Title:
Swindon, Wiltshire

Shelfmark:
C1190/34/05

Recording date:
28.11.2005

Speakers:
Axby, Les, b. 1924 Wolverton, Buckinghamshire; male; retired (father b. Wolverton, railway coach builder; mother b. Wolverton)
Blackford, Roy, b. 1930 Swindon; male; retired (father b. Malmesbury, railway engine driver; mother b. Polperro, housewife)
Ellis, Dave, b. 1931 Swindon; male; retired (father b. Exeter, baker/Royal Marines/railway storeman; mother b. Lymington, milliner/housewife)
Shurmer, Gordon, b. 1921 Swindon; male; retired (father b. Swindon, railway boilermaker; mother b. Berkshire, shop assistant)

Three interviewees are all former railway workers and volunteers at the Museum of the Great Western Railway.

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

- pleased  
  over the moon; chuffed (modern); grateful
- tired  
  whacked; knackered (modern); whacked out; exhausted
- unwell  
  poorly; not very well; dodgy*; sick; under the weather
- hot  
  scalding (“scalding hot” of weather); boiling
- cold  
  freezing; frozed* (“oh, I’m frozed [fɾoːzd]”)
annoyed  fuming; browned off; “I’m niggled with you”

throw  chuck (also used of illegal bowling action in cricket); bung; toss (“toss it to me”)
play truant  hookey; skip school
sleep  kip; having a kip; nap (used in past); doss; have a kip
play a game  a kick-about; joining in
hit hard  thump; belt; wallop

clothes  outfit; gear
trousers  slacks; flannels; bags; glad rags\(^1\)
child’s shoe  daps (local); plimsoll (suggested by interviewer, thought to derive from Samuel Plimsoll\(^2\)); plimsolls (used by family in Cornwall)

mother  mum; mother
gmother  gran; nan; nanny (suggested by interviewer, heard used locally); grandma
m partner  hubby; side-kick
friend  mate; pal; chum (suggested by interviewer, not used); friend
gfather  gramp; grampy\(^5\); grandad, grandpa (suggested by interviewer as used elsewhere)

forgot name  whatsis; thingamajig; old who’s-he-called\(^3\) [uːzikɔːtʃ] (suggested by interviewer as used by own mother of person); oojah-do-call-him\(^6\) [uːdʒədəkɔːlɪm]; oojah-call-it\(^7\) [uːdʒəkɔːlɪʔ]; a touch of Alzheimer’s\(^3\); thingy

kit of tools  gear (“I’ll go and fetch me gear and fix that for you”); tool-box; tools; equipment
trendy  flapper; bimbo; rough
f partner  the wife; sweetheart
baby  little’un\(^4\); nipper (“our nipper’s on the phone” also used affectionately of eighty-year-old younger sister)

rain heavily  sheeting down; hammer down\(^*\); pouring; swilling down\(^5\)
toilet  lavatory (used in past); loo (used now); cludgie\(^8\) (suggested by interviewer as used elsewhere, not known); bog; thunder-box (used in past by uncle from Malmesbury of outside toilet)

walkway  alleyway (not used); backs (of walkway between buildings); lane; alley; passage; back-way
long seat  sofa; settee
run water  brook; spring; stream
main room  front room; lounge
rain lightly  drizzle; drizzling

rich  loaded; well off
left-handed  scrammy\(^*\); scrammy-handed\(^*\); cack-handed
unattractive  plain; ugly
lack money  skint; poor; broke
drunk  three sheets in the wind (thought to be “old Cornish saying”); tipsy
pregnant  expecting; up the duff; bun in the oven; been eating new bread\(^\odot\)
attractive  good-looking; easy on the eye
insane  doolally (thought to refer to British military hospital in India); nutcase
moody  touchy; unsociable

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\(^1\) *OED* (online edition) records ‘glad rags’ in sense of ‘best clothes’.
\(^2\) English politician and social reformer (1824-1898), who devised the plimsoll line.
\(^3\) *Urban Dictionary* (online) records ‘Alzheimer moment’ in sense of ‘when you forget something you just did’.
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A British Library project funded by The Leverhulme Trust