

Title:

Norton, North Yorkshire

Shelfmark:

C1190/35/04

Recording date:

11.11.2004

Speakers:

Evans, Jean, b. 1919 Malton; female

McAfee, Mary, b. 1946 Birmingham; female; university teacher trainer

Taylor, Margaret, b. 1927 Malton; female; local councillor (father garage owner/inventor)

Wilkinson, Brian, b. 1929 Hornsea, East Riding of Yorkshire; male; retired agricultural auctioneer

The interviewees are all friends who met through church activities.

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 English Dialect Dictionary (1898-1905)
- △ 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** *glad; delighted; capped*¹ (“*she came up on ERNIE*² *and she was absolutely capped*”, used frequently locally of unexpected success/elation, thought to be associated with being ‘capped’ at cricket); *happy; thrilled to bits*³; *quite made-up*
- tired** *tired; sleepy; weary; cream crackered*[△] (“*rhyming slang*”); *knackered* (“*universal*”); *jiggered* (extremely common locally); *whacked*

¹ *Yorkshire North and East Ridings Glossary: Words, Localities and Pronunciation* (2005) includes ‘capped’ in this sense.

² Acronym for ‘Electronic Random Number Indicator Equipment’ used to generate winning number of UK Premium Bond prize draw.

³ *New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (2006) includes ‘to bits’ in sense of ‘extremely’.

unwell	<i>poorly</i> (“ <i>proper poorly</i> ” used in Leeds of extreme illness); <i>sick</i> ; <i>dowly</i> (“ <i>I’s dowly</i> ” heard used by child when teaching at local school, “ <i>nobbut dowly</i> ” common locally in past); “ <i>I’m all saggy-baggy</i> ” ^Δ (used by son as young child, presumed idiolectal)
hot	<i>baking</i> ; <i>scalding</i> ; <i>roasting</i> ; <i>hot</i> (of e.g. pan); <i>yat</i> [◊] , <i>sweltering</i> (of weather); <i>boiling</i> ; <i>roasted</i> ; <i>warm</i> (pronounced “ <i>warm</i> ” [wa:m] locally)
cold	<i>freezing</i> ; <i>chilly</i> ; <i>perishing</i> ; <i>nithered</i> (common locally, “ <i>Norse</i> ”, liked); <i>nithering</i> ; <i>nesh</i> (“ <i>you’re nesh</i> ” used disapprovingly of anyone susceptible to feeling cold, associated with West Riding)
annoyed	(not discussed)
throw	<i>chuck</i> (“ <i>chucker/chucking it</i> ” also used of illegal bowling action in cricket); <i>sling</i> (“ <i>sling it over</i> ”)
play truant	<i>skive</i> , <i>skiving off</i> (used when in Navy of avoiding work); <i>wagging it</i> , <i>wag it</i> (used by son); <i>bunk off</i> ; <i>playing hookey</i>
sleep	<i>tawm over</i> [◊] (heard used locally in past of ‘falling to sleep’); <i>get shut-eye</i> ; <i>nap</i> ; <i>kip</i> ; <i>drop off</i> (“ <i>dropping off for a quick zizz</i> ” used of brief afternoon sleep); <i>sound asleep</i> ; <i>forty winks</i> ; <i>zizzing</i> (thought to derive from visual representation of sleep in books, i.e. ‘zzz’)
play a game	<i>lark</i> (“ <i>is Margaret coming out to lark?</i> ” used as child in past); <i>lark about</i> ; <i>laking</i> (“ <i>laking cricket/laking at taws up a ginnel</i> ” used in West Riding of playing cricket/marbles)
hit hard	<i>whack</i> ; <i>slog</i> ; <i>bash</i> ; <i>lay into</i> ^Δ (“ <i>lay into someone</i> ”), <i>laid out</i> [◊] (“ <i>laid him out</i> ” used of fight); <i>smack</i>
clothes	(not discussed)
trousers	(not discussed)
child’s shoe	(not discussed)
mother	<i>mummy</i> (used as young child); <i>mother</i> (used as older child/adult); <i>mum</i> ; <i>mam</i> (“ <i>very north country</i> ”, disliked)
gmother	<i>grandma</i> ; <i>granny</i> ; <i>gran</i> ; <i>nana</i> (pronounced “ <i>nana</i> ” [nana:] locally); <i>nan</i> (common locally, disliked)
m partner	<i>fancy man</i> , <i>boyfriend</i> (of someone else’s partner); <i>husband</i> (of own partner); <i>hubby</i> (not used, “ <i>revolting</i> ”); <i>partner</i> (used by son of own partner, modern)
friend	(not discussed)
gfather	<i>grandpa</i> , <i>grandad</i> (used by own grandchildren to distinguish between paternal/maternal grandfather)
forgot name	<i>thingymajig</i> ^Δ ; <i>thingamajig</i> ; <i>whatsit</i> ; <i>whatchamacallit</i> ; <i>how-d’ye-ma-flibbit</i> ^Δ [haʊdʒəmæflɪbɪt]
kit of tools	<i>tool-kit</i> ; <i>tool-box</i>
trendy	<i>cor</i> ^Δ , <i>slag</i> , <i>doll</i> , <i>dolly bird</i> ^Δ , <i>tarted-up</i> ^Δ , <i>tarty</i> (of female); <i>medallion man</i> (of male)
f partner	<i>wife</i> ; <i>fancy-woman</i> (of someone else’s partner); <i>the wife</i> (used by male speakers locally, disliked)
baby	(not discussed)
rain heavily	<i>teeming</i> ; <i>downpour</i> ; <i>stair-rods</i> ; <i>cats and dogs</i> ; <i>siling down</i> (used by daughter, common locally)
toilet	<i>loo</i> ; <i>lavatory</i> (used when younger); <i>toilet</i> (not used in past); <i>little room</i> ⁴

⁴ OED (online edition) records ‘small room’ in this sense.

walkway	<i>ginnel</i> (common throughout Yorkshire); <i>alley</i> ; <i>snicket</i> (used locally of e.g. “ <i>snicket from Burdale Close on to Hambleton Road</i> ”); <i>lane</i> ; <i>passage</i> ; <i>snickleways</i> ⁵ (used in York); <i>jitty</i> ^o (used in West Riding)
long seat	<i>sofa</i> , <i>settee</i> (used interchangeably); <i>Chesterfield</i> (“ <i>up-market connotations</i> ”); <i>couch</i> (old, “ <i>northern</i> ”)
run water	<i>beck</i> (also common locally in place names e.g. “ <i>Welham Beck</i> ”); <i>stream</i> ; <i>rivulet</i>
main room	<i>sitting-room</i> ; <i>lounge</i> (disliked due to association with “ <i>lounge lizards</i> ”); <i>living-room</i> ; <i>front room</i> ; <i>the room</i> (used by friend); <i>parlour</i> (used occasionally “ <i>in jest</i> ”); <i>drawing-room</i> (of larger room)
rain lightly	<i>drizzle</i> ; <i>mizzling</i> ; <i>mizzle</i>
rich	(not discussed)
left-handed	<i>gallack</i> ^o ; <i>cack-handed</i> ; <i>gallack-handed</i> ^o ; <i>shifted sinistral</i> ⁶ (used of self as left-handed person taught to use right hand as child)
unattractive	<i>ugly</i> (“ <i>unkind</i> ”); <i>unattractive</i> (“ <i>kinder</i> ”); <i>plain</i> ; <i>homely</i> (“ <i>American</i> ” in this sense, used in UK for “ <i>cosy</i> ”); <i>old hag</i> (heard used)
lack money	<i>skint</i> ; <i>hard up</i> ; <i>boracic lint</i> (: <i>skint</i> , “ <i>Cockney rhyming slang</i> ”); <i>broke</i> ; <i>bust</i> (used for “ <i>bankrupt</i> ”)
drunk	<i>pie-eyed</i> ; <i>legless</i> (of being “ <i>completely paralytic/undeniably drunk</i> ”); <i>tight</i> , <i>tipsy</i> (of being slightly drunk); <i>plastered</i> ; <i>had one too many</i>
pregnant	<i>up the duff</i> ; <i>in the club</i> ; <i>preggers</i> ; <i>bun in the oven</i> ; <i>in pod</i> ; <i>expecting</i> (old, common euphemism in past); <i>pregnant</i> (avoided in past)
attractive	<i>easy on the eye</i> ; <i>stunning</i> (modern); <i>lovely</i> ; <i>charming</i> ; <i>beautiful</i> ; <i>handsome</i> , “ <i>I fancy him</i> ” (of male); <i>gorgeous</i> (of male/female)
insane	<i>barmy</i> ; <i>potty</i> ; <i>nuts</i> ; <i>crackers</i> ; <i>mad</i> ; <i>barmpot</i> ^Δ (heard locally, also used in West Riding)
moody	<i>sulky</i> ; <i>mardy</i> (common throughout Yorkshire, liked)

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⁵ Len Markham’s *Ee Up Lad! A Salute to the Yorkshire Dialect* (2002) includes ‘snickleway’ in this sense.

⁶ Russell Brain coined term ‘shifted sinistral’ in ‘Speech and handedness’ article (published 1945 in *Lancet*, ii pp. 837-842).