

BBC VOICES RECORDINGS

<http://sounds.bl.uk>

Title:

Liverpool

Shelfmark:

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Recording date:

12.11.2004

Speakers:

- Ahmed, Sarah, b. 1978 Toxteth; female; development officer at community resource centre
- Benmajid, Ishmael, b. 1984 Toxteth; male; classroom assistant
- Branche, Winston, b. 1985 London; male; call-centre worker/actor (mother administrator)
- French, Sylvia, b. 1943 female Liverpool; retired (father merchant seaman; mother machinist)
- Westgaph, Laurence, b. 1975 Liverpool; male (father farmer; mother acupuncturist)

The interviewees are all proud Liverpoolians.

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

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

ELICITED LEXIS

- * see Survey of English Dialects Basic Material (1962-1971)
- △ see New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English (2006)
- ◇ see Green's Dictionary of Slang (2010)
- ◆ see Urban Dictionary (online)
- △ no previous source (with this sense) identified

pleased	<i>happy</i>
tired	<i>tired; knackered</i>
unwell	(not discussed)
hot	<i>hot; boiling</i>
cold	<i>cold; freezing</i>
annoyed	<i>bothered; vexed; angry</i>
throw	<i>chuck; throw; trun</i> [△] (“West Indian slang” used occasionally, understood locally)
play truant	<i>sag; sag off; bunk off</i>
sleep	(not discussed)

play a game	(none supplied)
hit hard	(not discussed)
clothes	<i>clothes; gear</i> (heard used)
also supplied	<i>dhar</i> (Somali for ‘clothes’)
trousers	<i>kecks</i>
also supplied	[0:02:52] (Somali for ‘trousers’)
child’s shoe	<i>pumps; plimsolls</i>
mother	<i>mum; mam</i> (used in the past)
also supplied	<i>hooyo</i> (Somali for ‘mother’)
gmother	<i>nan</i>
m partner	“ <i>just call them by their name</i> ”; <i>husband; boyfriend</i>
friend	<i>spar</i> ^Δ , <i>bredrin</i> ^Δ (modern, very common among young speakers locally); <i>bra</i> ^Δ (used by Africans, “ <i>like Brer Rabbit</i> ” ¹); <i>lad, kid</i> (common locally as form of address)
gfather	<i>grandad</i>
forgot name	<i>oi!, mate</i> (“ <i>hey, mate</i> ”, of person); <i>thingy</i> (“ <i>what’s that thingy called?</i> ”, of object); <i>what’s-his-name</i>
kit of tools	<i>tool-box; tool-kit</i>
trendy	<i>scally</i> (of young person wearing Lacoste ² tracksuit); <i>chav</i> (disliked, “ <i>ridiculous</i> ”)
f partner	“ <i>just call them by their name</i> ”; <i>wifie; wife; girlfriend</i>
baby	<i>pickney</i> [◇] (Jamaican, comes from “ <i>piccaninny</i> ”, learnt from Jamaican father)
rain heavily	<i>raining cats and dogs; lashing down; lashing it; pouring down</i>
toilet	<i>the bog</i> (used by males); <i>toilet; lavatory, loo</i> (suggested jokingly); <i>water-closet</i> (used by aunt)
walkway	<i>entry; alley; ennog</i> [♦] , <i>jigger</i> (used when younger)
long seat	<i>couch; sofa</i>
run water	<i>brook; stream</i>
main room	<i>living room</i>
rain lightly	<i>drizzle; spitting</i>
rich	<i>loaded; rich; minted; fedded</i> [◇] ; <i>phat</i> (as in “ <i>you’ve got nuff</i> ”); <i>fat cat</i> ^Δ
left-handed	<i>gammy-handed</i> [*] ; <i>lefty</i>
unattractive	<i>duppy</i> ³ (slang, Jamaican for ‘ghost/evil spirit’)
lack money	<i>broke</i> [brʊx, brʌʊx], <i>skint</i>
drunk	<i>licquored</i>
pregnant	<i>pregnant</i>
also supplied	[0:37:37] (Somali for ‘pregnant’)
attractive	<i>fit</i> (very common)
insane	<i>nutter; mentally ill</i> (“ <i>very politically correct</i> ”); <i>not well</i>
moody	<i>moody; vexed</i>

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¹ Central figure in African American folk tales compiled by Joel Chandler Harris (1845-1908) published in 1881 with the fictional narrator, Uncle Remus.

² French designer label founded in 1933 particularly well-known for its sports clothing range.

³ OED (online edition) includes ‘duppy’ as Jamaican English for ‘ghost/evil spirit’ but not in this sense.

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