'*
doesn't (0:53:38 *I mean you look at some of the adverts if they want somebody who's slow on the uptake or somebody who do... just doesn't [dəʊ] quite get it first time they always use a Midland stroke Brummy stroke Black Country accent*; 1:20:59 *it doesn't [dəʊ] matter which town you go to Cradley Walsall there's massive massive pride in their own communities*; 1:22:43 *one chap was there Andy Dunes he doesn't [dəʊ] live round here no more but he'd come he'd he'd come back for the football game we hadn't seen him for years*; 1:28:46 *(a 'pack of softness' just summat that's) doesn't [dəʊ] make sense (“that's a pack of softness he's talking”) yeah, 'pack of softness', yeah)*

ONE (0:12:01 *I'd add 'mom' as opposed to 'mum' or 'mam' [...] with an 'O' 'cause I've just spent an hour down the card shop in Merry Hill for next week and they ain't got one [wʊn] that's spelt right*; 0:16:03 *('babby') ('babby') (yeah, 'babby', yeah) [...] and 'the little one' [lɪʔən] 'the little one' [lɪʔən] (yeah, 'the little one' [lɪʔən] yeah)*; 0:16:26 *do you ever hear that one [wʊn] a 'scobie' (no) “how's your scobie?” ‘how's your kid?’ (no) ah, that was another one [wʊn] I ain't heard that for years but that was an old one [əʊtədn] (I have heard it) ‘scobie’*; 0:16:26 *'kegs' is a good one [gʊdn] (yeah, 'kegs' people still use that) yeah (“put your kegs on”) yeah (and I think that comes from um the canals probably)*; 0:28:11 *(‘to hit something hard’) (oh, there's hundreds ‘lamp’ ‘hammer’ ‘pail’ ‘thrape’) ‘thrape’ is a good one [gʊdn] ‘give it a coal-heaver’ (yeah, ‘give it a coal-heaver’) (say that again) ‘coal-heaver’ (‘coal-heaver’ or ‘cock-heaver’) (what on earth is) ‘cock-heaver’, ah [...] a ‘coal-heaver’ was like a a ‘back-hander’ really a ‘back-hander’, wasn't it, you know)*; 0:24:09 *I said, “ah, I'm on the box” he says, “well can you explain what that is?” I says, “I'm I'm I'm on the sick” “oh oh” then it was there was, like, all these puzzled looks and, like, but that is a rare one [ɹɛɹən] from round here*; 0:34:08 *you're assuming now that there were more than one [wʊn] in these houses well it'll be the ‘best room’ because you always used to be told you can only go in the best room on Sunday*; 0:40:54 *once [wʊns] they were in people didn't 'cause we were surrounded by hills (that's it) there was a great influx of people and really we weren't bothered for centuries and centuries nobody wanted to know us*; 0:49:09 *they'd got to get it right first time kind of thing there was none [nʌn] of this it was all*; 0:56:29 *all the industrial heritage was there but there was n... there's nothing [nʌθɪn] here of, like, creative arts if you like i... in a business sense*; 0:56:51 *I certainly don't feel any I I'm I'm not anti-Brummy or anything like that (oh no, no, no) it's not nothing [nʌθɪn] like that*; 1:03:04 *if we'm calling ourselves Brummies (yeah) then you've got to worry but once [wʊns] we've started calling ourselves (yeah) what we am then that was fine again*; 1:15:29 *and she'd be the one [wʊn] who'd be putting penny old copper pennies on somebody's eyes and laying them out down one [wʊn] end of the street (that's right my grandma used to lay them out, ah) and then her'd be down the other end helping somebody give birth*; 1:25:37 *'cause I remember I was driving down to Ipswich once [wʊns] and uh got got my girlfriend with me and I goes, “bloody hell it's black over Bill's mothers” her says, “I didn't know you knowed somebody down here”*; 1:28:11 *there's a good one [gʊdn] for drinking ‘you got no clack in your wazzen’ (yeah) (ah) which means you can dr... ‘you can drink a pint with the greatest of ease’ basically [...] ‘got no Adam's apple in your throat’ (so it just goes down) yeah (right)*

FOOT

[ʊ]

(0:04:11 *when the council um decided to move us um on the grounds of overcrowding from uh the small terraced house we lived in uh they put [pʊr] us in a tower block*; 1:28:38 *'bosting fittle' ('bosting')*

which is a pub in Dudley which is, like, 'good [gʊd] food' 'bosting fittle', you know; 1:42:00 Paul McDonald goes on and does a a reading from his book [bʊk] 'Surviving Sting' which is absolute it's set in Walsall in 1979 it's hilarious Brendan gets up and I mean these people to me they were the ones on a on a an high wire um and it just went a treat, didn't it?)

BATH [a]

(0:02:19 went to the local junior school passed [past] to grammar school Dudley Grammar School where I'd have to say there was a um distinct prejudice against working-class [wə:kɪŋklas] kids with Black Country accents; 0:14:00 my mom'd say if my dad was on afternoon [aftənu:n] shift, "the old man'll be back at ten" but she wouldn't say, you know, we wouldn't be able to call him 'the old man' to her face; 0:55:53 this area has got a vast [vast] amount of, like, creative talent, but we've never had an industry round it we've never had, like, publishing companies [...] we've never had that kind of thing but we ain't half kicked some stuff out round here in over the years that is as good as anything anywhere but we've got nowhere to take it)

laugh (1:12:23 what used to make me laugh [laf] or laugh [lɒf] if you like is um when and it, you know, when people used to try and sort of put theirselves over as (posher than they are); 1:17:42 we laugh [laf] at ourselves (yeah) we we, you know, but we don't like people taking the piss out of we (no) 'cause we can do that enough ourselves)

CLOTH [ɒ]

(0:21:21 you'll get terminology used for a street (yeah) or a district (yeah) or even one family'll (yeah) will have have their own words for certain things (yeah) something you'll come across [əkɒs]; 1:26:27 Steve was uh a bloke who I worked with the other day and um he got his rag off [ɒf] with a customer anyway and the customer left)

soft, wash (0:01:22 uh when we're speaking normally our language is quite soft [sɒft] in terms of old Black Country language but we're all involved in performance as such and then uh we can hark back to a much rawer uh Black Country dialect [...] and that's something we try to perpetuate with what we do uh here really; 0:03:29 the accent now is sort of maybe a lot softer [sɒftə] than it was but there's a lot of old words that um I certainly like to perpetuate; 1:28:46 a 'pack of softness' [saftnɪs] just summat that's (doesn't make sense) "that's a pack of softness [saftnɪs] he's talking" (yeah, 'pack of softness', [saftnɪs] yeah); 1:30:55 there used to be an old guy he'd go, uh oh, you know, "ten o'clock and ne'er a pigeon home yet" (ah) ('ne'er a pigeon back', ah) you know, so or, "ten o'clock and the babby ain't washed" [wɒʃt] that's another one)

NURSE [əɪ ~ eɪ]

(0:07:18 I left school in 1978 and then um work... just kind of held day jobs down while I why I persevered [peɪsɪvɪəd] with with music; 0:16:26 do you ever hear that one a 'scobie' (no) "how's your scobie?" 'how's your kid?' (no) ah, that was another one I ain't heard [eɪd] that for years but that was an old one (I have heard [eɪd] it) 'scobie'; 0:22:27 (if you're feeling 'unwell', Greg, what would you say?) um [eɪm] 'poorly' but there's a local expression 'on the box' if you'm off work [wɒ:k]; 0:56:51 I certainly [seɪʔŋli] don't feel any I I'm I'm not anti-Brummy or anything like that (oh no, no, no) it's not nothing like that; 1:15:46 she learnt [lɜːnt] um a lot of the arts of prophecy and foresight because she worked [wɒ:kt] closely with the gypsies and Romanies (yeah) that that sort of settled in and around that area (yeah) of uh Tipton; 1:27:21 an industrial term [tə:m] they used to use in the steelwork [sti:tʃwɒ:k] if somebody was um a shirker [ʃe:kə] [...] mainly used in the women's uh mills and they used to call them 'ines wench' which meant, you know, they were 'a waste of space' especially if they were on piecework [pɪsɪwɒ:k] and if they were, like, dropping behind they'd say, "oh" you know "Elsie's an ines wench" which meant her weren't pulling her weight really)

first, worse, worth (0:29:30 ('loaded') (I've got 'loaded') (um) 'worth [wʊθ] a bob or two' (yeah, there's a there's a phrase it's called 'tidy bit of money tied to the coat'); 0:49:09 they'd got to get it right first [fe:st] time kind of thing there was none of this it was all; 0:53:38 I mean you look at some of the adverts if they want somebody who's slow on the uptake or somebody who do... just doesn't quite get it first [fə:st] time they always use a Midland stroke Brummy stroke Black Country accent; 1:09:39 it's words as well like like 'first' [fe:st] and we say 'first' [fʊst] (yeah) "the first [fʊst] one through the the door", like, (yeah) you know, or or summat like that; 1:18:21 like Gary says if a lot of people try to be clever with us then they always come off worse [wʊs] because they don't realise how clever we are they think we're stupid but we're not **weren't** (0:46:41 how could you say that a bloke who was [...] a pattern-maker or summat like that in a foundry that that'd got a uh a strong dialect accent who who was building things that were being shipped all round the world [...] these blokes weren't [wɔ:ɪ] thick (no) at all they was anything but; 0:59:52 basically they weren't [wɔ:ɪ] getting the reaction that they wanted, see (yeah); 1:33:59 and we were talking about being 'out on the fold', weren't [wɔ:ɪ] we, the other day (ah, 'out on the fold', yeah) 'out on' which is like the small yard at the back, you know, like a court well it's a courtyard or a yard, isn't it, (yeah) at the back of a back-to-back [...] so if you were chucked out on the fold you was basically outside; 1:42:21 and and you thought, "Jesus, look at the reaction in this room" I mean it was knock-out, weren't it? [wɔ:ɪ ɪ?] (it was, yeah))

FLEECE [i:(ə) > əi > i:ɪ]

(0:52:43 those from 'the off' who who live off our region [ɪ:ɔʒən] um will only um have an understanding of our language from bad actors uh from bad media [mi:diə] and um from people [pi:pɫ] who've got no idea about our culture and our language; 1:27:21 an industrial term they used to use in the steelwork [sti:tʰwɔ:k] if somebody was um a shirker [...] mainly used in the women's uh mills and they used to call them 'ines wench' which meant, you know, they were 'a waste of space' especially if they were on piecework [pəiswɔ:k] and if they were, like, dropping behind they'd say, "oh" you know "Elsie's an ines wench" which meant her weren't pulling her weight really; 1:07:21 well Cradley Heath [kɹæɪdli i:θ] it's like, "Cradley Heath [kɹæɪdli i:θ]¹⁷ Blackheath" [blaki:əθ]¹⁷ (yeah, "Cradley Heath", [kɹæɪdli i:θ] ah, ain't it?) and when I write I always out a 'Y' in it; 1:12:03 lot of diphthong used in the Black Country as well I mean the best one I ever heard was in Beatties¹⁶ in Dudley and this woman says uh in the shoe department, "eh", her says, "what size am these shoes, please?" [pli:ɪz]¹⁷ triple whammy; 1:42:00 Paul McDonald goes on and does a a reading [ɪ:dɪn] from his book 'Surviving Sting' which is absolute it's set in Walsall in 1979 it's hilarious Brendan gets up and I mean [mi:n] these [ði:z] people [pəɪpɫ] to me [məi] they were the ones on a on a an high wire um and it just went a treat, [tɹɪt] didn't it?)

been, beast, see(n), week (0:09:43 I have been [bin] in situations where some've looked and you've gone, "he's called her wench," you know, as if it's some scullery maid; 0:12:01 I'd add 'mom' as opposed to 'mum' or 'mam' [...] with an 'O' 'cause I've just spent an hour down the card shop in Merry Hill for next week [wɪk] and they ain't got one that's spelt right; 0:27:59 that might've been [bin] relative to all the, like, the coal tacky banks and the clay banks around and they just said, "oh, you going tip it" which means 'you're going to play over on the bank' really, you know; 0:40:15 we've got the old form of the verb to be 'bin' and 'bain't' (and 'beest' [bɪst]) and 'beest' [bɪst] and that's very local; 0:58:15 these there was there was there was reporters up the Co-op¹⁸ down by Tipton Railway Station over Victoria Park I mean [mɪn] you seen [sɪn] these vans driving round with, like you know, CN News and f... I mean [mi:n] all these big media

¹⁸ UK consumer cooperative founded 1863 with headquarters currently in Manchester.

t... and it was like, “Jesus, what’s going on here?”; 1:00:15 within by the end of the week [wɪk] the whole town was basically just clamming up and all they was left with was your local fuckwits basically up Princes End sticking an effigy with somebody in overalls that hit the papers, do you know what I mean; 1:22:27 the whole place went, like you know, and so it when you see [sɪ] things like that and the return leg last Saturday down at Tipton there was over over, like, six-hundred down there (yeah); 1:21:13 I mean [mɪn] look at that the other week [wəɪk] where, like, Tipton in the FA Vase¹⁹ they played they drew Jarrow [...] there was two-hundred went up to Jarrow; 1:22:43 one chap was there Andy Dunes he doesn’t live round here no more but he’d come he’d he’d come back for the football game we hadn’t seen [sɪn] him for years; 1:37:38 “and when he took them off me he’d say, ‘you bain’t a bad one beestn’t [bɪsənt] now go and play and leave me to my smokes”¹⁰)

coal-heaver, cock-heaver, key, sheet, speak (0:32:17 ‘has a drop’ ‘half-cut’ ‘three sheets [θɪi: ʃæits] to the wind’ well-oiled’ ‘kaylied’ ‘blotto as a bob-owler’ ‘legless’ ‘pie-eyed’ ‘plastered’ ‘smashed’ ‘sealed’ ‘tiddly’ ‘pickled as a newt’ that’s the way it get you ‘smelt the barmaid’s apron’ ‘dipso’ ‘stewed’ ‘stoned’ ‘tight’ ‘bladdered’ ‘tied one on’ ‘had enough’ ‘addled’ ‘blind’ ‘sozzled’ ‘had a crooked elbow’ ‘half-cut’ ‘have a skinful’ drink on and you’m ‘rattled’; 0:41:26 it was almost like a duality here ‘cause I know when I was growing up as a kid I was en... encouraged not to speak [spæɪk] broad which was basically slipping into the dialect; 1:36:01 “filling the space with tranklements it’s only our speak [spæɪk] shows who we bin”¹⁰; 1:37:27 “I ain’t a-going’ I’d say and he’d shout, ‘you bin get yourself some suck and don’t forget your keys” [kæɪz]¹⁰; 1:43:13 we I don’t do dialect I I write songs and they’re they’re just songs um I don’t sing in a Black Country dialect anything like that but I mean I don’t as soon as we finish the song, you know, I speak [spæɪk] how I speak [spæɪk] kind of thing)

FACE [æi(ə) > ɛɪ]

(0:00:33 terms of education [ɛdʒukæɪʃən] went to a normal infant and um junior school and then was lucky enough to scrape [skɹæɪp] into Oldbury Grammar School; 0:06:21 I’ve always kind of embraced [ɪmbɹæɪst] the the uh the thing that this area’s always been a uh an area that’s integrated [ɪntɪgrɪætɪd] um initially from the kind of British Isles but then obviously after from sort of, you know, Asia and [æɪzɪə ən] the West Indies and what have you; 0:28:11 (‘to hit something hard’) oh, there’s hundreds ‘lamp’ ‘hammer’ ‘pail’ [pæɪəɪt] ‘thrape’ [θɹæ:p] (‘thrape’ [θɹæɪp] is a good one ‘give it a coal-heaver’) yeah, ‘give it a coal-heaver’ (say that again) (‘coal-heaver’) (‘coal-heaver’ or ‘cock-heaver’) (what on earth is) (‘cock-heaver’, ah) [...] a ‘coal-heaver’ was like a a ‘back-hander’ really a ‘back-hander’, wasn’t it, you know; 0:32:00 I’ve got ‘rat-arsed’ ‘pissed’ and ‘out your face’ [fæɪs] (yeah, ‘out your face’ [fɛɪs]) ‘out your face’, [fɛɪs] ah; 1:00:15 within by the end of the week the whole town was basically just clamming up and all they was left with was your local fuckwits basically up Princes End sticking an effigy with somebody in overalls that hit the papers, [pɛɪ:pəz] do you know what I mean; 1:22:43 one chap was there Andy Dunes he doesn’t live round here no more but he’d come he’d he’d come back for the football game [gɹɛ:m] we hadn’t seen him for years; 1:26:27 Steve was uh a bloke who I worked with the other day [dæɪ] and um he got his rag off with a customer anyway [ɛnɪwæɪ] and the customer left)

always, <-day> (0:06:21 I’ve always [ɔ:wɪz] kind of embraced the the uh the thing that this area’s always [ɔ:ɹwɪz] been a uh an area that’s integrated um initially from the kind of British Isles but then obviously after from sort of, you know, Asia and the West Indies and what have you; 0:05:54 for me I’ve always [ɔ:ɹwɪz] embraced I mean my my grandparents were all other than my nan who was uh a Tipton wench if you like all my other grandparents on on my dad’s

¹⁹ Annual knockout competition first contested in 1974 for clubs playing in lower leagues of English football pyramid.

side were Irish my nan and grandad on my mom's side my grandad was from Plymouth; 0:15:36 I mean respectfully I mean I always [ɔ:ɪwæɪz] called my grandfather 'grandad' but um obviously there was 'grandfather' as well which um stresses the the 'A' and the 'E' sound on 'father'; 0:31:22 I went to my aunty on on interviewed my aunty on Sunday [sʌndɪ] for a university project and I said, "look I can never ever remember anything calling anybody anything if they was pregnant" and she says, "oh you used to say 'her call... her carried everything afore her'" which is a logical expression; 0:34:08 you're assuming now that there were more than one in these houses well it'll be the 'best room' because you always used to be told you can only go in the best room on Sunday [sʌndɪ]; 0:52:37 I'm sure it'd be the same if you were a Geordie and somebody said you had come from Sunderland when you're on holiday, [ɒlədi] you know; 1:22:27 the whole place went, like you know, and so it when you see things like that and the return leg last Saturday [satədi] down at Tipton there was over over, like, six-hundred down there (yeah); 1:36:55 "he didn't see a doctor till he was eighty-four always [ɔ:ɪtəs] fit but he didn't look after hisself not a bit on it"¹⁰; 1:46:03 I'm interested in the bloke who stood on the cut bank on a F... Saturday [satədi] after he'd had a few jars and he sang (yeah) his heart out **apron** (0:32:17 'has a drop' 'half-cut' 'three sheets to the wind' 'well-oiled' 'kaylied' 'blotto as a bob-owler' 'legless' 'pie-eyed' 'plastered' 'smashed' 'sealed' 'tiddly' 'pickled as a newt' that's the way it get you 'smelt the barmaid's apron' [apən] 'dipso' 'stewed' 'stoned' 'tight' 'bladdered' 'tied one on' 'had enough' 'addled' 'blind' 'sozzled' 'had a crooked elbow' 'half-cut' 'have a skinful' drink on and you'm 'rattled')

(b)ain't (0:12:01 I'd add 'mom' as opposed to 'mum' or 'mam' [...] with an 'O' 'cause I've just spent an hour down the card shop in Merry Hill for next week and they ain't [æi] got one that's spelt right; 0:16:26 do you ever hear that one a 'scobie' (no) "how's your scobie?" "how's your kid?" (no) ah, that was another one I ain't [æi] heard that for years but that was an old one (I have heard it) 'scobie'; 0:17:40 if that applied to that term then it would be either one of them, wouldn't it, (yeah) (yeah) if you was, like, you know, early late sixties (it does tend to be a fashion statement, doesn't it?) whereas now that we you don't seem to get the the kind of subcultures so much (no) you get, you know, more of a fash... it's just a fashion statement, ain't [æi] it, you know; 0:21:48 (the elastic used to go but if they still fitted you you'd still got to wear them unless they wore an hole in them) and all our toes am like that now, ain't [æi] they, 'cause of them; 0:40:15 we've got the old form of the verb to be 'bin' and 'bain't' [bæi] (and 'beest') and 'beest' and that's very local; 0:55:53 this area has got a vast amount of, like, creative talent, but we've never had an industry round it we've never had, like, publishing companies [...] we've never had that kind of thing but we ain't [æi] halfkicked some stuff out round here in over the years that is as good as anything anywhere but we've got nowhere to take it; 0:57:19 but it's a question of your identity, you know, (yeah) and they're, like, questioning your identity really and you sort of say, "well no, I ain't [ɪnt] a Brummy I'm a bloody Black Countryman"; 1:07:04 and although they looked upon theirselves as a whole they w... they also looked upon theirselves as indi... again they were tribes we're all part of tribes, ain't [ɪn?] we?; 1:19:06 he said, "but the beauty is if I'd got the money I could go and do that but I can go and have a cheese sandwich and a game of dominoes as well" and not, you know, and fit in there and that's I thought, "well that's that's that's the life" then, ain't [æi] it, 'cause then, you know, you can go and do both kind of thing; 1:22:52 you've only got to read the letter pages, ain't [æi] you, in *The Star*²⁰; 1:27:12 'keep out the horse road' is like kind of 'best of luck' in a way, ain't [æi] it, (yeah) 'be lucky' 'keep out the horse road' 'don't get run over by an horse and cart', like, you know;

²⁰ Express and Star, daily regional evening newspaper founded 1889 in Wolverhampton.

1:30:44 *'this won't buy the babby a new coat' that's another one, ain't [æi] it (ah) 'it just won't do, that,' you know, "this won't buy the babby a new coat"; 1:32:12 there ain't [ɛnʔ] that many but, like, there's 'pailing' and 'paling' now 'pailing is 'giving you a pailing' and then a 'paling' is a 'fence' [...] you can have a pailing for getting stuck on the palings' 1:35:24 "it bain't [bæi] proper like what you was gied in the classroom"¹⁰)*

make, take (0:25:51 *if you 'take [tɛk] the umbrage' with somebody you're really I mean you're really really losing your temper; 0:46:41 how could you say that a bloke who was [...] a pattern-maker or [patəm:ɛkəɪ ɔ:] summat like that in a foundry that that'd got a uh a strong dialect accent who who was building things that were being shipped all round the world [...] these blokes weren't thick (no) at all they was anything but; 0:55:53 this area has got a vast amount of, like, creative talent, but we've never had an industry round it we've never had, like, publishing companies [...] we've never had that kind of thing but we ain't half kicked some stuff out round here in over the years that is as good as anything anywhere but we've got nowhere to take [tɛk] it; 1:04:54 so Bessie from next door would come in and she'd lean on the canting patch while my nanny Murray'd make [mæik] a cuppa and they'd just cant cant and cag about what went on; 1:12:23 what used to make [mɛk] me laugh or laugh if you like is um when and it, you know, when people used to try and sort of put themselves over as (posher than they are); 1:17:42 we laugh at ourselves (yeah) we we, you know, but we don't like people taking [tɛkʔn] the piss out of we (no) 'cause we can do that enough ourselves)*

PALM [ɑ:]

(0:31:22 *I went to my aunty [ɑ:nti] on on interviewed my aunty [ɑ:nti] on Sunday for a university project and I said, "look I can never ever remember anything calling anybody anything if they was pregnant" and she says, "oh you used to say 'her call... her carried everything afore her'" which is a logical expression; 0:55:53 this area has got a vast amount of, like, creative talent, but we've never had an industry round it we've never had, like, publishing companies [...] we've never had that kind of thing but we ain't half [ɑ:f] kicked some stuff out round here in over the years that is as good as anything anywhere but we've got nowhere to take it)*

can't (0:37:30 *see you, Steve, tara a bit sorry you can't [kɔ:] get on Radio 4¹⁵ with your guitar; 0:45:23 and so really to to write that down really it it you can't [kɑ:nt] do it it has to be spoken; 1:30:19 say you'd come out with something that'd be, like, s... absolutely stupid he'd say, "well you can't [kɔ:] roast snow in a furnace" which means 'you'm just talking out of your backside,' you know, really)*

father (0:15:36 *I mean respectfully I mean I always called my grandfather [gɹɑmfɑ:ðə] 'grandad' but um obviously there was 'grandfather' as well [gɹɑmfɛ:ðə əz wɛt] which um stresses the the 'A' and the 'E' sound on 'father' [fɑ:ða])*

THOUGHT [ɔ:]

(0:01:22 *uh when we're speaking normally our language is quite soft in terms of old Black Country language but we're all [ɔ:t] involved in performance as such and then uh we can hark back to a much rawer [ɹɔ:ɹə] uh Black Country dialect [...] and that's something we try to perpetuate with what we do uh here really; 0:41:26 it was almost [ɔ:tmaʊst] like a duality here 'cause I know when I was growing up as a kid I was en... encouraged not to speak broad [bɹɔ:ɹd] which was basically slipping into the dialect; 1:33:59 and we were talking [ɔ:tɔɪn] about being 'out on the fold', weren't we, the other day (ah, 'out on the fold', yeah) 'out on' which is like the small [sɹmɔ:t] yard at the back, you know, like a court well it's a courtyard or a yard, isn't it, (yeah) at the back of a back-to-back [...] so if you were chucked out on the fold you was basically outside)*

GOAT [ɑʊ > əʊ]

(0:00:05 *and lived there uh probably until I was about four or five when there was the relocation* [jɪ:ləʊkæɪfən] *of houses out of the the Oldbury town and into the new council estates*; 0:02:12 *Dudley born and bred in effect um both* [baʊθ] *parents worked for Dudley Co-op*¹⁸ [kaʊp]; 0:04:42 *before setting up my own* [aʊn] *business I ran that for five years before falling ill and at the moment* [maʊmənt] *I'm working as a museum assistant uh just retraining*; 0:36:11 *it used to be the 'outdoor convenience' (yeah) and all, hadn't it, when if you was trying to be posh at home* [aʊm]; 0:41:26 *it was almost* [ɔ:ʔmaʊst] *like a duality here 'cause I know* [naʊ] *when I was growing* [gɹaʊɪn] *up as a kid I was en... encouraged not to speak broad which was basically slipping into the dialect*; 1:00:15 *within by the end of the week the whole town was basically just clamming up and all they was left with was your local* [laʊkəʔ] *fuckwits basically up Princes End sticking an effigy with somebody in overalls* [aʊvəɹɔ:ʔz] *that hit the papers, do you know what I* [dʒənəʊwɔ:ɹaməɪn])

ago, both, coat, go(ing) (0:07:08 *this is how we felt no matter what you wanted to do that was where you were going* [gu:ɪn] *so when the school gates opened and we walked out and the factory gates opened and you walked in*; 0:15:04 *well years ago* [əgu:] *in Tipton that was that was a mate (yeah) 'my musher'*; 0:20:33 *this woman, like, come into the into the restaurant and her'd got, like, this fur coat* [fe:kəʊt] *on and then I says, like, "that's a nice coat, [ku:t] ain't it, her's got on?" he was like, "what?" come I said, "that's a nice coat [ku:t] her's got on what's just come through the door" and he was like, "what?"*; 0:21:48 *the elastic used to go* [gu:] *but if they still fitted you you'd still got to wear them unless they wore an hole in them (and all our toes am like that now, ain't they, 'cause of them)*; 0:27:29 *when we engage in something we tend to 'have a go* [gu:] *at it' or 'have a go with it'*; 0:27:59 *that might've been relative to all the, like, the coal tacky banks and the clay banks around and they just said, "oh, you going* [gu:ɪn] *tip it" which means 'you're going* [gu:ɪn] *to play over on the bank' really, you know*; 0:29:30 *('loaded') (I've got 'loaded') (um) ('worth a bob or two') yeah, there's a there's a phrase it's called 'tidy bit of money tied to the coat'* [ku:t]; 0:58:15 *these there was there was there was reporters up the Co-op*¹⁸ *down by Tipton Railway Station over Victoria Park I mean you seen these vans driving round with, like you know, CN News and f... I mean all these big media t... and it was like, "Jesus, what's going* [gu:ɪn] *on here?"*; 1:19:06 *he said, "but the beauty is if I'd got the money I could go and do that but I can go and have a cheese sandwich and a game of dominoes as well" and not, you know, and fit in there and that's I thought, "well that's that's that's the life" then, ain't it, 'cause then, you know, you can go and do both* [bu:θ] *kind of thing*; 1:30:44 *'this won't buy the babby a new coat'* [ku:t] *that's another one, ain't it (ah) 'it just won't do, that,' you know, "this won't buy the babby a new coat"* [ku:t]; 1:37:38 *"it didn't matter then but they'm both* [bu:θ] *dead now and my grandfather he didn't half speak funny"*¹⁰)

only (0:11:20 *I worked in Cradley and, like, they says, you know, they used to point to me and say, "God, you've you, you know, you got a strong accent" whereas to me they was like, "Jeff, what you on about?"*, like you know, and I know it's only, [ɒni] *like, two or three mile*; 0:34:08 *you're assuming now that there were more than one in these houses well it'll be the 'best room' because you always used to be told you can only* [ɒni] *go in the best room on Sunday*; 0:34:38 *but the front only* [ɒni] *come into play at Christmas as well, didn't it? (yeah)*; 0:50:15 *the segregation of actually the class issues (yeah, yeah) were very much alive and kicking throughout the 1970s and I think probably it was only* [aʊnli] *until the eighties when things started getting kicked out*; 1:22:52 *you've only* [ɒni] *got to read the letter pages, ain't you, in The Star*²⁰)

froze, go(es), home (0:23:03 *and then the other one my uncle Des was delivering in Stockport and he didn't go* [gʊ] *the next week and they said, "what's happened to Des he was he was*

supposed to be delivering this week?” he says, “oh, he’s on the box” they did a collection ‘cause they thought they meant ‘in the box’ ‘dead’; 0:25:18 (and ‘cold’?) (‘freezing’) (‘freezing’, ah) (‘froze’ [fɹɔz]) (‘cold’) (‘froze’ [fɹɔz]) ‘froze [fɹɔz] to death’ we’d say (‘froze’ [fɹɔz]); 0:27:29 when we engage in something we tend to ‘have a go at it’ or ‘have a go [gʊ] with it’; 1:14:48 my aunty said that my grandad was an elder because he was self-educated (yeah) and so anybody that had a form or summat they didn’t understand would go [gə] to him and they’d say, you know, “Mr Murray can you explain this to me?”; 1:19:06 he said, “but the beauty is if I’d got the money I could go and do [gʊndə] that but I can go and have [gʊnav] a cheese sandwich and a game of dominoes as well” and not, you know, and fit in there and that’s I thought, “well that’s that’s that’s the life” then, ain’t it, ‘cause then, you know, you can go and do [gʊndʊ] both kind of thing; 1:20:59 it doesn’t matter which town you go [gə] to Cradley Walsall there’s massive massive pride in their own communities; 1:25:37 ‘cause I remember I was driving down to Ipswich once and uh got got my girlfriend with me and I goes, [gʊz] “bloody hell it’s black over Bill’s mothers” her says, “I didn’t know you knowed somebody down here”; 1:28:54 say you had a gripe and you was on the shop floor well you’d you’d miss out the underhand and you’d go [gʊ] to the foreman so, you know, he might come and he’d say, “what do you want to do, Bill?” and you’d say, “I’m going to speak to the organ-grinder not the monkey”; 1:29:56 “go [gʊ] to the shop for some suck” (ah) do you know that one do you understand that one? (“down down the shop for some suck”) ‘go [gʊ] to the shop for some sweets’ (OK) ‘down the shop down the shop for summat to suck’ um see it make sense; 1:30:55 there used to be an old guy he’d go, uh oh, you know, “ten o’clock and ne’er a pigeon home [ʊm] yet” (ah) (‘ne’er a pigeon back’, ah) you know, so or, “ten o’clock and the babby ain’t washed” that’s another one; 1:37:08 “and when he worked days he’d be home [ʊm] at two saying he’d been drinking with the Prince Regent”¹⁰; 1:42:00 Paul McDonald goes [gʊz] on and does a a reading from his book ‘Surviving Sting’ which is absolute it’s set in Walsall in 1979 it’s hilarious Brendan gets up and I mean these people to me they were the ones on a on a an high wire um and it just went a treat, didn’t it?)

going to, <-ow>, so (0:03:43 really with the Black Country it’s not so [sə] much individual words it’s, like, expressions that we use that um that’ve got the real force; 0:17:40 if that applied to that term then it would be either one of them, wouldn’t it, (yeah) (yeah) if you was, like, you know, early late sixties (it does tend to be a fashion statement, doesn’t it?) whereas now that we you don’t seem to get the the kind of subcultures so [sə] much (no) you get, you know, more of a fash... it’s just a fashion statement, ain’t it, you know; 0:32:17 ‘has a drop’ ‘half-cut’ ‘three sheets to the wind’ ‘well-oiled’ ‘kaylied’ ‘blotto as a bob-owler’ ‘legless’ ‘pie-eyed’ ‘plastered’ ‘smashed’ ‘sealed’ ‘tiddly’ ‘pickled as a newt’ that’s the way it get you ‘smelt the barmaid’s apron’ ‘dipso’ ‘stewed’ ‘stoned’ ‘tight’ ‘bladdered’ ‘tied one on’ ‘had enough’ ‘addled’ ‘blind’ ‘sozzled’ ‘had a crooked elbow’ ‘half-cut’ [ad ə kɹʊkɪd ɛt bəɪ a:fkʊt] ‘have a skinful’ drink on and you’m ‘rattled’; 0:49:55 there was no way that you were going to [gʊnə] sort of get on I mean you certainly wouldn’t’ve got on to the media speaking with a broad Tipton accent; 1:21:13 I mean look at that the other week where, like, Tipton in the FA Vase¹⁹ they played they drewed Jarrow [dʒaɪə] [...] there was two-hundred went up to Jarrow [dʒaɪə]; 1:25:11 my brother lives in Nottingham and even now if he says it and, “it’s black it’s black over Bill’s mother’s” and even now nobody who he’s said to it for the first time has got a clue what it’s on about and it actually means ‘it’s cloudy and it’s going to [gənə] rain in a second or it’s going to [gənə] be raining quite hard’; 1:28:54 say you had a gripe and you was on the shop floor well you’d you’d miss out the underhand and you’d go to the foreman so, you know, he might come and he’d say, “what do you want to do, Bill?” and you’d say, “I’m going to [gənə] speak to the

organ-grinder not the monkey”; 1:30:28 another one as well if you stuck your head out of a window [wɪndə] and this this was also in factories and all [...] one of the put-downs’d be, “put your head in they’ll think it’s a cattle-truck”)

GOAL [ɔʊ > əʊ ~ aʊ]

(0:00:05 and lived there uh probably until I was about four or five when there was the relocation of houses out of the the Oldbury [ɔʊtɔɪ] town and into the new council estates; 0:09:25 it wouldn’t necessarily be your mother either because you c... you’d call your neighbour ‘the old [əʊd] wench’ or you it was like a general term for (for a woman) older [ɔʊtɔɪ] women, yeah, yeah, I would say (it’s kind of an endearing term, though); 0:21:48 the elastic used to go but if they still fitted you you’d still got to wear them unless they wore an hole [ən ɔʊt] in them (and all our toes am like that now, ain’t they, ’cause of them); 1:33:59 and we were talking about being ‘out on the fold’, [faʊd] weren’t we, the other day (ah, ‘out on the fold’, [fəʊtɔɪ] yeah) ‘out on’ which is like the small yard at the back, you know, like a court well it’s a courtyard or a yard, isn’t it, (yeah) at the back of a back-to-back [...] so if you were chucked out on the fold [faʊd] you was basically outside; 1:41:50 so we put this on in in in the pub it was we sold-out [sɔʊtɔɪ a:] there was over hundred tickets sold [sɔʊtɔɪ] the room was packed)
coal (0:28:11 (‘to hit something hard’) (oh, there’s hundreds ‘lamp’ ‘hammer’ ‘pail’ ‘thrape’) ‘thrape’ is a good one ‘give it a coal-heaver’ [ku:læivə] (yeah, ‘give it a coal-heaver’ [ku:læivə]) (say that again) ‘coal-heaver’ [ku:læivə] (‘coal-heaver’ [ku:læivə] or ‘cock-heaver’) (what on earth is) ‘cock-heaver’, ah ([...] a ‘coal-heaver’ [kəʊtæivə] was like a a ‘back-hander’ really a ‘back-hander’, wasn’t it, you know); 0:48:08 my uncle Eric told me the a story about a guy in Oldbury that could shovel ten ton of coal [kɔʊt] on to a th... a coal barge [kɔʊtba:dʒ] with a size sixteen shovel in four hours)

GOOSE [uː > ɪʊ(ə) > uːə]

(0:00:33 terms of education went to a normal infant and um junior [dʒuːniə] school [skuːt] and then was lucky enough to scrape into Oldbury Grammar School [skuːt]; 0:07:18 I left school [skɪʊt] in 1978 and then um work... just kind of held day jobs down while I why I persevered with with music [mjuːzɪk]; 0:31:22 I went to my aunty on on interviewed [ɪntəvjʊd] my aunty on Sunday for a university [juːnəvɜːsəti] project and I said, “look I can never ever remember anything calling anybody anything if they was pregnant” and she says, “oh you used [juːst] to say ‘her call... her carried everything afore her’” which is a logical expression; 0:34:08 you’re assuming [əsʊːmɪn] now that there were more than one in these houses well it’ll be the ‘best room’ [best ɪuːm] because you always used [juːst] to be told you can only go in the best room [best ɪuːm] on Sunday; 1:12:03 lot of diphthong used in the Black Country as well I mean the best one I ever heard was in Beatties¹⁶ in Dudley and this woman says uh in the shoe [ʃuː] department, “eh”, her says, “what size am these shoes, [ʃuːəz]¹⁸ please?” triple whammy; 1:28:38 ‘bosting fittle’ (‘bosting’) which is a pub in Dudley which is, like, ‘good food’ [fɪʊəd] ‘bosting fittle’, you know)

do (1:01:10 he used to do [dʊ] these uh spot reports on different towns (yeah) and he he’d done a little thing on the statue the Tipton Slasher²¹ statue (ah, I know, yeah) on the on the gardens by by The Fountain pub; 1:17:42 we laugh at ourselves (yeah) we we, you know, but we don’t like people taking the piss out of we (no) ’cause we can do [dʊ] that enough ourselves; 1:19:06 he said, “but the beauty is if I’d got the money I could go and do [gʊndə] that but I can go and have a cheese sandwich and a game of dominoes as well” and not, you know, and fit in there and that’s I thought, “well that’s that’s that’s the life” then, ain’t it, ’cause then, you know, you can go and do [gʊndʊ] both kind of thing; 1:43:13 we I don’t do [də] dialect I I write songs and

²¹ Nickname of local prize fighter William Perry (1819-1890).

they're they're just songs um I don't sing in a Black Country dialect anything like that but I mean I don't as soon as we finish the song, you know, I speak how I speak kind of thing)
you (0:06:21 *I've always kind of embraced the the uh the thing that this area's always been a uh an area that's integrated um initially from the kind of British Isles but then obviously after from sort of, you know, Asia and the West Indies and what have you* [wɒrɒvjə]; 0:11:20 *I worked in Cradley and, like, they says, you know, [jə naʊ] they used to point to me and say, "God, you've [jəʊv] you, [jə] you know, [jə naʊ] you [jəʊ] got a strong accent" whereas to me they was like, "Jeff, what you on [jə ɒn] about?"*, like you know, [jə naʊ] and I know it's only, like, two or three mile; 0:32:17 *'has a drop' 'half-cut' 'three sheets to the wind' 'well-oiled' 'kaylied' 'blotto as a bob-owler' 'legless' 'pie-eyed' 'plastered' 'smashed' 'sealed' 'tiddly' 'pickled as a newt' that's the way it get you 'smelt the barmaid's apron' 'dipso' 'stewed' 'stoned' 'tight' 'bladdered' 'tied one on' 'had enough' 'addled' 'blind' 'sozzled' 'had a crooked elbow' 'half-cut' 'have a skinful' drink on and you'm* [jəʊm] 'rattled'; 0:37:30 *see you, [si:jə] Steve, tara a bit sorry you [jaʊ] can't get on Radio 4¹⁵ with your guitar; 0:39:01 the imagery was as if you were you were on this Viking ship (yeah) and all you'd got on this pic... this screen in front of you [jə] was the waves as you was heading towards this coastline; 1:01:29 what you got was really offensive from Central TV²² and I I think, like, you know, [jə naʊ] they got a lot to answer for that's what does you [ja] that's what does we in the Black Country)*

PRICE**[ɔi(ə)]**

(0:11:20 *I worked in Cradley and, like, [ɔɪk] they says, you know, they used to point to me and say, "God, you've you, you know, you got a strong accent" whereas to me they was like, [ɔɪk] "Jeff, what you on about?"*, like [ɔɪk] you know, and I know it's only, like, [ɔɪk] two or three mile [mɔɪəɪ]; 0:39:01 *the imagery was as if you were you were on this Viking [vɔɪkɪŋ] ship (yeah) and all you'd got on this pic... this screen in front of you was the waves as you was heading towards this coastline [kaʊstɔɪn]; 0:47:20 it's about time [tɔɪm] s... people recognise [ɹekənɔɪz] the fact that it's a dialect [dɔɪəlekt] that's that's spoken (yeah) it's not a uh, you know, it's it's it's not an infliction we'm we'm not, like, [ɔɪk] inflicted with summat that's, you know, we we've got to apologise [əpɒlədʒɔɪz] for; 1:12:03 lot of diphthong used in the Black Country as well I mean the best one I ever heard was in Beatties¹⁶ in Dudley and this woman says uh in the shoe department, "eh", her says, "what size [sɔɪəz]¹⁸ am these shoes, please?" triple whammy; 1:18:21 like Gary says if a lot of people try [ɹɔɪ] to be clever with us then they always come off worse because they don't realise [ɹɪəɔɪz] how clever we are they think we're stupid but we're not)*

blind (0:32:17 *'has a drop' 'half-cut' 'three sheets to the wind' 'well-oiled' 'kaylied' 'blotto as a bob-owler' 'legless' 'pie-eyed' 'plastered' 'smashed' 'sealed' 'tiddly' 'pickled as a newt' that's the way it get you 'smelt the barmaid's apron' 'dipso' 'stewed' 'stoned' 'tight' 'bladdered' 'tied one on' 'had enough' 'addled' 'blind' [bɪnd] 'sozzled' 'had a crooked elbow' 'half-cut' 'have a skinful' drink on and you'm 'rattled')*

my (0:05:54 *for me I've always embraced I mean my [mɔɪ] my [mɔɪ] grandparents were all other than my [mɪ] nan who was uh a Tipton wench if you like all my [mɪ] other grandparents on on my [mɪ] dad's side were Irish my [mɪ] nan and grandad on my [mɪ] mom's side my [mɪ] grandad was from Plymouth; 0:14:00 my [mɪ] mom'd say if my [mɪ] dad was on afternoon shift, "the old man'll be back at ten" but she wouldn't say, you know, we wouldn't be able to call him 'the old man' to her face; 0:15:04 well years ago in Tipton that was that was a mate 'my [ma:] musher'; 0:16:50 usually if they was down the club they'd say 'my [mɪ] better half' ('the*

²² Presumably ITV Central, UK independent television contractor for the Midlands owned and operated by ITV.

missus') "is your better half with you?" yeah, 'the missus'; 0:31:22 I went to my [mi] aunty on on interviewed my [mi] aunty on Sunday for a university project and I said, "look I can never ever remember anything calling anybody anything if they was pregnant" and she says, "oh you used to say 'her call... her carried everything afore her'" which is a logical expression; 1:04:54 so Bessie from next door would come in and she'd lean on the canting patch while my [mɪ] nanny Murray'd make a cuppa and they'd just cant cant and cag about what went on; 1:14:48 my [mɔɪ] aunty said that my [mɪ] grandad was an elder because he was self-educated (yeah) and so anybody that had a form or summat they didn't understand would go to him and they'd say, you know, "Mr Murray can you explain this to me?"; 1:25:37 'cause I remember I was driving down to Ipswich once and uh got got my [mɪ] girlfriend with me and I goes, "bloody hell it's black over Bill's mothers" her says, "I didn't know you knowed somebody down here")

CHOICE [ɔɪ]

(0:11:20 I worked in Cradley and, like, they says, you know, they used to point [pɔɪnt] to me and say, "God, you've you, you know, you got a strong accent" whereas to me they was like, "Jeff, what you're on about?", like you know, and I know it's only, like, two or three mile; 1:32:51 and it's all to do with the types of ground the spoil mounds [spɔɪt məʊndz] and whatever uh I mean 'tacky' dirt'd be, like, 'clay' 'clay and marl' and ('tacky banks') ('tacky banks', ah) and it gets changed to 'tacky banks', yeah, ('marl holes') so so we know it as 'tacky' here and it's 'tacky' over there)

MOUTH [ɛʊ(ə) > aɪ]

(0:00:05 and lived there uh probably until I was about four or five when there was the relocation of houses [hɛʊzɪz] out [ɛʊt] of the the Oldbury town [tɛʊn] and into the new council estates [kɛʊnsət ɪstæɪts]; 0:12:31 well we've probably got the right vowels [vɛʊətɪz] in the first place and Standard English has got the wrong vowels [vɛʊtɪz] but we we would put an 'O' where there's an 'A' but in 'mom' there's an 'O' where there's an 'O' and sort of everybody else has sort of stuck summat else in; 0:55:38 I've just spoke about, [əbaɪ?] you know, the passion of the industry and stuff like that but I kind of rebelled against that I didn't want to work in a factory I didn't want to work in a foundry [fa:ndri] I didn't want to do all them jobs; 0:55:53 this area has got a vast amount [əma:nt] of, like, creative talent, but we've never had an industry round [ɹa:nd] it we've never had, like, publishing companies [...] we've never had that kind of thing but we ain't half kicked some stuff out [aɪ?] round [ɹa:nd] here in over the years that is as good as anything anywhere but we've got nowhere to take it; 1:00:15 within by the end of the week the whole town [tɛʊən] was basically just clamming up and all they was left with was your local fuckwits basically up Princes End sticking an effigy with somebody in overalls that hit the papers, do you know what I mean; 1:25:11 my brother lives in Nottingham and even now [nɛʊ] if he says it and, "it's black it's black over Bill's mother's" and even now [nɛʊ] nobody who he's said to it for the first time has got a clue what it's on about [əbɛʊt] and it actually means 'it's cloudy [klɛʊdi] and it's going to rain in a second or it's going to be raining quite hard'; 1:32:51 and it's all to do with the types of ground [ɡɹɛʊənd] the spoil mounds [spɔɪt məʊndz] and whatever uh I mean 'tacky' dirt'd be, like, 'clay' 'clay and marl' and ('tacky banks') ('tacky banks', ah) and it gets changed to 'tacky banks', yeah, ('marl holes') so so we know it as 'tacky' here and it's 'tacky' over there; 1:37:15 "and then he'd sit there all soft-faced his bald head a-glowing like a furnace fire waiting for his dinner and as he finished the last mouthful [ma:θfəɪt] he'd send me to the shop for his ferks"¹⁰)

hour, our(selves), tower (0:01:22 uh when we're speaking normally our [a:] language is quite soft in terms of old Black Country language but we're all involved in performance as such and then uh we can hark back to a much rawer uh Black Country dialect [...] and that's something we try to perpetuate with what we do uh here really; 0:04:11 when the council um decided to move us um on the grounds of overcrowding from uh the small terraced house we lived in uh

they put us in a tower block [tɛʊəblɒk]; 0:06:59 our [ɛʊə] school was surrounded by uh factories and foundries and steelworks; 0:12:01 I'd add 'mom' as opposed to 'mum' or 'mam' [...] with an 'O' 'cause I've just spent an hour [ɛʊə] down the card shop in Merry Hill for next week and they ain't got one that's spelt right; 0:20:18 I says, like, "you want to get you some work up our end [a:ɪ ənd] acting," like, you know; 0:21:48 (the elastic used to go but if they still fitted you you'd still got to wear them unless they wore an hole in them) and all our [a:] toes am like that now, ain't they, 'cause of them; 0:48:25 and he was proud and everybody who knew him was proud because of what he done and it didn't matter that he wasn't educated and it didn't matter that he couldn't read or write he could shift this ten ton of coal in four hours [ɛʊəz]; 0:52:28 it's deeply offensive because as Gary says ours [a:z] is a language and we're extremely passionate about it; 0:52:43 those from 'the off' who who live off our [a:] region um will only um have an understanding of our [a:] language from bad actors uh from bad media and um from people who've got no idea about our [a:] culture and our [a:] language; 1:03:04 if we'm calling ourselves ourselves [a:seɪvz] Brummies (yeah) then you've got to worry but once we've started calling ourselves [a:seɪvz] (yeah) what we am then that was fine again; 1:17:42 we laugh at ourselves [a:seɪvz] (yeah) we we, you know, but we don't like people taking the piss out of we (no) 'cause we can do that enough ourselves [a:seɪvz])
found (1:36:11 "it ain't till you found [fʊn] it you knows where you stand like taking your knife out on its sheath"¹⁰)

NEAR [ɪə > ɪɪ > ia]

(0:07:18 I left school in 1978 and then um work... just kind of held day jobs down while I why I persevered [peɪsɪvɪəd] with with music; 0:09:25 (it wouldn't necessarily be your mother either because you c... you'd call your neighbour 'the old wench' or you it was like a general term for) (for a woman) (older women, yeah, yeah, I would say) it's kind of an endearing [ɪndɪəɪn] term, though; 0:15:04 well years [jɪ:z] ago in Tipton that was that was a mate 'my musher'; 0:56:29 all the industrial heritage was there but there was n... there's nothing here [ia] of, like, creative arts if you like i... in a business sense; 1:22:43 one chap was there Andy Dunes he doesn't live round here [ɪə] no more but he'd come he'd he'd come back for the football game we hadn't seen him for years [jɪəz]; 1:41:30 we [...] are sort of people that've come about from, like, the sixties seventies and eighties growing up from them eras [ɪ:ɪəz])

really (0:01:22 uh when we're speaking normally our language is quite soft in terms of old Black Country language but we're all involved in performance as such and then uh we can hark back to a much rawer uh Black Country dialect [...] and that's something we try to perpetuate with what we do uh here really [ɹɪ:li]; 0:03:43 really [ɹɪ:li] with the Black Country it's not so much individual words it's, like, expressions that we use that um that've got the real force)

SQUARE [ɛɪ]

(0:24:09 I said, "ah, I'm on the box" he says, "well can you explain what that is?" I says, "I'm I'm I'm on the sick" "oh oh" then it was there was, like, all these puzzled looks and, like, but that is a rare one [ɹɛ:ɪ ən] from round here; 0:55:53 this area [ɛ:ɪia] has got a vast amount of, like, creative talent, but we've never had an industry round it we've never had, like, publishing companies [...] we've never had that kind of thing but we ain't half kicked some stuff out round here in over the years that is as good as anything anywhere [ɛɪɪwɛɪ] but we've got nowhere [naʊwɛɪ] to take it; 1:42:00 Paul McDonald goes on and does a reading from his book 'Surviving Sting' which is absolute it's set in Walsall in 1979 it's hilarious [əɛɪ:ɪiəs] Brendan gets up and I mean these people to me they were the ones on a on a an high wire um and it just went a treat, didn't it?)

there (1:19:06 he said, “but the beauty is if I’d got the money I could go and do that but I can go and have a cheese sandwich and a game of dominoes as well” and not, you know, and fit in there [ðɛə] and that’s I thought, “well that’s that’s that’s the life” then, ain’t it, ‘cause then, you know, you can go and do both kind of thing; 1:22:02 you know, there was there was Asian lads up there [ðɪə] from Tipton there was there was because they’ve growed they’m as they’m as they’m as Tipton as I am; 1:22:27 the whole place went, like you know, and so it when you see things like that and the return leg last Saturday down at Tipton there was over over, like, six-hundred down there [ðɛə] (yeah))

START**[ɑ:]**

(0:12:01 I’d add ‘mom’ as opposed to ‘mum’ or ‘mam’ [...] with an ‘O’ ‘cause I’ve just spent an hour down the card shop [kɑ:d ʃɒp] in Merry Hill for next week and they ain’t got one that’s spelt right; 1:17:29 I’ve got a thing about, you know, the humour of this area is is just so sharp [ʃɑ:p]; 1:33:59 and we were talking about being ‘out on the fold’, weren’t we, the other day (ah, ‘out on the fold’, yeah) ‘out on’ which is like the small yard [jɑ:d] at the back, you know, like a court well it’s a courtyard [kɔ:ʔjɑ:d] or a yard, [jɑ:d] isn’t it, (yeah) at the back of a back-to-back [...] so if you were chucked out on the fold you was basically outside; 1:46:03 I’m interested in the bloke who stood on the cut bank on a F... Saturday after he’d had a few jars [dʒɑ:z] and he sang (yeah) his heart [ɑ:t] out)

NORTH**[ɔ:]**

(0:01:22 uh when we’re speaking normally [nɔ:mələi] our language is quite soft in terms of old Black Country language but we’re all involved in performance [pəfɔ:məns] as such and then uh we can hark back to a much rawer uh Black Country dialect [...] and that’s something we try to perpetuate with what we do uh here really; 0:02:03 uh I was born [bɔ:n] at uh Sedgley ‘cause that’s where the maternity hospital was so I spent about two days there and then moved back to Dudley; 0:03:18 dad was in India in the war [wɔ:] he’s brought a lot of expressions back from India so I get influenced by a lot of things; 1:14:48 my aunty said that my grandad was an elder because he was self-educated (yeah) and so anybody that had a form [fɔ:m] or [ɔ:] summat they didn’t understand would go to him and they’d say, you know, “Mr Murray can you explain this to me?”)

horse (1:27:12 ‘keep out the horse [ɒs] road’ is like kind of ‘best of luck’ in a way, ain’t it, (yeah) ‘be lucky’ ‘keep out the horse [ɒs] road’ ‘don’t get run over by an horse and cart’, [əɪn ɔ:səŋkɑ:t] like, you know)

FORCE**[ɔ:]**

(1:01:10 he used to do these uh spot reports [ɪspɔ:ts] on different towns (yeah) and he he’d done a little thing on the statue the Tipton Slasher²¹ statue (ah, I know, yeah) on the on the gardens by by The Fountain pub; 1:17:20 it isn’t anything I’ve learnt through the institution of education it’s what’s inborn in you really (that’s right that’s right) and that’s, you know, that’s the important [ɪmpɔ:ʔnt] thing about it; 1:33:59 and we were talking about being ‘out on the fold’, weren’t we, the other day (ah, ‘out on the fold’, yeah) ‘out on’ which is like the small yard at the back, you know, like a court [kɔ:t] well it’s a courtyard [kɔ:ʔjɑ:d] or a yard, isn’t it, (yeah) at the back of a back-to-back [...] so if you were chucked out on the fold you was basically outside)

afore, door, four, more (0:20:33 this woman, like, come into the into the restaurant and her’d got, like, this fur coat on and then I says, like, “that’s a nice coat, ain’t it, her’s got on?” he was like, “what?” come I said, “that’s a nice coat her’s got on what’s just come through the door” [dua] and he was like, “what?”; 0:31:22 I went to my aunty on on interviewed my aunty on Sunday for a university project and I said, “look I can never ever remember anything calling anybody anything if they was pregnant” and she says, “oh you used to say ‘her call... her carried everything afore her’” [əfəʊ ə] which is a logical expression; 1:04:54 so Bessie from

next door [nɛkst dɔː] would come in and she'd lean on the canting patch while my nanny Murray'd make a cuppa and they'd just cant cant and cag about what went on; 1:09:39 it's words as well like like 'first' and we say 'first' (yeah) "the first one through the the door", [dua] like, (yeah) you know, or or summat like that; 1:20:50 at the same time it's kind of they knock your door and [duər ən] (yeah) see if you'm all right and and, you know (there's still a massive community spirit) there is, yeah; 1:22:43 one chap was there Andy Dunes he doesn't live round here no more [mʊə] but he'd come he'd he'd come back for the football game we hadn't seen him for years; 1:36:55 "he didn't see a doctor till he was eighty-four [ɛːtɪfaʊə] always fit but he didn't look after hisself not a bit on it"¹⁰)

CURE [ʊə]

(0:52:37 I'm sure it'd [ʃʊə ɪ?] be the same if you were a Geordie and somebody said you had come from Sunderland when you're on holiday, you know; 1:09:02 yeah, there's a speaking in plurals [plʊərəʔz] as well, isn't there, that comes from over that way where uh where there's an 'S' on everything)

***Europe, poorly** (0:22:27 (if you're feeling 'unwell', Greg, what would you say?) um 'poorly' [puːli] but there's a local expression 'on the box' if you'm off work; 0:38:46 it's actually the Irish picking them up and taking them over to Europe [juːrɒp])*

***your** (0:16:26 do you ever hear that one a 'scobie' (no) "how's your [jəʊə] scobie?" 'how's your [jəʊə] kid?' (no) ah, that was another one I ain't heard that for years but that was an old one (I have heard it) 'scobie'; 0:37:30 see you, Steve, tara a bit sorry you cor get on Radio 4¹⁵ with your [jə] guitar)*

happy [i > əi]

(0:00:33 terms of education went to a normal infant and um junior school and then was lucky [lʊki] enough to scrape into Oldbury Grammar School; 0:01:22 uh when we're speaking normally [nɔːmələi] our language is quite soft in terms of old Black Country [blak kʊntɪ] language but we're all involved in performance as such and then uh we can hark back to a much rawer uh Black Country [blak kʊntɪ] dialect [...] and that's something we try to perpetuate with what we do uh here really [ɪːli]; 0:17:18 if it's really [ɪːli] trashy [tɹʌʃəi] um I know that women tend to use 'slapper' for describing other women)

letter [ə > a]

(0:00:33 terms of education went to a normal infant and um junior [dʒuːniə] school and then was lucky enough to scrape into Oldbury Grammar [ɡɹamə] School; 0:03:08 uh but there's been a lot of influences like there's a lot of Asian families moved in in our area a lot of people from Jamaica in particular [dʒəmæɪkə ɪm pətɪkjəla]; 0:15:36 I mean respectfully I mean I always called my grandfather [ɡɹɑmfɑːðə] 'grandad' but um obviously there was 'grandfather' as well [ɡɹɑmfɑːðə əz wɛt] which um stresses the the 'A' and the 'E' sound on 'father' [fɑːðə]; 0:52:43 those from 'the off' who who live off our region um will only um have an understanding of our language from bad actors [aktəz] uh from bad media and um from people who've got no idea about our culture and [kʊtʃə ən] our language; 1:17:29 I've got a thing about, you know, the humour [juːmə] of this area is is just so sharp; 1:26:27 Steve was uh a bloke who I worked with the other day and um he got his rag off with a customer anyway [kʊstəmə ɛniwæi] and the customer [kʊstəmə] left)

<-shire> (1:06:00 so then these would then attract from outside communities uh say people from Shropshire'd [ʃrɒpʃɪə əd] move to that side of the Black Country Worcester from that side Warwick from that side and the further)

comma [ə > a]

(0:03:18 *dad was in India in [ɪndiə ɪn] the war he's brought a lot of expressions back from India [ɪndia] so I get influenced by a lot of things; 0:52:43 those from 'the off' who who live off our region um will only um have an understanding of our language from bad actors uh from bad media [mi:diə] and um from people who've got no idea [ɔidiə] about our culture and our language; 0:55:53 this area [ɛ:riə] has got a vast amount of, like, creative talent, but we've never had an industry round it we've never had, like, publishing companies [...] we've never had that kind of thing but we ain't half kicked some stuff out round here in over the years that is as good as anything anywhere but we've got nowhere to take it; 1:04:54 so Bessie from next door would come in and she'd lean on the canting patch while my nanny Murray'd make a cuppa [kʊpə] and they'd just cant cant and cag about what went on)*

sofa (0:35:11 (*what about the 'long soft seat in the main room'?*)) 'sofa' [səʊfə] ('sofa' [səʊfə]) (the 'sofa' [səʊfi]) 'sofa', [səʊfi] ah, "keep off that sofa" [səʊfi] (you posh gits) (and we'd have 'couch', ah, 'settee' 'couch' 'couch' and 'settee') 'settee', ah)

horsES [ɪ]

(0:00:05 *and lived there uh probably until I was about four or five when there was the relocation of houses [hɛʊzɪz] out of the the Oldbury town and into the new council estates; 0:15:36 I mean respectfully I mean I always called my grandfather 'grandad' but um obviously there was 'grandfather' as well which um stresses [stɪəsɪz] the the 'A' and the 'E' sound on 'father'; 1:19:22 the philosophy of the the people and the codes and the practices [pɹaktɪsɪz] and the values that uh things that are that are not here now as such (yeah) not as strongly)*

startED [ɪ]

(0:06:59 *our school was surrounded [sə:ɹaʊndɪd] by uh factories and foundries and steelworks; 0:47:20 it's about time s... people recognise the fact that it's a dialect that's that's spoken (yeah) it's not a uh, you know, it's it's it's not an infliction we'm we'm not, like, inflicted [ɪmflɪktɪd] with summat that's, you know, we we've got to apologise for; 1:14:48 my aunty said that my grandad was an elder because he was self-educated [sɛfɛdʒukæɪtɪd] (yeah) and so anybody that had a form or summat they didn't understand would go to him and they'd say, you know, "Mr Murray can you explain this to me?"*)

mornING [ɪ]

(0:04:42 *before setting [sɛtɪn] up my own business I ran that for five years before falling [fɔ:lɪn] ill and at the moment I'm working as a museum assistant uh just retraining [ɹi:tɹæɪnɪŋ]; 0:56:51 I certainly don't feel any I I'm I'm not anti-Brummy or anything [ɛniθɪn] like that (oh no, no, no) it's not nothing [nʊθɪn] like that; 1:30:19 say you'd come out with something [sʊmθɪn] that'd be, like, s... absolutely stupid he'd say, "well you can't roast snow in a furnace" which means 'you'm just talking [tɔ:kɪn] out of your backside, you know, really)*

ZERO RHOTICITY

PLOSIVES

T

frequent word final T-glottaling (e.g. 0:12:01 *I'd add 'mom' as opposed to 'mum' or 'mam' [...] with an 'O' 'cause I've just spent an hour down the card shop in Merry Hill for next week and they ain't got [gɒʔ] one that's spelt [spɛʔ] right; 0:33:04 (and uh anything for 'unattractive?') ('bag of spanners' was the great) 'hit [ɪʔ] with the ugly stick'; 0:47:20 it's about [ə:bəʔ] time s... people recognise the fact that it's a dialect that's that's spoken (yeah) it's not [nɒʔ] a uh, you know, it's it's it's not an infliction we'm we'm not, [nɒʔ] like, inflicted with summat [sʊməʔ] that's, you know, we we've got to apologise for; 0:55:53 this area has got [gɒʔ] a vast amount of, like, creative talent, but we've never had an industry*

round it [ɪʔ] we've never had, like, publishing companies [...] we've never had that kind of thing but we ain't half kicked some stuff out [a:ʔ] round here in over the years that is as good as anything anywhere but we've got [gʊʔ] nowhere to take it; 1:25:11 my brother lives in Nottingham and even now if he says it and, "it's black it's black over Bill's mother's" and even now nobody who he's said to it for the first time has got [gʊʔ] a clue what it's on about and it actually means 'it's cloudy and it's going to rain in a second or it's going to be raining quite [kwɔiʔ] hard'; 1:30:19 say you'd come out [ɛʊʔ] with something that'd be, like, s... absolutely stupid he'd say, "well you can't roast snow in a furnace" which means 'you'm just talking out [ɛʊʔ] of your backside,' you know, really)

word-medial & syllable initial T-glottaling (0:02:03 uh I was born at uh Sedgley 'cause that's where the maternity hospital [ʊspɪʔ] was so I spent about two days there and then moved back to Dudley; 0:16:03 ('babby') ('babby') (yeah, 'babby', yeah) [...] and 'the little one' [ɪʔəʊn] 'the little one' [ɪʔəʊn] (yeah, 'the little one' [ɪʔəʊn] yeah); 0:56:51 I certainly [se:ʔɪli] don't feel any I I'm I'm not anti-Brummy or anything like that (oh no, no, no) it's not nothing like that; 1:01:10 he used to do these uh spot reports on different towns (yeah) and he he'd done a little [ɪʔ] thing on the statue the Tipton Slasher²¹ statue (ah, I know, yeah) on the on the gardens by by The Fountain pub; 1:15:46 she learnt um a lot of the arts of prophecy and foresight because she worked closely with the gypsies and Romanies (yeah) that that sort of settled [seʔd] in and around that area (yeah) of uh Tipton; 1:28:38 'bosting fittle' ('bosting') which is a pub in Dudley which is, like, 'good food' 'bosting fittle', [fɪʔ] you know)

frequent T-tapping (e.g. 0:04:11 when the council um decided to move us um on the grounds of overcrowding from uh the small terraced house we lived in uh they put [pʊʔ] us in a tower block; 0:07:08 this is how we felt no matter [mərə] what you wanted to do that was where you were going so when the school gates opened and we walked out and the factory gates opened and you walked in; 0:47:20 it's about time s... people recognise the fact that it's a dialect that's that's spoken (yeah) it's not a uh, you know, it's it's it's not [nʊʔ] an infliction we'm we'm not, like, inflicted with summat that's, you know, we we've got to [gʊʔru] apologise for; 0:48:25 and he was proud and everybody who knew him was proud because of what he done and it didn't matter that he [ðəri] wasn't educated and it didn't matter that he couldn't read or write he could shift this ten ton of coal in four hours; 0:59:52 basically they weren't getting [gɛɪn] the reaction that they wanted, see (yeah); 1:15:29 and she'd be the one who'd be putting [pʊɪn] penny old copper pennies on somebody's eyes and laying them out down one end of the street (that's right my grandma used to lay them out, ah) and then her'd be down the other end helping somebody give birth; 1:30:19 say you'd come out with something that'd [ðarəd] be, like, s... absolutely stupid he'd say, "well you can't roast snow in a furnace" which means 'you'm just talking out of your backside,' you know, really; 1:32:12 there ain't that many but, like, there's 'pailing' and 'paling' now 'pailing is 'giving you a pailing' and then a 'paling' is a 'fence' [...] you can have a pailing for getting [gɛɪn] stuck on the palings)

frequent T-voicing (e.g. 0:03:18 dad was in India in the war he's brought [bɔ:d] a lot [lʊd] of expressions back from India so I get [gɛd] influenced by a lot [lʊd] of things; 0:21:48 the elastic used to go but [bəd] if they still fitted you you'd still got to [gʊdə] wear them unless they wore an hole in them (and all our toes am like that now, ain't they, 'cause of them); 0:24:09 I said, "ah, I'm on the box" he says, "well can you explain what that [ðad] is?" I says, "I'm I'm I'm on the sick" "oh oh" then it was there was, like, all these puzzled looks and, like, but that [ðad] is a rare one from round here; 0:50:15 the segregation of actually the class issues (yeah, yeah) were very much alive and kicking throughout the 1970s and I think probably it was only until the eighties when things started getting [gɛɪn] kicked out; 0:53:38 I mean you look at some of the adverts if they want somebody who's slow on the uptake or somebody who do... just doesn't quite get [gɛd] it first time they always use a Midland stroke Brummy stroke Black Country accent; 1:02:19 when Thatcher¹² gived us a kicking and places started [sta:dɪd] to

shut [...] we played Manchester City in the League Cup¹³ on a December night and they was giving us they they was just opposing fans always used to call us Brummies and then everybody just stood up and said started [stɑ:dɪd] chanting, “we don’t come from Birmingham”; 1:03:04 if we’m calling ourselves Brummies (yeah) then you’ve got to [gʊdə] worry but once we’ve started [stɑ:dɪd] calling ourselves (yeah) what we am then that was fine again; 1:12:03 lot of [lɒdə] diphthong used in the Black Country as well I mean the best one I ever heard was in Beatties¹⁶ in Dudley and this woman says uh in the shoe department, “eh”, her says, “what size am these shoes, please?” triple whammy; 1:26:27 Steve was uh a bloke who I worked with the other day and um he got [gʊd] his rag off with a customer anyway and the customer left)

frequent T-to-R (e.g. 0:29:30 (‘loaded’) (I’ve got ‘loaded’) (um) (‘worth a bob or two’) yeah, there’s a there’s a phrase it’s called ‘tidy bit of [bɪɪə] money tied to the coat’; 0:48:25 and he was proud and everybody who knew him was proud because of what he [wɒɪ] done and it didn’t matter [mɑɪə] that he wasn’t educated and it didn’t matter [mɑɪə] that he [ðəɪ] couldn’t read or write he could shift this ten ton of coal in four hours; 1:18:21 like Gary says if a lot of [lɒɪ] people try to be clever with us then they always come off worse because they don’t realise how clever we are they think we’re stupid but we’re not; 1:19:22 the philosophy of the the people and the codes and the practices and the values that uh things that are [ðəɪə] that are [ðəɪə] not here [nɒɪə] now as such (yeah) not as [nɒɪəz] strongly; 1:32:51 and it’s all to do with the types of ground the spoil mounds and whatever [wɒɪəvə] uh I mean ‘tacky’ dirt’d be, like, ‘clay’ ‘clay and marl’ and (‘tacky banks’) (‘tacky banks’, ah) and it gets changed to ‘tacky banks’, yeah, (‘marl holes’) so so we know it as ‘tacky’ here and it’s ‘tacky’ over there; 1:39:39 I mean if we’d have read in that in our poem in proper English there would not’ve [nɒɪv] been the effect (no) that you’ve got)

debuccalisation of T (0:37:30 see you, Steve, tara a bit [təɪɑ:əbr^h] sorry you can’t get on Radio 4¹⁵ with your guitar; 1:01:29 what you got [gʊ^h] was really offensive from Central TV²² and I I think, like, you know, they got a lot to answer for that’s what does you that’s what does we in the Black Country; 1:13:59 and he was a regional manager and whatever else underneath all of that [ðə^h] he’d still got the Black Country (yeah) and he couldn’t, you know, it was pointless trying to hide it you may as well just get on with it; 1:39:39 I mean if we’d have read in that in our poem in proper English there would not’ve been the effect (no) that you’ve got [gʊ^h])

NASALS

NG

frequent velar nasal plus (e.g. 0:11:20 I worked in Cradley and, like, they says, you know, they used to point to me and say, “God, you’ve you, you know, you got a strong [stɪŋŋ] accent” whereas to me they was like, “Jeff, what you on about?”, like you know, and I know it’s only, like, two or three mile; 0:18:46 (‘word for something whose name you’ve forgotten’ you can’t remember what it’s called) ‘thingy’ [θɪŋgi] (‘thingummy’ [θɪŋgəmi]); 1:07:16 they used to sound to me like they sang [sɒŋŋ] (yeah) when they talked, like, you know; 1:17:29 I’ve got a thing [θɪŋŋ] about, you know, the humour of this area is is just so sharp; 1:25:11 my brother lives in Nottingham [nɒtɪŋŋəm] and even now if he says it and, “it’s black it’s black over Bill’s mother’s” and even now nobody who he’s said to it for the first time has got a clue what it’s on about and it actually means ‘it’s cloudy and it’s going to rain in a second or it’s going to be raining quite hard’; 1:42:00 Paul McDonald goes on and does a a reading from his book ‘Surviving Sting’ [səvɪvɪŋ stɪŋŋ] which is absolute it’s set in Walsall in 1979 it’s hilarious Brendan gets up and I mean these people to me they were the ones on a on a an high wire um and it just went a treat, didn’t it?; 1:43:13 we I don’t do dialect I I write songs and they’re they’re just songs um I don’t sing [sɪŋŋ] in a Black Country dialect anything like that but I mean I don’t as soon as

we finish the song, you know, I speak how I speak kind of thing [θɪŋg]; 1:46:03 I'm interested in the bloke who stood on the cut bank on a F... Saturday after he'd had a few jars and he sang [sɑŋg] (yeah) his heart out)

frequent NG-fronting (e.g. 0:31:22 *I went to my aunty on on interviewed my aunty on Sunday for a university project and I said, "look I can never ever remember anything [ɛniθɪn] calling [kɔ:lɪn] anybody anything [ɛniθɪn] if they was pregnant" and she says, "oh you used to say 'her call... her carried everything [ɛv.jiθɪn] afore her'" which is a logical expression; 0:38:46 it's actually the Irish picking [pɪkɪn] them up and taking [tæɪkɪn] them over to Europe; 0:39:01 the imagery was as if you were you were on this Viking [vɔɪkɪn] ship (yeah) and all you'd got on this pic... this screen in front of you was the waves as you was heading [hɛdɪn] towards this coastline; 1:00:15 within by the end of the week the whole town was basically just clamming [klɑmɪn] up and all they was left with was your local fuckwits basically up Princes End sticking [stɪkɪn] an effigy with somebody in overalls that hit the papers, do you know what I mean; 1:15:29 and she'd be the one who'd be putting [pʊrɪn] penny old copper pennies on somebody's eyes and laying [læɪɪn] them out down one end of the street (that's right my grandma used to lay them out, ah) and then her'd be down the other end helping [ɛɪpɪn] somebody give birth)*

N

frequent syllabic N with nasal release (e.g. 0:09:25 *it wouldn't [wʊdn̩] necessarily be your mother either because you c... you'd call your neighbour 'the old wench' or you it was like a general term for (for a woman) older women, yeah, yeah, I would say (it's kind of an endearing term, though); 0:14:00 my mom'd say if my dad was on afternoon shift, "the old man'll be back at ten" but she wouldn't [wʊdn̩] say, you know, we wouldn't [wʊdn̩] be able to call him 'the old man' to her face; 0:17:06 it is interesting because I mean I've picked up a a [mʊdn̩] word, you know, strangely for this which is 'chav' but I see that as masculine; 0:34:38 but the front only come into play at Christmas as well, didn't it? [dɪdn̩t] (yeah); 0:36:11 it used to be the 'outdoor convenience' (yeah) and all, hadn't [adn̩t] it, when if you was trying to be posh at home; 0:40:54 once they were in people didn't [dɪdn̩t] 'cause we were surrounded by hills (that's it) there was a great influx of people and really we weren't bothered for centuries and centuries nobody wanted to know us; 0:48:25 and he was proud and everybody who knew him was proud because of what he done and it didn't [dɪdn̩t] matter that he wasn't educated and it didn't [dɪdn̩t] matter that he couldn't [kʊdn̩t] read or write he could shift this ten ton of coal in four hours)*

FRICATIVES

H

frequent H-dropping (e.g. 0:02:03 *uh I was born at uh Sedgley 'cause that's where the maternity hospital [ɒspɪtəl] was so I spent about two days there and then moved back to Dudley; 0:07:18 I left school in 1978 and then um work... just kind of held [ɛɪd] day jobs down while I why I persevered with with music; 0:21:48 the elastic used to go but if they still fitted you you'd still got to wear them unless they wore an hole [ən ɔʊl] in them (and all our toes am like that now, ain't they, 'cause of them); 0:30:13 'cab-horse' [kɑbɒs] 'mizzling' ('misery guts') 'misery guts' 'mizzle-head' [mɪzɪl.jɛd]; 0:33:04 (and uh anything for 'unattractive?') ('bag of spanners' was the great) 'hit [ɪt] with the ugly stick'; 0:36:11 it used to be the 'outdoor convenience' (yeah) and all, hadn't it, when if you was trying to be posh at home [aʊm]; 0:52:37 I'm sure it'd be the same if you were a Geordie and somebody said you had come from Sunderland when you're on holiday, [plædi] you know; 0:56:29 all the industrial heritage*

[ɛɹətɪdʒ] was there but there was n... there's nothing here [ia] of, like, creative arts if you like i... in a business sense; 1:17:29 I've got a thing about, you know, the humour [ju:mə] of this area is is just so sharp; 1:27:12 'keep out the horse [ʊs] road' is like kind of 'best of luck' in a way, ain't it, (yeah) 'be lucky' 'keep out the horse [ʊs] road' 'don't get run over by an horse and cart', [əŋɔ:səŋkɑ:t] like, you know; 1:30:28 another one as well if you stuck your head [ɛd] out of a window and this this was also in factories and all [...] one of the put-downs'd be, "put your head [ɛd] in they'll think it's a cattle-truck"; 1:42:00 Paul McDonald goes on and does a a reading from his book 'Surviving Sting' which is absolute it's set in Walsall [əle:ɹiəs] Brendan gets up and I mean these people to me they were the ones on a on a an high wire [ən ɔɪwɔɪə] um and it just went a treat, didn't it?; 1:46:03 I'm interested in the bloke who stood on the cut bank on a F... Saturday after he'd had a few jars and he sang (yeah) his heart [ɑ:t] out) **hypercorrect H** (1:13:42 and he he tried to modify his accent and he he used to come out with some crackers, you know, like uh "I'll have a egg [ə heɪg] with that")

LIQUIDS

R

approximant R (0:04:42 before setting up my own business I ran [ɹan] that for five years before falling ill and at the moment I'm working as a museum assistant uh just retraining [ɹi:tɹæɪnɪŋ]; 0:31:22 I went to my aunty on on interviewed my aunty on Sunday for a [fə ə] university project [pɹɪdʒekt] and I said, "look I can never ever [nɛvə əvə] remember [ɹɪmɛmbə] anything calling anybody anything if they was pregnant" [pɹɛgnənt] and she says, "oh you used to say 'her call... her carried [kɑɪɪd] everything [ɛvɹɪθɪŋ] afore her'" [əfəvə ə] which is a logical expression [ɛkspɹɛʃən]; 0:55:38 I've just spoke about, you know, the passion of the industry and stuff like that but I kind of rebelled [ɹɪbɛld] against that I didn't want to work in a factory [faktɹi] I didn't want to work in a foundry [fa:ndɹi] I didn't want to do all them jobs)

L

clear onset L (0:41:26 it was almost like [ɫɪk] a duality [dʒu:ələti] here 'cause I know when I was growing up as a kid I was en... encouraged not to speak broad which was basically [bæɪsɪkli] slipping [slɪpɪŋ] into the dialect [dɔɪələkt]; 0:47:20 it's about time s... people recognise the fact that it's a dialect [dɔɪələkt] that's that's spoken (yeah) it's not a uh, you know, it's it's it's not an infliction [ɪŋflɪkʃən] we'm we'm not, like, [ɫɪk] inflicted [ɪŋflɪktɪd] with summat that's, you know, we we've got to apologise [əpɹɒlədʒɪz] for; 1:01:10 he used to do these uh spot reports on different towns (yeah) and he he'd done a little [ɪɹʔ] thing on the statue the Tipton Slasher²¹ [tɪptən slaʃə] statue (ah, I know, yeah) on the on the gardens by by The Fountain pub)

dark coda L (0:00:33 terms of education went to a normal [nɔ:mə] infant and um junior school [sku:ɹ] and then was lucky enough to scrape into Oldbury Grammar School [sku:ɹ]; 0:12:01 I'd add 'mom' as opposed to 'mum' or 'mam' [...] with an 'O' 'cause I've just spent an hour down the card shop in Merry Hill [mɛɹɪ ɪɹ] for next week and they ain't got one that's spelt [spɛɹʔ] right; 1:15:29 and she'd be the one who'd be putting penny old [aʊɹd] copper pennies on somebody's eyes and laying them out down one end of the street (that's right my grandma used to lay them out, ah) and then her'd be down the other end helping [ɛɹpɪŋ] somebody give birth; 1:27:21 an industrial [ɪndʊstɹiəl] term they used to use in the steelwork [sti:ɹwɔ:k] if somebody was um a shirker [...] mainly used in the women's uh mills [mɪɹz] and they used to call [kɔ:ɹ] them 'ines wenches' which meant, you know, they were 'a waste of space' especially if they were on piecwork and if they were, like, dropping behind they'd say, "oh" you know "Elsie's [ɛɹsɪz] an ines wench" which meant her weren't pulling her weight really)

syllabic L with lateral release (0:24:42 *we just used 'tuckered out' 'tuckered out' quite a lot when we were little* [lɪtʃ]; 0:32:17 *'has a drop' 'half-cut' 'three sheets to the wind' 'well-oiled' 'kaylied' 'blotto as a bob-owler' 'legless' 'pie-eyed' 'plastered' 'smashed' 'sealed' 'tiddly' 'pickled as a newt' that's the way it get you 'smelt the barmaid's apron' 'dipso' 'stewed' 'stoned' 'tight' 'bladdered' 'tied one on' 'had enough' 'addled' [adʔd] 'blind' 'sozzled' 'had a crooked elbow' 'half-cut' 'have a skinful' drink on and you'm 'rattled' [ɹatʔd]; 0:44:33 *so it isn't a case that it's I don't think it'll [ɪtʃ] ever die as such I just think it'll [ɪtʃ] change it will continue to change; 1:06:18 and they would settle [setʃ] um in these different pockets and then their language would be inbred with the local language; 1:28:38 'bosting fittle' [fɪtʃ] ('bosting') which is a pub in Dudley which is, like, 'good food' 'bosting fittle', you know; 1:30:28 another one as well if you stuck your head out of a window and this this was also in factories and all [...] one of the put-downs'd be, "put your head in they'll think it's a cattle-truck" [katʃtɹʌk])**

GLIDES

J

yod dropping with N, T (0:00:05 *and lived there uh probably until I was about four or five when there was the relocation of houses out of the the Oldbury town and into the new [nu:] council estates; 0:32:17 'has a drop' 'half-cut' 'three sheets to the wind' 'well-oiled' 'kaylied' 'blotto as a bob-owler' 'legless' 'pie-eyed' 'plastered' 'smashed' 'sealed' 'tiddly' 'pickled as a newt' [nɪʊt] that's the way it get you 'smelt the barmaid's apron' 'dipso' 'stewed' [stɪʊd] 'stoned' 'tight' 'bladdered' 'tied one on' 'had enough' 'addled' 'blind' 'sozzled' 'had a crooked elbow' 'half-cut' 'have a skinful' drink on and you'm 'rattled'; 0:48:25 and he was proud and everybody who knew [nu:] him was proud because of what he done and it didn't matter that he wasn't educated and it didn't matter that he couldn't read or write he could shift this ten ton of coal in four hours; 0:58:15 these there was there was there was reporters up the Co-op¹⁸ down by Tipton Railway Station over Victoria Park I mean you seen these vans driving round with, like you know, CN News [nu:z] and f... I mean all these big media t... and it was like, "Jesus, what's going on here?"; 1:30:44 'this won't buy the babby a new [nu:] coat' that's another one, ain't it (ah) 'it just won't do, that,' you know, "this won't buy the babby a new [nu:] coat")*

yod dropping with word medial s (0:34:08 *you're assuming [əsɪ:ʃmɪn] now that there were more than one in these houses well it'll be the 'best room' because you always used to be told you can only go in the best room on Sunday)*

frequent yod coalescence (e.g. 0:03:29 *the accent now is sort of maybe a lot softer than it was but there's a lot of old words that um I certainly like to perpetuate [pəpətʃuæɪt]; 0:03:43 really with the Black Country it's not so much individual [ɪndɪvɪdʒuəl] words it's, like, expressions that we use that um that've got the real force; 0:12:48 we substitute [sʊbstɪtʃu:t] 'A' for 'O's in 'shop' and 'drop', you know, so it's just (and other way round ins... so it'd be 'bank' instead of 'bank') yeah; 0:16:26 do you ever hear [dʒu ɛvə ɪə] that one a 'scobie' (no) "how's your scobie?" 'how's your kid?' (no) ah, that was another one I ain't heard that for years but that was an old one (I have heard it) 'scobie'; 0:41:26 it was almost like a duality [dʒu:ələti] here 'cause I know when I was growing up as a kid I was en... encouraged not to speak broad which was basically slipping into the dialect; 0:50:15 the segregation of actually the class issues [ɪʃu:z] (yeah, yeah) were very much alive and kicking throughout the 1970s and I think probably it was only until the eighties when things started getting kicked out; 1:00:15 within by the end of the week the whole town was basically just clamming up and all they was left with was your local fuckwits basically up Princes End sticking an effigy with somebody in overalls that hit the papers, do you know what I mean [dʒənəʊwɔrəmɪn]; 1:01:10 he used to do these uh spot reports on different towns (yeah) and he he'd done a little thing on the statue [statʃu:] the Tipton Slasher²¹ statue [statʃu:] (ah, I know, yeah) on the on the gardens by by The Fountain pub; 1:09:51 we found out we'd*

both come from Ocker Hill, don't we, so (Ocker Bank) which Ocker Hill itself (same block of flats) same block of flats, ah, different altitude [aʔtɪtʃu:d] but the same block; 1:14:48 myaunty said that my grandad was an elder because he was self-educated [sɛʔfɛdʒukæɪtɪd] (yeah) and so anybody that had a form or summat they didn't understand would go to him and they'd say, you know, "Mr Murray can you explain this to me?"; 1:17:20 it isn't anything I've learnt through the institution [ɪnstɪtʃu:ʃən] of education [ɛdʒukæɪʃən] it's what's inborn in you really (that's right that's right) and that's, you know, that's the important thing about it; 1:18:21 like Gary says if a lot of people try to be clever with us then they always come off worse because they don't realise how clever we are they think we're stupid [stʃu:pɪd] but we're not; 1:30:19 say you'd come out with something that'd be, like, s... absolutely stupid [stʃu:pɪd] he'd say, "well you can't roast snow in a furnace" which means 'you'm just talking out of your backside,' you know, really)

ELISION

prepositions

frequent of reduction (e.g. 0:12:48 (we substitute 'A' for 'O's in 'shop' and 'drop', you know, so it's just) and other way round ins... so it'd be 'bank' instead of [ə] 'bank' (yeah); 0:17:40 if that applied to that term then it would be either one of [ə] them, wouldn't it, (yeah) (yeah) if you was, like, you know, early late sixties (it does tend to be a fashion statement, doesn't it?) whereas now that we you don't seem to get the the kind of [ə] subcultures so much (no) you get, you know, more of a fash... it's just a fashion statement, ain't it, you know; 0:29:30 ('loaded') (I've got 'loaded') (um) ('worth a bob or two') yeah, there's a there's a phrase it's called 'tidy bit of [ə] money tied to the coat'; 0:33:04 (and uh anything for 'unattractive?') 'bag of [ə] spanners' was the great ('hit with the ugly stick'); 0:39:01 the imagery was as if you were you were on this Viking ship (yeah) and all you'd got on this pic... this screen in front of [ə] you was the waves as you was heading towards this coastline; 0:48:08 my uncle Eric told me the a story about a guy in Oldbury that could shovel ten ton of [ə] coal on to a th... a coal barge with a size sixteen shovel in four hours; 0:48:42 he was almost like the leader of a team and everybody knew him as 'Sixteen Shovel' and and, you know, it's them sort of [ə] stories and that's why it carries on; 1:09:51 we found out we'd both come from Ocker Hill, don't we, so (Ocker Bank) which Ocker Hill itself (same block of [ə] flats) same block of [ə] flats, ah, different altitude but the same block; 1:17:29 I've got a thing about, you know, the humour of [ə] this area is is just so sharp; 1:18:21 like Gary says if a lot of [ə] people try to be clever with us then they always come off worse because they don't realise how clever we are they think we're stupid but we're not; 1:30:19 say you'd come out with something that'd be, like, s... absolutely stupid he'd say, "well you can't roast snow in a furnace" which means 'you'm just talking out of [ə] your backside,' you know, really; 1:32:51 and it's all to do with the types of [ə] ground the spoil mounds and whatever uh I mean 'tacky' dirt'd be, like, 'clay' 'clay and marl' and ('tacky banks') ('tacky banks', ah) and it gets changed to 'tacky banks', yeah, ('marl holes') so so we know it as 'tacky' here and it's 'tacky' over there)

with reduction (0:01:22 uh when we're speaking normally our language is quite soft in terms of old Black Country language but we're all involved in performance as such and then uh we can hark back to a much rawer uh Black Country dialect [...] and that's something we try to perpetuate with [wɪ] what we do uh here really; 0:16:50 usually if they was down the club they'd say 'my better half' ('the missus') "is your better half with [wɪ] you?" yeah, 'the missus'; 0:37:30 see you, Steve, tara a bit sorry you can't get on Radio 4¹⁵ with [wɪ] your guitar; 1:25:37 'cause I remember I was driving down to Ipswich once and uh got got my girlfriend with [wɪ] me and I goes, "bloody hell it's black over Bill's mothers" her says, "I didn't know you knowed somebody down here")

secondary contraction (0:17:40 *if that applied to that term then it would be either one of them, wouldn't it, [wʊnɪʔ] (yeah) (yeah) if you was, like, you know, early late sixties (it does tend to be a fashion statement, doesn't it? [dʊnɪʔ] whereas now that we you don't seem to get the the kind of subcultures so much (no) you get, you know, more of a fash... it's just a fashion statement, ain't it, you know; 0:26:24 but then if you say, "but he was umbraged" it just sounds (yeah) it sounds annoying to me, doesn't it? [dʊnɪʔ]; 0:28:11 ("to hit something hard") oh, there's hundreds 'lamp' 'hammer' 'pail' 'thrape' ('thrape' is a good one 'give it a coal-heaver') yeah, 'give it a coal-heaver' (say that again) ('coal-heaver') ('coal-heaver' or 'cock-heaver') (what on earth is) ('cock-heaver', ah) [...] a 'coal-heaver' was like a a 'back-hander' really a 'back-hander', wasn't it, [wʊnɪʔ] you know; 0:33:15 ('fell out the ugly tree and hit every branch on the way down') I mean I've heard there was, like, 'couldn't [kʊnɪʔ] kick a pig that ugly'; 0:44:33 so it isn't [ɪtɪnɪʔ] a case that it's I don't think it'll ever die as such I just think it'll change it will continue to change; 0:49:55 there was no way that you were going to sort of get on I mean you certainly wouldn't've [wʊntə] got on to the media speaking with a broad Tipton accent; 1:17:20 it isn't [ɪtɪnɪʔ] anything I've learnt through the institution of education it's what's inborn in you really (that's right that's right) and that's, you know, that's the important thing about it; 1:22:43 one chap was there Andy Dunes he doesn't live round here no more but he'd come he'd he'd come back for the football game we hadn't [ant] seen him for years)*

frequent ablaut negative (e.g. 0:10:36 *I mean i... if you come over this way more Dudley Netherton you used or you'd get 'the woman', don't [dəʊ] you, 'woman' have you heard that one?; 0:12:01 I'd add 'mom' as opposed to 'mum' or 'mam' [...] with an 'O' 'cause I've just spent an hour down the card shop in Merry Hill for next week and they ain't [æi] got one that's spelt right; 0:16:26 do you ever hear that one a 'scobie' (no) "how's your scobie?" 'how's your kid?' (no) ah, that was another one I ain't [æi] heard that for years but that was an old one (I have heard it) 'scobie'; 0:17:40 if that applied to that term then it would be either one of them, wouldn't it, (yeah) (yeah) if you was, like, you know, early late sixties (it does tend to be a fashion statement, doesn't it?) whereas now that we you don't [dəʊ] seem to get the the kind of subcultures so much (no) you get, you know, more of a fash... it's just a fashion statement, ain't [æi] it, you know; 0:19:25 I used to love the old uh which I still wind my kids up with it now which is, you know, when we was at sch... you you took your pumps to school, didn't [dæi] you, you know, your old slip-on pumps and your pump bag; 0:21:48 (the elastic used to go but if they still fitted you you'd still got to wear them unless they wore an hole in them) and all our toes am like that now, ain't [ɛ:] they, 'cause of them; 0:23:03 and then the other one my uncle Des was delivering in Stockport and he didn't [dæi] go the next week and they said, "what's happened to Des he was he was supposed to be delivering this week?" he says, "oh, he's on the box" they did a collection 'cause they thought they meant 'in the box' 'dead'; 0:37:30 see you, Steve, tara a bit sorry you can't [kɔ:] get on Radio 4¹⁵ with your guitar; 0:53:38 I mean you look at some of the adverts if they want somebody who's slow on the uptake or somebody who do... just doesn't [dəʊ] quite get it first time they always use a Midland stroke Brummy stroke Black Country accent; 0:55:38 I've just spoke about, you know, the passion of the industry and stuff like that but I kind of rebelled against that I didn't [dɛɪ] want to work in a factory I didn't [dæi] want to work in a foundry I didn't [dæi] want to do all them jobs; 0:55:53 this area has got a vast amount of, like, creative talent, but we've never had an industry round it we've never had, like, publishing companies [...] we've never had that kind of thing but we ain't [æi] half kicked some stuff out round here in over the years that is as good as anything anywhere but we've got nowhere to take it; 0:56:51 I certainly don't [dəʊ] feel any I I'm I'm not anti-Brummy or anything like that (oh no, no, no) it's not nothing like that; 0:59:52 basically they weren't [wɔ:] getting the reaction that they wanted, see (yeah); 1:14:48 my aunty said that my grandad was an elder because he was self-educated (yeah) and so anybody that had a form or summat they didn't [dæɪn] understand would go to him and they'd say, you know, "Mr Murray can you explain this to me?"; 1:17:42 we laugh at ourselves (yeah)*

we we, you know, but we don't [dəʊ] like people taking the piss out of we (no) 'cause we can do that enough ourselves; 1:19:06 he said, "but the beauty is if I'd got the money I could go and do that but I can go and have a cheese sandwich and a game of dominoes as well" and not, you know, and fit in there and that's I thought, "well that's that's that's the life" then, ain't [æi] it, 'cause then, you know, you can go and do both kind of thing; 1:22:43 one chap was there Andy Dunes he doesn't [dəʊ] live round here no more but he'd come he'd he'd come back for the football game we hadn't seen him for years; 1:20:59 it doesn't [dəʊ] matter which town you go to Cradley Walsall there's massive massive pride in their own communities; 1:22:52 you've only got to read the letter pages, ain't [æi] you, in *The Star*²⁰; 1:27:12 'keep out the horse road' is like kind of 'best of luck' in a way, ain't [æi] it, (yeah) 'be lucky' 'keep out the horse road' 'don't [dəʊ] get run over by an horse and cart', like, you know; 1:28:46 (a 'pack of softness' just summat that's) doesn't [dəʊ] make sense ("that's a pack of softness he's talking") yeah, 'pack of softness', yeah; 1:30:19 say you'd come out with something that'd be, like, s... absolutely stupid he'd say, "well you can't [kɔ:] roast snow in a furnace" which means 'you'm just talking out of your backside,' you know, really; 1:30:44 'this won't [wəʊ] buy the babby a new coat' that's another one, ain't [æi] it (ah) 'it just won't do, that,' you know, "this won't [wəʊ] buy the babby a new coat"; 1:33:59 and we were talking about being 'out on the fold', weren't [wɔ:] we, the other day (ah, 'out on the fold', yeah) 'out on' which is like the small yard at the back, you know, like a court well it's a courtyard or a yard, isn't it, (yeah) at the back of a back-to-back [...] so if you were chucked out on the fold you was basically outside; 1:35:24 "it bain't [bæi] proper like what you was gived in the classroom"¹⁰; 1:42:00 Paul McDonald goes on and does a a reading from his book 'Surviving Sting' which is absolute it's set in Walsall in 1979 it's hilarious Brendan gets up and I mean these people to me they were the ones on a on a an high wire um and it just went a treat, didn't [dæi] it?; 1:42:21 and and you thought, "Jesus, look at the reaction in this room" I mean it was knock-out, weren't it? [wɔ:ɪ ɪ?] (it was, yeah))

simplification

frequent word final consonant cluster reduction (e.g. 0:09:25 it wouldn't [wʊdn̩] necessarily be your mother either because you c... you'd call your neighbour 'the old wench' or you it was like a general term for (for a woman) older women, yeah, yeah, I would say (it's kind of an endearing term, though); 0:17:40 (if that applied to that term then it would be either one of them, wouldn't it) yeah (yeah) (if you was, like, you know, early late sixties) it does tend to be a fashion statement, doesn't it? [dʊnɪt] (whereas now that we you don't seem to get the the kind of subcultures so much (no) you get, you know, more of a fash... it's just a fashion statement, ain't it, you know); 0:20:14 we was out for a a curry down in in Essex the one night and I was trying to get I says, like, "you want to [wɒnə] get you some work up our end acting," like, you know; 0:26:24 but then if you say, "but he was umbraged" it just sounds (yeah) it sounds annoying to me, doesn't it? [dʊnɪt]; 0:27:43 I don't so I don't tend to be specific over what it is (yeah) um it seems to be like an action, doesn't it, [dʊzənɪt] more so; 0:28:11 ('to hit something hard') oh, there's hundreds 'lamp' 'hammer' 'pail' 'thrape' ('thrape' is a good one 'give it a coal-heaver') yeah, 'give it a coal-heaver' (say that again) ('coal-heaver') ('coal-heaver' or 'cock-heaver') (what on earth is) ('cock-heaver', ah) [...] a 'coal-heaver' was like a a 'back-hander' really a 'back-hander', wasn't it, [wɒnɪt] you know; 0:34:38 but the front only come into play at Christmas as well, didn't it? [dɪdn̩ɪt] (yeah); 0:55:38 I've just spoke about, you know, the passion of the industry and stuff like that but I kind of rebelled against that I didn't want to [wɒnə] work in a factory I didn't want to [wɒnə] work in a foundry I didn't want to [wɒnə] do all them jobs; 0:59:52 basically they weren't getting the reaction that they wanted, [wɒnɪd] see (yeah); 1:28:54 say you had a gripe and you was on the shop floor well you'd you'd miss out the underhand and you'd go to the foreman so, you know, he

might come and he'd say, "what do you want to [wɒnə] do, Bill?" and you'd say, "I'm going to [gənə] speak to the organ-grinder not the monkey"; 1:33:59 and we were talking about being 'out on the fold', weren't we, the other day (ah, 'out on the fold', yeah) 'out on' which is like the small yard at the back, you know, like a court well it's a courtyard or a yard, isn't it, [ɪzɪt] (yeah) at the back of a back-to-back [...] so if you were chucked out on the fold you was basically outside; 1:36:11 "it ain't till you found [fʊn] it you knows where you stand like taking your knife out on its sheath"¹⁰)

word medial consonant cluster reduction (0:07:08 this is how we felt no matter what you wanted [wɒnɪd] to do that was where you were going so when the school gates opened and we walked out and the factory gates opened and you walked in; 0:47:20 it's about time s... people recognise [ɹɛkəncɪz] the fact that it's a dialect that's that's spoken (yeah) it's not a uh, you know, it's it's it's not an infliction we'm we'm not, like, inflicted with summat that's, you know, we we've got to apologise for)

word initial syllable reduction (0:21:48 the elastic [ðələstɪk] used to go but if they still fitted you you'd still got to wear them unless they wore an hole in them (and all our toes am like that now, ain't they, 'cause of them))

syllable deletion (0:00:05 and lived there uh probably [pɒbli] until I was about four or five when there was the relocation of houses out of the the Oldbury town and into the new council estates; 0:09:43 I have been in situations where some've looked and you've gone, "he's called her wench," you know, as if it's some scullery maid [skʊlɪmæɪd]; 0:21:18 could be an isolated thing to (a partic... yeah) his family [fəmlɪ] or the area 'cause you get that as well; 0:55:38 I've just spoke about, you know, the passion of the industry and stuff like that but I kind of rebelled against that I didn't want to work in a factory [faktɪ] I didn't want to work in a foundry I didn't want to do all them jobs; 0:55:53 this area has got a vast amount of, like, creative talent, but we've never had an industry round it we've never had, like, publishing companies [kʌmpənɪz] [...] we've never had that kind of thing but we ain't half kicked some stuff out round here in over the years that is as good as anything anywhere but we've got nowhere to take it)

<-st> + <s> (0:20:58 'cause I remember when I was kid um talking to some elderly neighbours and we'd got one who used to rhyme everything 'cause he used to he used to to say, "oh, I've got my I've got a bad chest [tʃɛsɪ] and I've had to put my vest [vɛsɪ] on" and everything ended in 'E' 'S' 'Y')

definite article reduction (0:52:43 those from 'the off' [ðɒf] who who live off our region um will only um have an understanding of our language from bad actors uh from bad media and um from people who've got no idea about our culture and our language)

L-deletion (0:06:21 I've always [ɔ:wɪz] kind of embraced the the uh the thing that this area's always [ɔ:twɪz] been a uh an area that's integrated um initially from the kind of British Isles but then obviously after from sort of, you know, Asia and the West Indies and what have you; 0:09:25 it wouldn't necessarily be your mother either because you c... you'd call your neighbour 'the old [əʊd] wench' or you it was like a general term for (for a woman) older women, yeah, yeah, I would say (it's kind of an endearing term, though); 0:11:20 I worked in Cradley and, like, they says, you know, they used to point to me and say, "God, you've you, you know, you got a strong accent" whereas to me they was like, "Jeff, what you on about?", like you know, and I know it's only, [ɒni] like, two or three mile; 0:14:00 my mom'd say if my dad was on afternoon shift, "the old [əʊd] man'll be back at ten" but she wouldn't say, you know, we wouldn't be able to call him 'the old [əʊd] man' to her face; 0:34:08 you're assuming now that there were more than one in these houses well it'll be the 'best room' because you always used to be told you can only [ɒni] go in the best room on Sunday; 0:34:38 but the front only [ɒni] come into play at Christmas as well, didn't it? (yeah); 1:22:52 you've only [ɒni] got to read the letter pages, ain't you, in The Star²⁰; 1:33:59 and we were talking about being 'out on the fold', [faʊd] weren't we, the other day (ah, 'out on the fold', [fəʊtɪd] yeah) 'out on' which is like the small yard at the back, you know, like

a court well it's a courtyard or a yard, isn't it, (yeah) at the back of a back-to-back [...] so if you were chucked out on the fold [faʊd] you was basically outside; 1:42:00 Paul McDonald goes on and does a reading from his book 'Surviving Sting' which is absolute it's set in Walsall [wɔːsəl] in 1979 it's hilarious Brendan gets up and I mean these people to me they were the ones on a on a an high wire um and it just went a treat, didn't it?)

frequent TH-deletion with them (e.g. 0:21:48 the elastic used to go but if they still fitted you you'd still got to wear them [əm] unless they wore an hole in them [əm] (and all our toes am like that now, ain't they, 'cause of them [əm]); 0:15:29 and she'd be the one who'd be putting penny old copper pennies on somebody's eyes and laying them [əm] out down one end of the street (that's right my grandma used to lay them [əm] out, ah) and then her'd be down the other end helping somebody give birth; 0:38:46 it's actually the Irish picking them [əm] up and taking them [əm] over to Europe)

v-deletion (0:03:43 really with the Black Country it's not so much individual words it's, like, expressions that we use that um that've [ðədə] got the real force; 0:10:31 it was a term I never used but a lot of the the kids who were born and bred in Titton would've [wʊdə] used 'old lady'; 0:28:11 ('to hit something hard') (oh, there's hundreds 'lamp' 'hammer' 'pail' 'thrape') 'thrape' is a good one 'give [gi] it a coal-heaver' (yeah, 'give [gi] it a coal-heaver') (say that again) 'coal-heaver' ('coal-heaver' or 'cock-heaver') (what on earth is) 'cock-heaver', ah ([...] a 'coal-heaver' was like a a 'back-hander' really a 'back-hander', wasn't it, you know); 0:49:55 there was no way that you were going to sort of get on I mean you certainly wouldn't've [wʊntə] got on to the media speaking with a broad Tipton accent; 1:02:19 when Thatcher¹² gived [gɪd] us a kicking and places started to shut [...] we played Manchester City in the League Cup¹³ on a December night and they was giving [giːɪn] us they they was just opposing fans always used to call us Brummies and then everybody just stood up and said started chanting, "we don't come from Birmingham"; 1:15:29 and she'd be the one who'd be putting penny old copper pennies on somebody's eyes and laying them out down one end of the street (that's right my grandma used to lay them out, ah) and then her'd be down the other end helping somebody give [gi] birth; 1:27:46 somebody who's mean 'wouldn't give [giː] him a blow off the ragman's trumpet' [...] (or 'the droppings off their nose'); 1:32:12 there ain't that many but, like, there's 'pailing' and 'paling' now 'pailing is 'giving [giːɪn] you a pailing' and then a 'paling' is a 'fence' [...] you can have a pailing for getting stuck on the palings; 1:35:24 "it bain't proper like what you was gived [gɪd] in the classroom"¹⁰)

w-deletion (0:10:36 I mean i... if you come over this way more Dudley Netherton you used or you'd get 'the woman', [ʊmən] don't you, 'woman' [ʊmən] have you heard that one?; 0:14:00 my mom'd [mʊməd] say if my dad was on afternoon shift, "the old man'll [mʊnət] be back at ten" but she wouldn't say, you know, we wouldn't be able to call him 'the old man' to her face; 1:06:00 so then these would then attract from outside communities uh say people from Shropshire'd [ʃrɒpʃɪə əd] move to that side of the Black Country Worcester from that side Warwick from that side and the further; 1:30:19 say you'd come out with something that'd [ðar əd] be, like, s... absolutely stupid he'd say, "well you can't roast snow in a furnace" which means 'you'm just talking out of your backside, you know,' really; 1:32:51 and it's all to do with the types of ground the spoil mounds and whatever uh I mean 'tacky' dirt'd [tɒki dɪ:t əd] be, like, 'clay' 'clay and marl' and ('tacky banks') ('tacky banks', ah) and it gets changed to tacky banks, yeah, ('marl holes') so so we know it as 'tacky' here and it's 'tacky' over there; 1:36:55 "he didn't see a doctor till he was eighty-four always [ɔːtəz] fit but he didn't look after hisself not a bit on it"¹⁰)

LIAISON

frequent linking R (e.g. 0:15:36 *I mean respectfully I mean I always called my grandfather ‘grandad’ but um obviously there was ‘grandfather’ as well [ɡrɑmfɛ:ðə əz wɛt]* which um stresses the the ‘A’ and the ‘E’ sound on ‘father’; 0:31:22 *I went to my aunty on on interviewed my aunty on Sunday for a [fə ə] university project and I said, “look I can never ever [nɛvə ɛvə] remember anything calling anybody anything if they was pregnant” and she says, “oh you used to say ‘her call... her carried everything afore her’” [əfə ə] which is a logical expression; 0:46:41 how could you say that a bloke who was [...] a pattern-maker or [pətəm:ɛkə ɔ:] summat like that in a foundry that that’d got a uh a strong dialect accent who who was building things that were being shipped all round the world [...] these blokes weren’t thick (no) at all they was anything but; 0:52:43 those from ‘the off’ who who live off our region um will only um have an understanding of our language from bad actors uh from bad media and um from people who’ve got no idea about our culture and [kʊtʃə ən] our language; 1:26:27 Steve was uh a bloke who I worked with the other day and um he got his rag off with a customer anyway [kʊstəm ə ɛnɪwæi] and the customer left; 1:39:39 I mean if we’d have read in that in our poem in proper English [pɹɒpə ɪŋɡlɪʃ] there would not’ve been the effect (no) that you’ve got)*

frequent intrusive R (e.g. 0:01:22 *uh when we’re speaking normally our language is quite soft in terms of old Black Country language but we’re all involved in performance as such and then uh we can hark back to a much rawer [ɹɑ:ɹə] uh Black Country dialect [...] and that’s something we try to perpetuate with what we do uh here really; 0:03:08 uh but there’s been a lot of influences like there’s a lot of Asian families moved in in our area a lot of people from Jamaica in particular [dʒəmæikə ɪm pətɪkjələ]; 0:03:18 dad was in India in [ɪndiə ɪn] the war he’s brought a lot of expressions back from India so I get influenced by a lot of things; 0:06:21 I’ve always kind of embraced the the uh the thing that this area’s always been a uh an area that’s integrated um initially from the kind of British Isles but then obviously after from sort of, you know, Asia and [æizə ən] the West Indies and what have you; 0:11:20 I worked in Cradley and, like, they says, you know, they used to point to me and say, “God, you’ve you, you know, you got a strong accent” whereas to me they was like, “Jeff, what you on [jə ʌn] about?”, like you know, and I know it’s only, like, two or three mile; 0:24:09 I said, “ah, I’m on the box” he says, “well can you explain what that is?” I says, “I’m I’m I’m on the sick” “oh oh” then it was there was, like, all these puzzled looks and, like, but that is a rare one [ɹɛ:ɹə ən] from round here; 0:32:17 ‘has a drop’ ‘half-cut’ ‘three sheets to the wind’ ‘well-oiled’ ‘kaylied’ ‘blotto as a bob-owler’ ‘legless’ ‘pie-eyed’ ‘plastered’ ‘smashed’ ‘sealed’ ‘tiddly’ ‘pickled as a newt’ that’s the way it get you ‘smelt the barmaid’s apron’ ‘dipso’ ‘stewed’ ‘stoned’ ‘tight’ ‘bladdered’ ‘tied one on’ ‘had enough’ ‘addled’ ‘blind’ ‘sozzled’ ‘had a crooked elbow’ ‘half-cut’ [əd ə kɹʊkɪd ɛlɪbə ɑ:fkʊt] ‘have a skinful’ drink on and you’m ‘rattled’; 1:32:12 there ain’t that many but, like, there’s ‘pailing’ and ‘paling’ now ‘pailing is ‘giving you a [jə ə] pailing’ and then a ‘paling’ is a ‘fence’ [...] you can have a pailing for getting stuck on the palings)*

zero intrusive R (0:52:43 *those from ‘the off’ who who live off our region um will only um have an understanding of our language from bad actors uh from bad media and [mi:diə and] um from people who’ve got no idea about [ɔidiə əbɛʊt] our culture and our language)*

EPENTHESIS

J-onglide (0:30:13 *‘cab-horse’ ‘mizzling’ (‘misery guts’) ‘misery guts’ ‘mizzle-head’ [mɪzʃɛd]*)

+/- VOICE

Asian (0:06:21 *I’ve always kind of embraced the the uh the thing that this area’s always been a uh an area that’s integrated um initially from the kind of British Isles but then obviously after from sort of, you*

know, Asia and [æɪzə ən] the West Indies and what have you; 1:22:02 you know, there was there was Asian [æɪzən] lads up there from Tipton there was there was because they've growed they'm as they'm as they'm as Tipton as I am)

sandwich (1:13:02 what was the other one, "if you asked her if her wanted a piece" you know, that was a 'sandwich' [sɑmwɪdʒ] a 'piece' "if you asked her if you if her wanted a piece I bet her'd say, 'oh no thank you I've just had apple'")

WEAK-STRONG CONTRAST

word final vowel strengthening (0:04:42 before setting up my own business [bɪznɪs] I ran that for five years before falling ill and at the moment I'm working as a museum assistant uh just retraining; 0:20:14 we was out for a a curry down in in Essex [ɛsɪks] the one night and I was trying to get I says, like, "you want to get you some work up our end acting," like, you know; 0:38:46 it's actually the Irish picking them up and taking them over to Europe [ju:ɹɒp]; 0:56:29 all the industrial heritage was there but there was n... there's nothing here of, like, creative arts if you like i... in a business [bɪznɪs] sense; 1:01:10 he used to do these uh spot reports on different towns (yeah) and he he'd done a little thing on the statue the Tipton Slasher²¹ statue (ah, I know, yeah) on the on the gardens [gɑ:dɪnz] by by The Fountain pub; 1:28:46 a 'pack of softness' [sɑftnɪs] just summat that's (doesn't make sense) "that's a pack of softness [sɑftnɪs] he's talking" (yeah, 'pack of softness', [sɑftnɪs] yeah); 1:28:11 there's a good one for drinking 'you got no clack in your wazzen' [wɑzɪn] (yeah) (ah) which means you can dr... 'you can drink a pint with the greatest of ease' basically [...] 'got no Adam's apple in your throat' (so it just goes down) yeah (right); 1:30:19 say you'd come out with something that'd be, like, s... absolutely stupid he'd say, "well you can't roast snow in a furnace" [fe:nɪs] which means 'you'm just talking out of your backside, you know, really)

LEXICALLY SPECIFIC VARIATION

again(st) (0:55:38 I've just spoke about, you know, the passion of the industry and stuff like that but I kind of rebelled against [əgeɪnst] that I didn't want to work in a factory I didn't want to work in a foundry I didn't want to do all them jobs; 1:03:04 if we'm calling ourselves ourselves Brummies (yeah) then you've got to worry but once we've started calling ourselves (yeah) what we am then that was fine again [əgeɪn]; 1:07:04 and although they looked upon theirselves as a whole they w... they also looked upon theirselves as indi... again [əgeɪn] they were tribes we're all part of tribes, ain't we?)

(be)cause (0:09:25 it wouldn't necessarily be your mother either because [bɪkəʊs] you c... you'd call your neighbour 'the old wench' or you it was like a general term for (for a woman) older women, yeah, yeah, I would say (it's kind of an endearing term, though); 0:22:55 I went to my mate Phil and I says, "uh Phil can you do me on call tonight 'cause [kʊz] I'm 'on the box'?" and he goes, "what bloody box ... what you on about?"; 0:40:54 once they were in people didn't 'cause [kʊz] we were surrounded by hills (that's it) there was a great influx of people and really we weren't bothered for centuries and centuries nobody wanted to know us; 0:41:26 it was almost like a duality here 'cause [kəʊs] I know when I was growing up as a kid I was en... encouraged not to speak broad which was basically slipping into the dialect; 0:52:28 it's deeply offensive because [bɪkəʊs] as Gary says ours is a language and we're extremely passionate about it; 1:18:21 like Gary says if a lot of people try to be clever with us then they always come off worse because [bɪkəʊs] they don't realise how clever we are they think we're stupid but we're not)

dead, death (0:23:03 and then the other one my uncle Des was delivering in Stockport and he didn't go the next week and they said, "what's happened to Des he was he was supposed to be delivering this

week?” he says, “oh, he’s on the box” they did a collection ‘cause they thought they meant ‘in the box’ ‘dead’ [dʒɛd]; 0:25:18 (and ‘cold?’) (‘freezing’) (‘freezing’, ah) (‘froze’) (‘cold’) (‘froze’) ‘froze to death’ [dʒɛθ] we’d say (‘froze’); 1:37:38 “it didn’t matter then but they’m both dead [dʒɛd] now and my grandfather he didn’t half speak funny”¹⁰)

either (0:09:25 it wouldn’t necessarily be your mother either [ɔɪðə] because you c... you’d call your neighbour ‘the old wench’ or you it was like a general term for (for a woman) older women, yeah, yeah, I would say (it’s kind of an endearing term, though); 0:17:39 if that applied to that term then it would be [ɔɪðə] one of them, wouldn’t it?)

probably (0:16:26 (‘kegs’ is a good one) yeah, ‘kegs’ people still use that (yeah) “put your kegs on” (yeah) and I think that comes from um the canals probably [pɹɒbəli])

says (0:11:20 I worked in Cradley and, like, they says, [sɛz] you know, they used to point to me and say, “God, you’ve you, you know, you got a strong accent” whereas to me they was like, “Jeff, what you on about?”, like you know, and I know it’s only, like, two or three mile; 0:31:22 I went to my aunty on on interviewed my aunty on Sunday for a university project and I said, “look I can never ever remember anything calling anybody anything if they was pregnant” and she says, [sɛz] “oh you used to say ‘her call... her carried everything afore her’” which is a logical expression; 0:52:28 it’s deeply offensive because as Gary says [sɛz] ours is a language and we’re extremely passionate about it; 1:18:21 like Gary says [sɛz] if a lot of people try to be clever with us then they always come off worse because they don’t realise how clever we are they think we’re stupid but we’re not; 1:25:11 my brother lives in Nottingham and even now if he says [sɛz] it and, “it’s black it’s black over Bill’s mother’s” and even now nobody who he’s said to it for the first time has got a clue what it’s on about and it actually means ‘it’s cloudy and it’s going to rain in a second or it’s going to be raining quite hard’)

GRAMMAR

DETERMINERS

definite article reduction (0:52:43 those from ‘th’ off” who who live off our region um will only um have an understanding of our language from bad actors uh from bad media and um from people who’ve got no idea about our culture and our language)

the premodification (0:20:14 we was out for a a curry down in in Essex the one night and I was trying to get I says, like, “you wanna get you some work up our end acting,” like, you know)

zero indefinite article (0:30:37 but the big expression is uh ‘if he’s right I know where there’s _ houseful’; 1:13:02 what was the other one, “if you asked her if her wanted a piece” you know, that was a ‘sandwich’ a ‘piece’ “if you asked her if you if her wanted a piece I bet her’d say, ‘oh no thank you I’ve just had _ apple’”; 1:41:50 so we put this on in in in the pub it was we sold-out there was over _ hundred tickets sold the room was packed)

demonstrative them (0:48:42 he was almost like the leader of a team and everybody knew him as ‘Sixteen Shovel’ and and, you know, it’s them sort of stories and that’s why it carries on; 0:55:38 I’ve just spoke about, you know, the passion of the industry and stuff like that but I kind of rebelled against that I day wanna work in a factory I day wanna work in a foundry I day wanna do all them jobs; 1:41:30 we [...] are sort of people that’ve come about from, like, the sixties seventies and eighties growing up from them eras)

NOUNS

zero plural (0:11:20 *I worked in Cradley and, like, they says, you know, they used to point to me and say, “God, you’ve you, you know, you got a strong accent” whereas to me they was like, “Jeff, what you on about?”*, like you know, and I know it’s only, like, two or three mile; 0:48:08 *my uncle Eric told me the a story about a guy in Oldbury that could shovel ten ton of coal on to a th... a coal barge with a size sixteen shovel in four hours*; 0:48:25 *and he was proud and everybody who knew him was proud because of what he done and it didn’t matter that he wasn’t educated and it didn’t matter that he couldn’t read or write he could shift this ten ton of coal in four hours*)

PRONOUNS

frequent pronoun exchange (e.g. 0:20:33 *this woman, like, come into the into the restaurant and her’d got, like, this fur coat on and then I says, like, “that’s a nice coat, ai it, her’s got on?”* he was like, “what?” come I said, “that’s a nice coat her’s got on what’s just come through the door” and he was like, “what?”; 0:31:22 *I went to me aunty on on interviewed me aunty on Sunday for a university project and I said, “look I can never ever remember anything calling anybody anything if they was pregnant” and she says, “oh you used to say ‘her call... her carried everything afore her’”* which is a logical expression; 1:01:29 *what you got was really offensive from Central TV²² and I I think, like, you know, they got a lot to answer for that’s what does you that’s what does we in the Black Country*; 1:12:03 *lot of diphthong used in the Black Country as well I mean the best one I ever heard was in Beatties¹⁶ in Dudley and this woman says uh in the shoe department, “eh”, her says, “what size am these shoes, please?”* triple whammy; 1:13:02 *what was the other one, “if you asked her if her wanted a piece” you know, that was a ‘sandwich’ a ‘piece’ “if you asked her if you if her wanted a piece I bet her’d say, ‘oh no thank you I’ve just had apple’”*; 1:15:29 *and she’d be the one who’d be putting penny old copper pennies on somebody’s eyes and laying them out down one end of the street (that’s right my grandma used to lay them out, ah) and then her’d be down the other end helping somebody gie birth*; 1:17:42 *we laugh at ourselves (yeah) we we, you know, but we doh like people taking the piss out of we (no) ‘cause we can do that enough ourselves*; 1:25:37 *‘cause I remember I was driving down to Ipswich once and uh got got me girlfriend with me and I goes, “bloody hell it’s black over Bill’s mothers”* her says, “I day know you knowed somebody down here”; 1:27:21 *an industrial term they used to use in the steelwork if somebody was um a shirker [...] mainly used in the women’s uh mills and they used to call them ‘ines wenches’ which meant, you know, they were ‘a waste of space’ especially if they were on piecework and if they were, like, dropping behind they’d say, “oh” you know “Elsie’s an ines wench” which meant her weren’t pulling her weight really*)

frequent possessive me (e.g. 0:05:54 *for me I’ve always embraced I mean my my grandparents were all other than me nan who was uh a Tipton wench if you like all me other grandparents on on me dad’s side were Irish me nan and grandad on me mom’s side me grandad was from Plymouth*; 0:14:00 *me mom’d say if me dad was on afternoon shift, “the old man’ll be back at ten”* but she wouldn’t say, you know, we wouldn’t be able to call him ‘the old man’ to her face; 0:16:50 *usually if they was down the club they’d say ‘me better half’ (‘the missus’) “is your better half with you?”* yeah, ‘the missus’; 0:20:33 *this woman, like, come into the into the restaurant and her’d got, like, this fur coat on and then I says, like, “that’s a nice coat, ai it, her’s got on?”* he was like, “what?” come I said, “that’s a nice coat her’s got on what’s just come through the door” and he was like, “what?”; 0:31:22 *I went to me aunty on on interviewed me aunty on Sunday for a university project and I said, “look I can never ever remember anything calling anybody anything if they was pregnant” and she says, “oh you used to say ‘her call... her carried everything afore her’”* which is a logical expression; 1:04:54 *so Bessie from next door would come in and she’d lean on the canting patch while me nanny Murray’d make a cuppa and they’d just cant cant and cag about what went on*; 1:14:48 *my aunty said that me grandad was an elder because he was self-educated (yeah) and so anybody that had a form or summat they dayn understand would go to him and they’d say, you know, “Mr Murray can you explain this to me?”*; 1:25:37 *‘cause I*

remember I was driving down to Ipswich once and uh got got me girlfriend with me and I goes, "bloody hell it's black over Bill's mothers" her says, "I day know you knowed somebody down here")

regularised reflexive (1:07:04 *and although they looked upon theirselves as a whole they w... they also looked upon theirselves as indi... again they were tribes we're all part of tribes, ain't we?*; 1:12:23 *what used to make me laugh or laugh if you like is um when and it, you know, when people used to try and sort of put theirselves over as (posher than they are)*; 1:36:55 *"he day see a doctor till he was eighty-four always fit but he day look after hissself not a bit on it"*¹⁰)

alternative reflexive (0:20:14 *we was out for a a curry down in in Essex the one night and I was trying to get I says, like, "you wanna get you some work up our end acting," like, you know*; 1:18:05 *it's kind of like an Irish humour (yeah) it's it's a kind of, you know, (yeah) we put weselves down and don't let yourself get, you know, keep know your place kind of thing*; 1:36:01 *"life's blood it runs right through you parks itsen on the long road you take"*¹⁰)

relative that (0:48:08 *my uncle Eric told me the a story about a guy in Oldbury that could shovel ten ton of coal on to a th... a coal barge with a size sixteen shovel in four hours*; 0:59:48 *in three days of filming if the best they could come up with [...] was a little old woman [...] and two local scallies that'd just come out the Job Centre*; 1:15:46 *she learnt um a lot of the arts of prophecy and foresight because she worked closely with the gypsies and Romanies (yeah) that that sort of settled in and around that area (yeah) of uh Tipton*)

relative what (0:20:33 *this woman, like, come into the into the restaurant and her'd got, like, this fur coat on and then I says, like, "that's a nice coat, ai it, her's got on?" he was like, "what?" come I said, "that's a nice coat her's got on what's just come through the door" and he was like, "what?"*; 1:01:21 *and he was talking about the the old Canal Wharf uh what used to be there*; 1:41:41 *this thing about there's no nowhere for us there there's no uh arts vibrant arts there's no publishing companies ex... and all that what we've spoke about*)

zero relative (0:03:08 *uh but there's been a lot of influences like there's a lot of Asian families _ moved in in our area a lot of people from Jamaica in particular*)

VERBS

present

generalisation of 3rd psg <-s> (0:11:20 *I worked in Cradley and, like, they says, you know, they used to point to me and say, "God, you've you, you know, you got a strong accent" whereas to me they was like, "Jeff, what you on about?"*, like you know, and I know it's only, like, two or three mile; 1:36:11 *"it ai till you found it you knows where you stand like taking your knife out on its sheath"*¹⁰)

be – frequent am generalisation (e.g. 0:21:48 *(the elastic used to go but if they still fitted you you'd still got to wear them unless they wore an hole in them) and all our toes am like that now, ai they, 'cause of them*; 0:22:27 *(if you're feeling 'unwell', Greg, what would you say?) um 'poorly' but there's a local expression 'on the box' if you'm off work*; 0:47:20 *it's about time s... people recognise the fact that it's a dialect that's that's spoken (yeah) it's not a uh, you know, it's it's it's not an infliction we'm we'm not, like, inflicted with summat that's, you know, we we've got to apologise for*; 1:03:04 *if we'm calling ourselves Brummies (yeah) then you've gotta worry but once we've started calling ourselves (yeah) what we am then that was fine again*; 1:12:03 *lot of diphthong used in the Black Country as well I mean the best one I ever heard was in Beatties¹⁶ in Dudley and this woman says uh in the shoe department, "eh", her says, "what size am these shoes, please?" triple whammy*; 1:20:50 *at the same time it's kind of they knock your door and (yeah) see if you'm all right and and, you know (there's still a massive community spirit) there is, yeah*; 1:22:02 *you know, there was there was Asian lads up there from Tipton there was there was because they've growed they'm as they'm as they'm as Tipton as I am*; 1:30:19 *say you'd come out with something that'd be, like, s... absolutely stupid he'd say, "well you cor*

roast snow in a furnace” which means ‘you’m just talking out of your backside,’ you know, really; 1:37:38 “it day matter then but they’m both dead now and me grandfather he day half speak funny”¹⁰)
be – historic bin~beest (0:40:15 we’ve got the old form of the verb to be ‘bin’ and ‘bay’ (and ‘beest’) and ‘beest’ and that’s very local; 1:36:01 “filling the space with tranklements it’s only our speak shows who we bin”¹⁰; 1:37:27 “‘I ain’t a-going’ I’d say and he’d shout, ‘you bin get yourself some suck and doh forget your keys’”¹⁰; 1:37:38 “and when he took them off me he’d say, ‘you bain’t a bad ’un beesn’t now go and play and leave me to me smokes”¹⁰)

past

zero past (0:20:33 this woman, like, come into the into the restaurant and her’d got, like, this fur coat on and then I says, like, “that’s a nice coat, ai it, her’s got on?” he was like, “what?” come I said, “that’s a nice coat her’s got on what’s just come through the door” and he was like, “what?”; 0:34:38 but the front only come into play at Christmas as well, didn’t it? (yeah); 0:37:47 I I think it’s just uh the what was here before and then what what come into the area)

regularised past (0:33:24 ‘face like a busted arsehole’ (say it again) ‘face like a busted arsehole’; 1:02:19 when Thatcher¹² gied us a kicking and places started to shut [...] we played Manchester City in the League Cup¹³ on a December night and they was gieing us they they was just opposing fans always used to call us Brummies and then everybody just stood up and said started chanting, “we don’t come from Birmingham”; 1:21:13 I mean look at that the other week where, like, Tipton in the FA Vase¹⁹ they played they drawed Jarrow [...] there was two-hundred went up to Jarrow; 1:22:02 you know, there was there was Asian lads up there from Tipton there was there was because they’ve growed they’m as they’m as they’m as Tipton as I am; 1:25:37 ’cause I remember I was driving down to Ipswich once and uh got got me girlfriend with me and I goes, “bloody hell it’s black over Bill’s mothers” her says, “I day know you knowed somebody down here”)

generalisation of simple past (0:25:18 (and ‘cold’?) (‘freezing’) (‘freezing’, ah) (‘froze’) (‘cold’) (‘froze’) ‘froze to death’ we’d say (‘froze’); 0:55:38 I’ve just spoke about, you know, the passion of the industry and stuff like that but I kind of rebelled against that I day wanna work in a factory I day wanna work in a foundry I day wanna do all them jobs)

generalisation of past participle (0:48:25 and he was proud and everybody who knew him was proud because of what he done and it didn’t matter that he wasn’t educated and it didn’t matter that he couldn’t read or write he could shift this ten ton of coal in four hours; 0:58:15 these there was there was there was reporters up the Co-op¹⁸ down by Tipton Railway Station over Victoria Park I mean you seen these vans driving round with, like you know, CN News and f... I mean all these big media t... and it was like, “Jesus, what’s going on here?”)

be – frequent was generalisation (e.g. 0:11:20 I worked in Cradley and, like, they says, you know, they used to point to me and say, “God, you’ve you, you know, you got a strong accent” whereas to me they was like, “Jeff, what you on about?”, like you know, and I know it’s only, like, two or three mile; 0:16:50 usually if they was down the club they’d say ‘me better half’ (‘the missus’) “is your better half with you?” yeah, ‘the missus’; 0:31:22 I went to me aunty on on interviewed me aunty on Sunday for a university project and I said, “look I can never ever remember anything calling anybody anything if they was pregnant” and she says, “oh you used to say ‘her call... her carried everything afore her’” which is a logical expression; 0:36:11 it used to be the ‘outdoor convenience’ (yeah) and all, hadn’t it, when if you was trying to be posh at home; 0:39:01 the imagery was as if you were you were on this Viking ship (yeah) and all you’d got on this pic... this screen in front of you was the waves as you was heading towards this coastline; 0:46:41 how could you say that a bloke who was [...] a pattern-maker or summat like that in a foundry that that’d got a uh a strong dialect accent who who was building things that were being shipped all round the world [...] these blokes wor thick (no) at all they was anything but; 1:00:15 within by the end of the week the whole town was basically just clamming up and all they was left with was your local fuckwits basically up Princes End sticking an effigy with somebody in overalls that hit the papers, do you know what I mean; 1:02:19 when Thatcher¹² gied us a kicking and

places started to shut [...] we played Manchester City in the League Cup¹³ on a December night and they was gieing us they they was just opposing fans always used to call us Brummies and then everybody just stood up and said started chanting, “we don’t come from Birmingham”; 1:28:54 say you had a gripe and you was on the shop floor well you’d you’d miss out the underhand and you’d go to the foreman so, you know, he might come and he’d say, “what do you wanna do, Bill?” and you’d say, “I’m gonna speak to the organ-grinder not the monkey”; 1:33:59 and we were talking about being ‘out on the fold’, wor we, the other day (ah, ‘out on the fold’, yeah) ‘out on’ which is like the small yard at the back, you know, like a court well it’s a courtyard or a yard, isn’t it, (yeah) at the back of a back-to-back [...] so if you were chucked out on the fold you was basically outside)

was~weren’t split (1:27:21 an industrial term they used to use in the steelwork if somebody was um a shirker [...] mainly used in the women’s uh mills and they used to call them ‘ines wenches’ which meant, you know, they were ‘a waste of space’ especially if they were on piecework and if they were, like, dropping behind they’d say, “oh” you know “Elsie’s an ines wench” which meant her weren’t pulling her weight really)

compounds

double conditional (1:39:39 I mean if we’d have read in that in our poem in proper English there would not’ve been the effect (no) that you’ve got)

past with used to (0:36:11 it used to be the ‘outdoor convenience’ (yeah) and all, hadn’t it, when if you was trying to be posh at home)

<a-> participle (1:37:15 “and then he’d sit there all soft-faced his bald head a-glowing like a furnace fire waiting for his dinner and as he finished the last mouthful he’d send me to the shop for his ferks”¹⁰; 1:37:27 “I ain’t a-going’ I’d say and he’d shout, ‘you bin get yourself some suck and doh forget your keys’”¹⁰)

zero auxiliary be (0:11:20 I worked in Cradley and, like, they says, you know, they used to point to me and say, “God, you’ve you, you know, you got a strong accent” whereas to me they was like, “Jeff, what _ you on about?”, like you know, and I know it’s only, like, two or three mile; 0:22:55 I went to me mate Phil and I says, “uh Phil can you do me on call tonight ’cause I’m ‘on the box’?” and he goes, “what bloody box ... what _ you on about?”; 0:27:59 that might’ve been relative to all the, like, the coal tacky banks and the clay banks around and they just said, “oh, _ you going tip it” which means ‘you’re going to play over on the bank’ really, you know)

zero auxiliary have (0:11:20 I worked in Cradley and, like, they says, you know, they used to point to me and say, “God, you’ve you, you know, you _ got a strong accent” whereas to me they was like, “Jeff, what you on about?”, like you know, and I know it’s only, like, two or three mile; 1:01:29 what you got was really offensive from Central TV²² and I I think, like, you know, they _ got a lot to answer for that’s what does you that’s what does we in the Black Country; 1:28:11 there’s a good ‘un for drinking ‘you _ got no clack in your wazzen’ (yeah) (ah) which means you can dr... ‘you can drink a pint with the greatest of ease’ basically [...] ‘got no Adam’s apple in your throat’ (so it just goes down) yeah (right))

invariant there is~was (0:03:08 uh but there’s been a lot of influences like there’s a lot of Asian families moved in in our area a lot of people from Jamaica in particular; 0:03:29 the accent now is sort of maybe a lot softer than it was but there’s a lot of old words that um I certainly like to perpetuate; 0:24:09 I said, “ah, I’m on the box” he says, “well can you explain what that is?” I says, “I’m I’m I’m on the sick” “oh oh” then it was there was, like, all these puzzled looks and, like, but that is a rare ‘un from round here; 0:28:11 (‘to hit something hard’) oh, there’s hundreds ‘lamp’ ‘hammer’ ‘pail’ ‘thrape’ (‘thrape’ is a good ‘un ‘gie it a coal-heaver’) yeah, ‘gie it a coal-heaver’ (say that again) (‘coal-heaver’) (‘coal-heaver’ or ‘cock-heaver’) (what on earth is) (‘cock-heaver’, ah) [...] a ‘coal-heaver’ was like a a ‘back-hander’ really a ‘back-hander’, wasn’t it, you know; 0:58:15 these there was there was there was reporters up the Co-op¹⁸ down by Tipton Railway Station over Victoria Park I mean you seen these vans driving round with, like you know, CN News and f... I mean all these big media t... and

it was like, "Jesus, what's going on here?"; 1:21:13 I mean look at that the other week where, like, Tipton in the FA Vase¹⁹ they played they drew Jarrow [...] there was two-hundred went up to Jarrow; 1:22:02 you know, there was there was Asian lads up there from Tipton there was there was because they've growed they'm as they'm as they'm as Tipton as I am)

frequent historic present (e.g. 0:11:20 *I worked in Cradley and, like, they says, you know, they used to point to me and say, "God, you've you, you know, you got a strong accent" whereas to me they was like, "Jeff, what you on about?", like you know, and I know it's only, like, two or three mile; 0:20:14 we was out for a a curry down in in Essex the one night and I was trying to get I says, like, "you wanna get you some work up our end acting," like, you know; 0:20:33 this woman, like, come into the into the restaurant and her'd got, like, this fur coat on and then I says, like, "that's a nice coat, ai it, her's got on?" he was like, "what?" come I said, "that's a nice coat her's got on what's just come through the door" and he was like, "what?"; 0:23:03 and then the other one my uncle Des was delivering in Stockport and he day go the next week and they said, "what's happened to Des he was he was supposed to be delivering this week?" he says, "oh, he's on the box" they did a collection 'cause they thought they meant 'in the box' 'dead'; 0:31:22 I went to me aunty on on interviewed me aunty on Sunday for a university project and I said, "look I can never ever remember anything calling anybody anything if they was pregnant" and she says, "oh you used to say 'her call... her carried everything afore her'" which is a logical expression; 1:12:03 lot of diphthong used in the Black Country as well I mean the best one I ever heard was in Beatties¹⁶ in Dudley and this woman says uh in the shoe department, "eh", her says, "what size am these shoes, please?" triple whammy; 1:25:37 'cause I remember I was driving down to Ipswich once and uh got got me girlfriend with me and I goes, "bloody hell it's black over Bill's mothers" her says, "I day know you knowed somebody down here")*

NEGATION

multiple negation (1:22:43 *one chap was there Andy Dunes he doh live round here no more but he'd come he'd he'd come back for the football game we hadn't seen him for years)*

frequent alternative negator²³ (e.g. 0:10:36 *I mean i... if you come over this way more Dudley Netherton you used or you'd get 'the woman', doh you, 'woman' have you heard that one?; 0:12:01 I'd add 'mom' as opposed to 'mum' or 'mam' [...] with an 'O' 'cause I've just spent an hour down the card shop in Merry Hill for next week and they ai* got one that's spelt right; 0:16:26 do you ever hear that one a 'scobie' (no) "how's your scobie?" 'how's your kid?' (no) ah, that was another one I ai* heard that for years but that was an old one (I have heard it) 'scobie'; 0:17:40 if that applied to that term then it would be either one of them, wouldn't it, (yeah) (yeah) if you was, like, you know, early late sixties (it does tend to be a fashion statement, doesn't it?) whereas now that we you doh seem to get the the kind of subcultures so much (no) you get, you know, more of a fash... it's just a fashion statement, ai* it, you know; 0:19:25 I used to love the old uh which I still wind my kids up with it now which is, you know, when we was at sch... you you took your pumps to school, day you, you know, your old slip-on pumps and your pump bag; 0:20:33 this woman, like, come into the into the restaurant and her'd got, like, this fur coat on and then I says, like, "that's a nice coat, ai* it, her's got on?" he was like, "what?" come I said, "that's a nice coat her's got on what's just come through the door" and he was like, "what?"; 0:21:48 (the elastic used to go but if they still fitted you you'd still got to wear them unless they wore an hole in them) and all our toes am like that now, ai* they, 'cause of them; 0:23:03 and then the other one my uncle Des was delivering in Stockport and he day go the next week and they said, "what's happened to Des he was he was supposed to be delivering this week?" he says, "oh, he's on the box" they did a collection 'cause they thought they meant 'in the box' 'dead'; 0:37:30 see you, Steve, tara a bit sorry*

²³ Where *SED Basic Material* (1962-1971) sets no precedent, see *West Midlands English: Speech and Society* (<http://www.aston.ac.uk/speech-society>) for spelling conventions of dialectal negative forms, e.g. <bay> = bePRESNEG, <cor> = canPRESNEG (≈ 'can't'), <doh> = doPRESNEG (≈ 'don't'), <woh> = willPRESNEG (≈ 'won't'), <day> = doPASTNEG (≈ 'didn't'), <wor> = bePASTNEG (≈ 'wasn't-weren't') etc.

you cor get on Radio 4¹⁵ with your guitar; 0:40:15 we've got the old form of the verb to be 'bin' and 'bay' (and 'beest') and 'beest' and that's very local; 0:46:41 how could you say that a bloke who was [...] a pattern-maker or summat like that in a foundry that that'd got a uh a strong dialect accent who who was building things that were being shipped all round the world [...] these blokes wor thick (no) at all they was anything but; 0:53:38 I mean you look at some of the adverts if they want somebody who's slow on the uptake or somebody who do... just doh quite get it first time they always use a Midland stroke Brummy stroke Black Country accent; 0:55:38 I've just spoke about, you know, the passion of the industry and stuff like that but I kind of rebelled against that I day wanna work in a factory I day wanna work in a foundry I day wanna do all them jobs; 0:55:53 this area has got a vast amount of, like, creative talent, but we've never had an industry round it we've never had, like, publishing companies [...] we've never had that kind of thing but we ai* halfkicked some stuff out round here in over the years that is as good as anything anywhere but we've got nowhere to take it; 0:56:51 I certainly doh feel any I I'm I'm not anti-Brummy or anything like that (oh no, no, no) it's not nothing like that; 1:14:48 my aunty said that me grandad was an elder because he was self-educated (yeah) and so anybody that had a form or summat they dayn understand would go to him and they'd say, you know, "Mr Murray can you explain this to me?"; 1:17:42 we laugh at ourselves (yeah) we we, you know, but we doh like people taking the piss out of we (no) 'cause we can do that enough ourselves; 1:22:43 one chap was there Andy Dunes he doh live round here no more but he'd come he'd he'd come back for the football game we hadn't seen him for years; 1:20:59 it doh matter which town you go to Cradley Walsall there's massive massive pride in their own communities; 1:22:52 you've only gotta read the letter pages, ai* you, in *The Star*²⁰; 1:19:06 he said, "but the beauty is if I'd got the money I could go and do that but I can go and have a cheese sandwich and a game of dominoes as well" and not, you know, and fit in there and that's I thought, "well that's that's that's the life" then, ai* it, 'cause then, you know, you can go and do both kind of thing; 1:25:37 'cause I remember I was driving down to Ipswich once and uh got got me girlfriend with me and I goes, "bloody hell it's black over Bill's mothers" her says, "I day know you knowed somebody down here"; 1:27:12 'keep out the horse road' is like kind of 'best of luck' in a way, ai* it, (yeah) 'be lucky' 'keep out the horse road' 'doh get run over by an horse and cart', like, you know; 1:28:46 (a 'pack of softness' just summat that's) doh make sense ("that's a pack of softness he's talking") yeah, 'pack of softness', yeah; 1:30:19 say you'd come out with something that'd be, like, s... absolutely stupid he'd say, "well you cor roast snow in a furnace" which means 'you'm just talking out of your backside,' you know, really; 1:30:44 'this woh buy the babby a new coat' that's another one, ai* it (ah) 'it just won't do, that,' you know, "this woh buy the babby a new coat"; 1:30:55 there used to be an old guy he'd go, uh oh, you know, "ten o'clock and ne'er a pigeon home yet" (ah) ('ne'er a pigeon back', ah) you know, so or, "ten o'clock and the babby ai* washed" that's another one; 1:33:59 and we were talking about being 'out on the fold', wor we, the other day (ah, 'out on the fold', yeah) 'out on' which is like the small yard at the back, you know, like a court well it's a courtyard or a yard, isn't it, (yeah) at the back of a back-to-back [...] so if you were chucked out on the fold you was basically outside; 1:35:24 "it bay proper like what you was gied in the classroom"¹⁰; 1:36:11 "it ai* till you found it you knows where you stand like taking your knife out on its sheath"¹⁰; 1:36:55 "he day see a doctor till he was eighty-four always fit but he day look after hissself not a bit on it"¹⁰; 1:37:38 "it day matter then but they'm both dead now and me grandfather he day half speak funny"¹⁰; 1:42:00 Paul McDonald goes on and does a a reading from his book 'Surviving Sting' which is absolute it's set in Walsall in 1979 it's hilarious Brendan gets up and I mean these people to me they were the ones on a on a an high wire um and it just went a treat, day it?; 1:42:21 and and you thought, "Jesus, look at the reaction in this room" I mean it was knock-out, wor it? (it was, yeah))

ain't for negative be (0:57:19 but it's a question of your identity, you know, (yeah) and they're, like, questioning your identity really and you sort of say, "well no, I ain't a Brummy I'm a bloody Black Countryman"; 1:07:04 and although they looked upon theirselves as a whole they w... they also looked upon theirselves as indi... again they were tribes we're all part of tribes, ain't we?; 1:32:12 there ain't that many but, like, there's 'pailing' and 'paling' now 'pailing is 'gieing you a pailing' and then a

'paling' is a 'fence' [...] you can have a pailing for getting stuck on the palings; 1:37:27 "I ain't a-going I'd say and he'd shout, 'you bin get yourself some suck and doh forget your keys'"¹⁰)
bain't for negative **be** (1:37:38 "and when he took them off me he'd say, 'you bain't a bad 'un beesn't now go and play and leave me to me smokes'"¹⁰)

PREPOSITIONS

deletion

zero habitual to (0:27:59 *that might've been relative to all the, like, the coal tacky banks and the clay banks around and they just said, "oh, you going _ tip it" which means 'you're going to play over on the bank' really, you know*)

preposition deletion (0:16:50 *usually if they was down _ the club they'd say 'me better half' ('the missus') "is your better half with you?" yeah, 'the missus'; 0:33:15 'fell out _ the ugly tree and hit every branch on the way down' (I mean I've heard there was, like, 'couldn't kick a pig that ugly'); 0:58:15 these there was there was there was reporters up _ the Co-op¹⁸ down by Tipton Railway Station over Victoria Park I mean you seen these vans driving round with, like you know, CN News and f... I mean all these big media t... and it was like, "Jesus, what's going on here?"; 0:59:48 in three days of filming if the best they could come up with [...] was a little old woman [...] and two local scallies that'd just come out _ the Job Centre; 1:00:15 within by the end of the week the whole town was basically just clamming up and all they was left with was your local fuckwits basically up _ Princes End sticking an effigy with somebody in overalls that hit the papers, do you know what I mean; 1:27:12 'keep out _ the hoss road' is like kind of 'best of luck' in a way, ai it, (yeah) 'be lucky' 'keep out _ the hoss road' 'doh get run over by an horse and cart', like, you know; 1:29:17 (do you know what 'wapple' is?) 'wapple' ah ('sleep in your eye', ah) 'sleep in your eye', yeah, "get the wapple out _ your eye"; 1:29:56 "go to the shop for some suck" (ah) do you know that one do you understand that one? ("down down _ the shop for some suck") 'go to the shop for some sweets' (OK) 'down _ the shop down _ the shop for summat to suck' um see it make sense)*)

substitution

on [= of] + pronoun (1:36:11 *"it ai till you found it you knows where you stand like taking your knife out on its sheath"*¹⁰; 1:36:55 *"he day see a doctor till he was eighty-four always fit but he day look after hisself not a bit on it"*¹⁰)

DISCOURSE

utterance final like (0:11:20 *I worked in Cradley and, like, they says, you know, they used to point to me and say, "God, you've you, you know, you got a strong accent" whereas to me they was like, "Jeff, what you on about?", like you know, and I know it's only, like, two or three mile; 0:20:14 we was out for a a curry down in in Essex the one night and I was trying to get I says, like, "you wanna get you some work up our end acting," like, you know; 1:07:16 they used to sound to me like they sang (yeah) when they talked, like, you know; 1:27:12 'keep out the hoss road' is like kind of 'best of luck' in a way, ai it, (yeah) 'be lucky' 'keep out the hoss road' 'doh get run over by an horse and cart', like, you know)*)

utterance final see (0:59:52 *basically they wor getting the reaction that they wanted, see (yeah)*)

frequent utterance internal like (e.g. 0:03:43 *really with the Black Country it's not so much individual words it's, like, expressions that we use that um that've got the real force; 0:11:20 I worked in Cradley and, like, they says, you know, they used to point to me and say, "God, you've you, you know, you got a strong accent" whereas to me they was like, "Jeff, what you on about?", like, you know, and I know it's only, like, two or three mile; 0:20:33 this woman, like, come into the into the restaurant and her'd got, like, this fur coat on and then I says, like, "that's a nice coat, ai it, her's got on?" he was like, "what?" come I said, "that's a nice coat her's got on what's just come through the door" and he was like,*

“what?”; 0:24:09 I said, “ah, I’m on the box” he says, “well can you explain what that is?” I says, “I’m I’m I’m on the sick” “oh oh” then it was there was, like, all these puzzled looks and, like, but that is a rare ‘un from round here; 0:47:20 it’s about time s... people recognise the fact that it’s a dialect that’s that’s spoken (yeah) it’s not a uh, you know, it’s it’s it’s not an infliction we’m we’m not, like, inflicted with summat that’s, you know, we we’ve got to apologise for; 0:56:29 all the industrial heritage was there but there was n... there’s nothing here of, like, creative arts if you like i... in a business sense; 1:27:21 an industrial term they used to use in the steelwork if somebody was um a shirker [...] mainly used in the women’s uh mills and they used to call them ‘ines wenchies’ which meant, you know, they were ‘a waste of space’ especially if they were on piecework and if they were, like, dropping behind they’d say, “oh” you know “Elsie’s an ines wench” which meant her weren’t pulling her weight really; 1:28:38 ‘bosting fittle’ (‘bosting’) which is a pub in Dudley which is, like, ‘good food’ ‘bosting fittle’, you know; 1:32:51 and it’s all to do with the types of ground the spoil mounds and whatever uh I mean ‘tacky’ dirt’d be, like, ‘clay’ ‘clay and marl’ and (‘tacky banks’) (‘tacky banks’, ah) and it gets changed to ‘tacky banks’, yeah, (‘marl holes’) so so we know it as ‘tacky’ here and it’s ‘tacky’ over there)

quotative like (0:11:20 I worked in Cradley and, like, they says, you know, they used to point to me and say, “God, you’ve you, you know, you got a strong accent” whereas to me they was like, “Jeff, what you on about?”, like you know, and I know it’s only, like, two or three mile; 0:20:33 this woman, like, come into the into the restaurant and her’d got, like, this fur coat on and then I says, like, “that’s a nice coat, ai it, her’s got on?” he was like, “what?” come I said, “that’s a nice coat her’s got on what’s just come through the door” and he was like, “what?”; 0:58:15 these there was there was there was reporters up the Co-op¹⁸ down by Tipton Railway Station over Victoria Park I mean you seen these vans driving round with, like you know, CN News and f... I mean all these big media t... and it was like, “Jesus, what’s going on here?”)

quotative go (0:22:55 I went to my mate Phil and I says, “uh Phil can you do me on call tonight ‘cause I’m ‘on the box’?” and he goes, “what bloody box ...what you on about?”; 1:25:37 ‘cause I remember I was driving down to Ipswich once and uh got got me girlfriend with me and I goes, “bloody hell it’s black over Bill’s mothers” her says, “I day know you knowed somebody down here”)

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